

The Pendulum

Established 1974

Elon has responsibility to choose worthy coach

Monday evening, Al Seagraves was relieved of his duties as head football coach. Following Saturday's game, Elon had posted the first 10-loss season since 1926, so his firing really hasn't caused much debate as of yet. Almost everyone believes this was the right move. And in our opinion, Seagraves did have to be removed. The team in place needs to hear a fresh voice with new ideas. But Elon has to hire the right person with the right voice.

This football program cannot handle the hiring of a lower-level coach. Director of Athletics Alan White and the search committee must make it a priority to select a coach from the Division I ranks. We aren't suggesting they attempt to lure a big-time coach such as former Alabama University coach Mike Price, simply select an assistant coach from a good program. Like men's basketball coach Ernie Nestor was an assistant at Wake Forest and South Carolina, the new football coach should also come from a premier school that has a tradition of excellence.

Elon should not deny itself the services of a capable leader. Anything less than a coach selected from the Division I ranks should be considered a failure. If Elon moved into the Southern Conference for football, then prove to the SoCon that the Phoenix belongs.

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.

Opinions

How do we measure school pride?

Leigh Wiley
 Columnist

I picked up a copy of The Pendulum while eating breakfast, ready to flip through and see what the "big issues" around campus were this week. I usually skip most of the front page and was planning on skipping the Homecoming story as well. "Homecoming builds Elon spirit." Well good, I'm glad Homecoming has served its purpose.



Leigh Wiley

But then I turned the page and was slightly perturbed by what I read. Here was an editorial and a letter proclaiming that Homecoming had done the exact opposite of what it was suppose to. The editorial pointed out that most of the Elon students left. By the end of the end of the game Appalachian students outnumbered Elon students. The article ended by saying that Elon's "student apathy is sickening."

However, the letter to the editor went a bit farther. Written by John Smith, an Appalachian State student, the letter accuses Elon of having no school spirit, not understanding football and not knowing how to dress for a football game. Smith goes on to tell Elon that we should take a leaf out of their book and learn real school pride.

So let's get to my real beef on this issue: Why is school pride

based on football game attendance? Why does this one little week in an entire season mark how spirited this school is or how much we love Elon?

I'll tell you right now, I didn't go to the football game. I voted for Homecoming king and queen because I was rounded up by some sorority girls to go do it, but I did not participate in any other Homecoming events. Does this mean I don't love Elon, that I'm an apathetic stu-

dent, who just does not care and is too lazy to take pride in my school?

No, it doesn't. I'm just not a football fan. And let's face it, if you wanted to go to a school with a winning football team, you wouldn't have gone to Elon. It's not a sporty school; it's a liberal arts college. Our school's entire focus isn't based on how well a couple dozen guys throw the ol' pig-skin around every week.

I'm also not into the Greek life. It doesn't much bother me one way or the other who wins what.

But just because I don't go to many football games and because I'm not at all the Greek social events doesn't mean I don't love Elon. I do, I'm very proud of this school. I, like a large part of Elon, just show my pride in a different way.

I'm proud of Elon's campus.

Students show their pride in the campus by throwing things away and not just tossing a Coke can on the ground when they're done with it. Elon students actively recycle. We all work in our own little ways to make the campus something we can be proud of.

I'm proud of Elon's cultural events. Students show pride in this by going to cultural events, even ones that aren't mandatory. They ask questions at question-and-answer sessions and actual try to get something out of it. Different musical talents come to Elon and students go and listen for personal entertainment.

I'm proud of the professors at Elon for caring about students, I'm proud of Campus Recreation for trying to get students to exercise more and I'm proud of the Student Government Association for making changes that actually matter to the students.

I am very proud of Elon. And I don't show that pride by going to a game that I'm not interested in and waving a flag. I show it by taking care of my school and hoping that other students do the same. I take pride in being an Elon student because I know that maybe while we don't have the best football team, we're getting one of the best educations.

And in the end what does it really come down too? One week in the fall with just another football game, or an entire year of becoming a different person?

Contact Leigh Wiley at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

~ Quotables ~

"For myself I am an optimist — it does not seem to be much use being anything else." -Sir Winston Churchill

"You are not thinking. You are merely being logical." -Neils Bohr to Albert Einstein

Correction

In the Nov. 13 issue of the Pendulum there was an incorrect statement about Gelli's, located at 3275 S. Church Street. They do serve beer and wine.