

# Opinions

## The Pendulum

Established 1974

### 'Mischievous' behavior picks up before fall break

Enough symbolism. Rather than taking home a metaphorical piece of Elon at commencement, students decided to reel in something tangible. They stole the "Elon" from the "Town of Elon" sign outside the cemetery on Oak Avenue. But this is just one event in what Elon Police Chief LaVell Lovette said has been a string of "mischievous" behavior. She said the police have been receiving more calls about fighting, looting and general bad behavior than they have in the past.

And for the most part, the actions are inexplicable. But with fall break looming, the possibility of more nonsensical calls is almost definite.

It's tough to address this sort of behavior without being too preachy, but the simple fact of the matter is: We're all adults, and as such, we're expected to act like them. Consequently, when we overstep our bounds, we will be punished like them. The "Booze It and Lose It" campaign racks up six DUI's each time a checkpoint is established.

So perhaps a word of advice: Put down the keg, pick up a pen, and write this down. Don't drink and drive.

College is a time to have fun, and you should enjoy your time while you're here. But temper your fun and act responsibly. As adults, we have an obligation to ourselves and to others.

## The Pendulum

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The Pendulum is published each Thursday of the academic year. The advertising and editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. the Monday before publication.

Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed, double-spaced, signed and include a telephone number for verification. Submissions are also accepted as Word documents on disk or by e-mail.

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Each individual is entitled to one free copy.

## Democratic race full of Bush bashing

**Leigh Wiley**

Columnist

Look out Dick Cheney. Watch your back Colin Powell.

And, above all, take cover President Bush.

The nine democratic candidates for president in 2004 all seem to think that the path to the White House is paved with Bush bashing.

First up is Carol Mosley Braun. The only female contender for president, Braun is adamantly against the war in Iraq, which she calls a "misadventure." Soldiers are dying, children are starving and it is a "misadventure." Little Ms. Sensitive this woman is not.

But as a candidate, she must have an idea of what she'll do if she becomes president. And of course Braun does. She plans to stay in Iraq.

Just until the job is done of course. Which, at the rate we're going, will be 2638.

Up next is newcomer Wesley Clark. While Clark is the most adamant Bush basher, he also has a stable plan for the economy. He plans on taking back Bush's high-profit tax cuts and using the money to create jobs. How he'll create jobs hasn't exactly been described yet, but Clark's only been a candidate for about two weeks.

And now for Gov. Howard Dean of Vermont. Just three weeks ago, Dean looked like the front-runner for the Democrats,

first in both the Iowa and New Hampshire polls.

Dean states that he would not hesitate to send out the troops to defend America, like Bush did last year. However Dean claims that he will tell American's the truth about what's happening in the war.



Leigh Wiley

This would be the first time a president has done that since ... hang on, NONE of them have ever done that.

Thanks for the thought, though, Dean.

And if you've been missing some of Bill Clinton's immaturity, then Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina is the candidate for you. His Web site boasts a game called "Boot Bush," where you can use a boot to actually kick Bush across a map and into Texas.

I don't think we even need to go over this guy's plan for the economy or Iraq; he could win on that game alone.

Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri could be shot down just because he shares a nickname with Nixon.

But Gephardt is looking for a vote where most other candidates seem to have ignored- the agriculture vote.

Of course, the number of farmers has declined in the past 50 years, so maybe he's barking up the wrong tree.

And hey, I'd vote for Sen. Bob Graham of Florida, simply

because he's got Jimmy Buffett on his side.

Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts has set his main platform to help out retired veterans, who got hit pretty hard by some of Bush's cuts. His platform also seems to involve another Internet game where you can hit Bush into the history bucket.

And Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio claims he's the Progressive choice. He is straightforward and plans on fixing Social Security. Barring, of course, that any one really remembers what the purpose of Social Security actually is.

Now we've got Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, who plans to help small businesses instead of corporations like Bush has done.

Hate to tell the guy that there really aren't any small businesses left to save.

And last but not least is the Rev. Al Sharpton. He has four clearly outlined and carefully thought-out plans for his platform: The right to vote, the right to health care, the right to education and the rights of women.

Step out of the 1800s buddy, we've already got those rights.

But all in all, it looks to be an interesting race. Not one candidate really sees eye-to-eye on any issue.

Well, except for the issue of what to do to Bush.

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## Instant messaging is not a distraction

**Elizabeth Colquitt**

Columnist

Yes, you have a new instant message.

Whether it's your lazy suite-mate wanting to know where you're going to eat, or a friend back home wanting to see what's up, you know pretty much all of your friends have a screen name.

You also know that you spend at least 10 minutes a day reading other people's away messages.

Be honest with yourself.

It may be impersonal, but it is also very useful and entertaining. Lengthy phone calls to all your friends out of state are great, until your cell phone bill comes with an extra zero on the end.

Instant messaging also lets you talk to people in your room, and find out what others are doing all at the same time. It's also a way to get to be better friends with people you may not

feel comfortable calling because an IM is a pretty casual way to say hey.

While some complain it is a distraction, in the end it is up to you whether or not you sign on. If you have a lot of work, then put up an away message. It'll give me something to read while I'm online.

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