

## The Pendulum

Established 1974

## And a roar emerges from the crowd of three ...

What a crowd the Phoenix football team had during its Homecoming contest against Appalachian State. The bleachers were full, everyone was cheering – it was like a college football atmosphere. Too bad it was halftime, when the Homecoming King and Queen were announced. And what happened following the coronation? Everyone left. Why? Because apparently we live in some Bizarro world where Homecoming festivities rank higher than a college football game.

Following the game against Appalachian, Mountaineer fans waited for their team as it left the field. Elon's beat reporter from the Times-News said, "This is what real college football is supposed to be like." Following halftime, almost all of Elon's fans cleared out of the stadium. Those dedicated enough to remain were grossly outnumbered by Appalachian fans. What a sad spectacle simply considering the sheer aesthetic beauty of Rhodes Stadium.

It's absolutely disgusting, reprehensible and downright mind-boggling. How difficult is it to pick up a free ticket, get to the stadium by 2 p.m. for kickoff, and spend the next two and a half hours watching a football game? This form of student apathy is sickening. And please, don't complain about a football team if you never bother to see them play.

## The Pendulum

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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.

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Each individual is entitled to one free copy.

## Mailbox



## School spirit is pathetic

To the Editor,

Hello my name is John, and I am a student at Appalachian State. I am writing on behalf of those at the Homecoming game on Saturday.

I was absolutely appalled by Elon fans and their lack of school spirit. It was the worst display of school pride that I have ever seen in my life as a football fan.

It is obvious that Elon fans lack any kind of pride due to most of crowd leaving after halftime. There were even more Appalachian fans there than Elon

fans, and we live three hours away.

Another indicator to me that Elon houses soft, fair-weather fans was the fact that every Phoenix fan was dressed like they were attending their private country club induction. Elon, learn how to dress; it's not a fashion show, it's a football game!

I was surprised when your team scored that the fans knew the difference between a touchdown and a kickoff.

I just want to say, you're welcome for our presence because it might have taught you some type of lesson of what school pride is supposed to be. No charge, it's

on us.

Obviously your "pride level" is based on the record of your football team. Maybe next time we come to Burlington the team might have a couple of wins, and then Elon might sell a ticket or two.

If this weekend was Homecoming, I would hate to see what it is like on a regular Saturday. Maybe the Phoenix just hasn't really risen yet.

Thank you for your time. I hope that The Pendulum can somehow boost some spirit.

- John Smith, Appalachian State student

## Support the community in "coming out"

Jonathan Chapman

Columnist

Do you have a story? Does your story have anything to offer? Is your story valid?

These were the questions I asked myself when I first learned about "Coming Out All Over." This evening of coming out stories recounted by Elon students, faculty and staff initially sounded like a great and much needed event. But when I was approached by a friend to speak at the event, taking place at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 19 in Yeager Recital Hall, I was unsure if I wanted to share my story with complete strangers. I initially agreed to tell my story, but soon I began to rethink my decision.

Some people on this campus feel that "Coming Out All Over" is inappropriate. They equate the recounting of these stories to the gay community clamoring for more attention—flaunting our sexual orientation.

Others, within the gay community, disagreed with the panel for other reasons. They view it as an attempt from those who are

open about their sexuality to force those who are still closeted to come out. This concern was the one that had the most influence over my final decision. I will speak at "Coming Out All Over."

I remember the story of my chorus teacher in high school. His story gave me the strength and confidence

to be honest with myself and ultimately with others. "Coming Out All Over" is not a forceful attempt to make people scream from the roofs that they are gay or paint rainbows on the library; but rather, a time of reflection. These stories allow their tellers to reflect on their lives. The listeners are provided with insight into the world of being closeted and the struggles that coincide with the coming out journey. People fear what they don't understand. Education is the only way to rid the world of the ignorance that causes this phobia. This evening is not just for the gay community, but for the Elon community.

These stories, while sometimes hard to listen to, inspire the soul to strive for happiness. These tales may speak of despair and loneliness, but ultimately serve to provide a path for others to acceptance. They give hope.

The people who have agreed to speak, have agreed to share a very personal part of their lives. As many times as this group has had to come out individually, the telling of their story remains emotional.

They aren't doing it to garner attention for themselves, nor to make a political statement. They are doing it to raise awareness in the Elon community. Those who come will find themselves peering through a hard-to-find window into the lives of these people's and their experiences.

If we work together, we can make this harsh world we live in a more accepting place on many fronts. But until we are willing to admit that we are frightened or that we don't understand, we can't progress any more than we have.

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