

The Pendulum

Established 1974

Movin' out: Don't stifle student expression

Two weeks ago, a student lodged a complaint with the administration about a controversial exhibit featuring nude photographs in the Center for the Arts. Contrary to some rumors, the photos were not pulled days before the exhibit closed. Rather, Ken Hassel, a professor in the art department, pulled the photos of his own volition with no prodding by the administration two hours earlier than scheduled. So the issue in play here isn't whether the photos should have been pulled, but whether such controversial works of art should be prominently displayed.

A major complaint was that the photos were hung in plain sight of most passersby inside and outside of the building, were forced to view them. One future prescription has been to move such an exhibit into a separate room and out of plain sight.

But part of the reason the photos were hung on the walls in the first place was so students and professors could engage in students' works. Art has no clear definition, but certainly tasteful nude photographs have always been under the umbrella term. Creating guidelines and criteria outlining what can and cannot be put on display is a gross dereliction. The Center for the Arts is about expression. Depriving some students from displaying their work stifles that expression.

The Pendulum

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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.

The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene or potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may have to be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned.

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.

Mailbox 

Are the dorms safe?

To the Editor,

The article "Electrical problem forces evacuation" in the Oct. 9 edition of The Pendulum brings up a serious issue around campus.

A complete evacuation of Staley resident halls took place about two weeks ago because of faulty wiring in the walls. Staley, at 35 years old, is not nearly the oldest building on campus, yet it was having an electrical smoke-out which put the lives of 200 female students at this school in danger.

This leads me to wonder if all the residence halls on campus

are safe for us to live in. Or is another one going to have a similar incident like this, such as West dormitory which is much older than Staley. And for that matter are all the academic buildings safe for us to be having class in?

The only answer out there is to that is, I don't know, I hope not. Why doesn't the university, in order to avoid another disaster like the Staley evacuation, make mandatory renovations to all of the buildings especially the residence halls? They should check all the wiring, heating, air conditioning and overall build of the buildings.

Rather than worry about issues such as this, Elon University puts aside millions

upon millions of dollars each year to expand our current school. They are currently building next to the already new academic pavilions. Plus they have made plans to build even more in the future. Wouldn't it be more beneficial at this time to ensure the safety of all the university's students? And to put some of that money, such as the money used to buy land from the Elon Home for Children, which we don't even use now, towards renovations and safety issues?

Elon University is too worried about expanding, and if we aren't careful small things like faulty wires will cause a lot of destruction.

-Brendan Clearkin '06

You don't have to drink to be yourself

Elyse Rodriguez

Columnist

What? You haven't partied five days straight? What's wrong with you?

Don't worry, the answer is absolutely nothing. It's OK not to drink yourself to oblivion whenever you have the chance.

It has come to my attention that passing judgement on those who do not party every night of the week is common.

Apparently, wanting to stay in when you're tired and in need of some rest is considered odd and, in some fashion, uncool. I'm here to tell those of you who like to relax that you shouldn't feel pressured to go out all the time.

If you have a big test at 8 a.m. tomorrow and you would rather study instead of relieving stress through the joys of beer, then don't feel timid to make that decision. Or perhaps you simply like to hang around and watch movies and feel like a dork for staying in while your friends go out.

You are the only one who knows what is best for you.

Those who judge are the ones

who have not yet found a solid ground within themselves.

Everyone's different, so don't feel ashamed for not jumping on the bandwagon to party central each night.

Believe it or not, not killing a fraction of your brain cells actually helps your mental and physical health. I know, I know- it's a hard concept to grasp.

My question is: When did it become "uncool" to be yourself?

Aren't we always taught to be ourselves no matter what people think?

It seems as if that mentality has vanished and that many are trying to fit the mold of the stereotypical college student.

I'm not encouraging people to stay inside to stand against the tide of conformatism but I am encouraging people to be who they are. If you are the party animal, then go right ahead and party. If you are the mellow video game player, then go right ahead and tackle Bowser with your trusty Yoshi by your side. Be you.

The past few weeks I've noticed that many seem to look

down on those who don't party every night, and that some who go out only do because they feel they have to. It concerns me because college is supposed to be the place to break out from what you have always been and to create the person you have always wanted to be through the many opportunities offered.

If drinking and partying each night isn't your thing, then don't make it your thing. There's no rule that says you have to have a certain number of drunken hours clocked or nights not remembered.

There is only your mere conscience begging you to let it be your guess.

Contact Elyse Rodriguez at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

Stop fighting the urge.
Write for The Pendulum

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