

# Editorial

*The Pendulum seeks to inspire, entertain and inform the Elon community by providing a voice for students and faculty as well as a forum for the meaningful exchange of ideas.*

## *So many events for students, so little time*

Sometimes in school, teachers force their students to take part in activities, hoping to advance their knowledge.

This happens a lot at Elon University, but should it?

Should teachers force their students to go to cultural events? This is an important topic to think about, especially being students at a school that religiously makes students go to cultural events.

Forcing students to learn is not the way to go about it, and that is what is happening when teachers make speakers and cultural events mandatory on campus for their classes.

If the students should know about it, then teach it to them in class.

Knowledge is truly the key, but no knowledge is gained when peo-

ple are forced to go to things that they do not want to attend.

Why do teachers force students to go to cultural events? The teachers aren't being lazy; that's not the point at all.

The point is the university plans so many events throughout each semester in order to make the school more recognizable.

Truth be told, the school probably just makes these events to bring prestige to the school.

Students have so much to do with their classes and other extracurricular activities they take part in that they don't always have time to go to these speakers and events.

And when it comes down to it, the majority of students don't really like going to these events at all.

They would much rather spend a couple of hours playing ball with

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their friends than listening to an academic talk about what he or she has accomplished.

This leads to another issue that this school could do something about: money.

How much money does the school and other groups on campus spend bringing these people to Elon?

This money could be used in so many other ways, like giving financial aid to students who might need it.

Not all speakers are pointless though, and sometimes students do want to go see them. This includes the speakers such as Walter Cronkite, David Gergen and

Thomas Friedman. Fall and spring Convocation are important to our campus, just as they are to other schools around the nation.

That is the one time the Elon community should come out and listen to a speaker, and represent their school.

It is good to have a couple big name speakers a year to have your students and faculty listen to, but students shouldn't be forced to go to poetry readings or other events such as those.

If teachers are going to get upset for students leaving these events early, then don't make them mandatory for classes.

## 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 and as posts on our Web site.

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