

Letters & Submissions

Letters to the editor are always welcome. Submissions must include your name, contact information and class standing. Letters from faculty and staff and members of the community are also accepted. 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. Send submissions to opinions@elon.edu.

Students need to be more considerate at events

To the Editor:

Rather than being a letter to the Editor, this letter addresses the inconsiderate students who leave cultural programs before they are concluded, but specifically, those two dozen or so who left the Billy Collins's reading a couple weeks ago. Shame on you. If you can't spend one hour of your terribly busy lives listening to a brilliant poet (performer or speaker), then perhaps you lack the maturity to participate in a university cultural community.

Leaving during the Q & A is only slightly more permissible, but leaving earlier is inexcusable and rude unless you have some emergency.

I applaud the row of young men in front of me who clearly preferred to be else-

where, but who stayed. If you were there because of a class requirement, the professor wanted you there for a reason—and for the entire time.

Here's my advice: If you must go to an event and cannot commit to the end, sit in the balcony or some less obvious location. That way, the rest of us, including the person on stage, won't be affected by your mass migration.

Better yet, stay home, study at the library, watch TV or go to the gym. Please don't lessen the experience for those of us who want to be there just because you think you have more important things to do or are simply bored.

Kathy Lyday-Lee
Professor of English

NPHC Memorial Garden a good thing

To the Editor:

This is in response to the editorial, "Are we buying a little more than education?"

The pertinent example given by the Pendulum was "who decided to create the NPHC Memorial Garden when there is not enough parking on campus for all the students who drive?"

This project has been over ten years in the making and this garden means to the NPHC members what the Loy Center means to all other Greek students. The Loy Center would never be torn down to add a parking lot, and no one would dare suggest it.

Elon is one of the few schools nationwide that allow freshman to have cars. If that were eliminated, then you would alleviate the entire parking problem all together.

Secondly, the NPHC members know more about their own organizations than any other single person on the campus could claim, and if you think this is a lie, press it and see how far you get.

On behalf of the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council we ask that you make it a point to look at how the NPHC organizations support Elon with countless hours of leadership, service, academia and class. We thank the members for leading by example in making Elon a better community.

Christopher Ahlgrim '06
IFC President

Kelli Stancato '06
Panhellenic Council President

Volunteers and donations are crucial to recovery effort

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to Erin Moffet's column featured in last week's issue.

I must admit that I was saddened and rather upset with Ms. Moffet's vision of what is occurring down in the Gulf area and what needs to be done to fix it.

I spent over two weeks working with the Red Cross and local emergency departments in Houma, LA, 40 minutes southwest of New Orleans.

I can say from experience that the situation in the Gulf area resembles little of what Ms. Moffet has described.

First of all, I commend and applaud everything that Elon has done to help in the relief effort.

The students and faculty are giving up their fall break, winter term and spring break to help others.

Everyone at Elon should be proud and supportive of the work that they are doing. Regardless if you agree or disagree with

their decision, these students are going and deserve our support.

Much of the focus has been on New Orleans, a large city with millions of residents.

However, it is important to look at this disaster on a broader scale.

The devastation left by Katrina and Rita covers an enormous area, with four states directly impacted.

Even with the great amount of destruction, these areas have not been abandoned, as Ms. Moffet made it seem.

Many of those who left their homes are living in shelters fairly close to the areas they left.

After Katrina, many felt compelled to travel to the Gulf and help with the relief effort.

I, too, felt a call and a responsibility to go down and contribute. There was not a single moment that I ever felt unwanted or not needed.

In fact, I had a hard time taking time off

to sleep because there was always someone who needed my help. All the volunteers I worked with, most of whom did not have the medical or fire training I had, averaged anywhere from 12 to 18 hour work shifts every day.

If anything, we are incredibly understaffed for the large task in front of us. The American Red Cross is asking for an additional 40,000 volunteers to assist in the relief work.

Our local chapter in Burlington has a goal of 300.

It is true that the Gulf Coast region was hit hard by both Katrina and Rita. These people are in desperate need of almost everything.

So please, keep those donations coming. However, do realize that without the help of the thousands of volunteers down in the Gulf area, none of these donations would ever reach those who really need them.

Without those volunteers, the evacuees would not have a safe place to live, a hot

meal three times a day or the medical attention they so badly need.

Volunteers along with monetary and good donations are greatly needed to keep the relief effort running effectively.

I could go on forever about the amazing experience I had while down in the Gulf.

The joy on the faces of reunited families and individuals that you help find jobs and a new home will bring you to tears.

The sight of people walking down Bourbon Street will send chills down the spine.

And you will swear the light on a child's face after receiving a new toy is enough to light all of New Orleans. It is a life changing experience for not only you but also those you help.

I encourage all those who are thinking about volunteering to talk to the local chapter of the Red Cross or those involved with the Elon trip to Gulfport, Miss.

Alyson Boyer '06