

The Pendulum

Established 1974

Students done service with convocation speaker

He may not have household recognition like a Walter Cronkite or a Desmond Tutu. He may not have the prominent page A-1 bylines. But he is surely as important, especially considering the political climate circling the world today.

New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman will be delivering the Fall Convocation address Monday. Friedman is a three-time Pulitzer prize winner, and his book "The Lexus and the Olive Tree" is a required read in many global classes.

While his columns range in topic, since Sept. 11, 2001 Friedman has put pen to paper mostly to discuss overseas issues and American foreign policy. Certainly since 9/11, Friedman has been able to tap the well of Middle Eastern politics. And as a journalist, Friedman has presented some interesting points of view, as well as raised some important questions about how America conducts its foreign policy.

Generally, Americans feel unmoved by the happenings in countries across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. But after 9/11, that sentiment changed, and Friedman was at the forefront of the discussion. For students of every concentration, be it journalism or political science, Friedman's visit, while perhaps not as highly touted as Cronkite or Tutu, is vital, as Friedman is a leading national voice. Following a war with Iraq, there is no better person to have speaking on campus.

The Pendulum

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To reach The Pendulum at 233 Moseley Center, call 278-7247 or fax 278-7246. Contact The Pendulum by e-mail at pendulum@elon.edu. Visit our Web site at www.elon.edu/pendulum.

Each individual is entitled to one free copy.

Congratulations Elon, you survived

Ryan Howard

Columnist

Elon's bubble was recently burst by the horrendous Hurricane Isabel. Ever since her creation in the middle of the Atlantic Coast, the storm had been looming on the horizon, drawing closer and closer to land. People were given helpful advice from the National Weather Service such as "if you are in a hurricane, do not go outside." Panicked local residents rushed to Wal-mart to stock up on duct tape and plastic sheeting. Students here at Elon University prepared for the rough weather with a mixture of apathy and ignorance.

Finally, last Thursday, the much-anticipated, much-dreaded, much-rainy hurricane struck Elon with all the force of a moderate thunderstorm. The rain began late Wednesday night. By the time students awoke Thursday morn-

ing, the storm had arrived and was using its entire meteorological arsenal: heavier rain. There was also a slight breeze.

Schools all over North Carolina and Virginia closed down because of the storm. That is, all except one.

For some reason, Elon University stayed open. Whether it is because people did not want to show fear in the face of this natural disaster or the administration's complete unwillingness to cut students a break, we may never know. Even as the churning waters of Lake Mary Nell surged towards the shore, threatening to engulf the entire campus, most people had to go to class. Students all over the Academic Village could be seen dodging a hailstorm of acorns.

Those who did not have to attend classes bravely endured the storm by playing football in the mud or showering in the rain. It was

a trying time for all Elon students.

One of the good things that always comes from tragedy is the camaraderie that develops between people. It was inspiring to see so many people sharing umbrellas.

When it finally passed, the storm left a trail of destruction that cost several dollars in damage and took hours to clean up. Elon University personnel immediately set about the most important task at hand: making the campus look pretty again. The wind had pushed some of the smaller trees sideways, and the heavy rain had washed the dye out of the grass. It was a time to rebuild. And so we did. Congratulations, Elon! "I Survived Hurricane Isabel" T-shirts are now available in the campus shop for a very reasonable \$49.95.

Contact Ryan Howard at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

Free Moffitt from the Phoenix card

Eric Hydrick

Columnist

Every Monday and Friday I come back to my room in Moffitt to eat lunch, with books from class in one hand and my lunch in the other. I can free up just enough fingers to open the door to go into my dorm and eat. I don't have, however, enough fingers to dig into my pocket, pull out my Phoenix card, and swipe it to unlock the door to Moffitt.

Why is it that Moffitt and a few other residence halls on campus, are always locked? What's wrong with opening it during the day? Locking Moffitt makes it a bigger hassle to get into during the day; a hassle that's even more noticeable when all I want to do is make a quick trip to my room and grab something. Since my hall is never open, walking out during the day and forgetting my Phoenix card (which I've already done this year) goes from a quick "Oh shoot" and a trip back to my room lasting a couple of minutes to either camping outside the door to my building waiting for some-

one to walk out or calling my roommate or suitemates and asking them to let me into my own building.

That's another problem with Moffitt being locked during the day. If someone wants to come by during the day, either to visit, get something or work on homework, they have to plan it out in advance so we can coordinate a time to meet just so I can open a door for them.

Elon's a friendly place, I'm sure most of the people here would have no problem with a friend just dropping by for a few minutes or even a few hours. In fact, someone just coming by to hang out is much more pleasant than someone making arrangements in order to come by, since you lose the "spontaneous" feel of the visit.

As it is, it's not worth it to come by Moffitt and the other dorm buildings that are always locked to see your friends unless you need something from them. It's easier to just say "hi" and see what's up by phone or IM. Furthermore, there's no reason

why I should have to unlock the door to walk into my dorm building during the day when everything else on campus is wide open.

What is there to gain by locking our dorm all the time? Whenever we see someone trying to get in without a Phoenix card, we always open the door for him or her anyway. It's part of the friendly atmosphere at Elon. Why make us have to work harder to have guests visit us?

Living in a particular location on campus isn't a good reason to make having visitors a painful experience, especially when the vast majority of residence halls on campus are open throughout the daytime hours.

There's no point in people standing around outside the dorm in the middle of the day because they can't unlock the door, especially when they can walk a few minutes to another part of campus where all visitors are welcomed with open arms and doors.

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