



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. The Pendulum may also edit for clarity and grammar. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned. Send submissions to pendulum@elon.edu.

Elon must maintain its commitment to diversity

As scholars, teachers and staff members who are concerned with the well-being of Elon as a whole, we recognize that the community's interest includes those of women and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people at Elon. Out of this concern, we are writing to express our dismay at the most recent choice for the "Legends of Business" lecture series, Tom Monaghan, founder of Domino's Pizza.

This lecture series, according to the Love School of Business Web page, "brings seasoned executives to campus [to share] their philosophy for success, senior executives help students model their careers and enrich the classroom experience." While it is admirable that the Love School of Business seeks to provide role models for our students at Elon, the choice of Monaghan as an appropriate role model for is questionable.

David Hibbard's E-Net announcement describing Monaghan's qualifications suggests that he was noted for his "ethical business practices." However, Monaghan was also noted for his support of political organizations that vehemently oppose women's reproductive rights and deny equal rights to lesbians, gays, bisexu-

als and transgendered persons.

While Monaghan is obviously financially successful, we are concerned that his wealth is used to forward an agenda that seeks to restrict the rights of women and the LGBT community. Monaghan's business interests are not limited to his connections with Domino's, but include his Ave Maria Foundation, the Ave Maria University, Ave Maria Radio, Legatus and the Ave Maria Mutual Funds. For example, Monaghan was quite public in his financial support of organizations such as "Operation Rescue," an organization known for obstructing access to clinics for women seeking legal abortions and for using sensationalistic images and propaganda, and Monaghan was the owner of "Credo," a Roman Catholic newspaper that ran for seven years, until October 2002, that actively opposed gay rights in its news coverage.

The former provost of Ave Maria University, the Rev. Joseph Fessio, appointed by Monaghan, has called homosexuality a disorder that needs to be cured. Sadly, these are just a few of the ways that Monaghan's financial successes have been used in support of activities and organiza-

tions that prevent women from exercising their legal rights as citizens and contribute to a homophobic culture. Elon's emphasis on civic engagement explicitly promotes a holistic understanding of the self that does not differentiate between public and private spheres.

We are in favor of a campus that is open to many different voices and views. We would support open and frank discussions with those who hold very different views than those that our community supports. That is, in fact, a value of our community. But this does not appear to be the intention of Monaghan's visit; instead, he is being portrayed as an example for our students to emulate and that makes all the difference.

Many of us are proud of Elon's efforts to be a place that respects individuals regardless of gender, sexual orientation or gender identity. We are happy that the institution is a "college with a conscience." However, we regard this invitation and the suggestion that Monaghan be upheld as a role model to be a serious misstep.

Moreover, it is especially disappointing given that he was at Elon during LGBT Pride week, specifically the day before the annual "Gay? Fine by Me" program, which

demonstrates the institutional and community support of our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons on campus.

It is a most confusing message that is being sent to members of Elon University to have Monaghan here on campus and raises doubts about the true commitment that the institution has to all students, faculty and staff. As a sign of support to this commitment, we would ask that you sit down with students, faculty and staff members to discuss the issues surrounding Monaghan's selection as a "Legend of Business" and why this selection might be hurtful to others within our community and how the process for selection can be made more open to the Elon community in the future.

We also ask that you consider making a statement that explains the reasoning behind Monaghan's presence on campus and that indicates Love School of Business' continued support of Elon's commitment to diversity.

-Lynn Huber, assistant professor of
Religious Studies
(signed by 40 other professors)

Speech not about morality

We read with interest the Op-ed article in the April 19 issue of *The Pendulum* regarding the visit of Thomas Monaghan to Elon University as a Legend of Business.

Monaghan was invited to speak as a Legend of Business in recognition of his accomplishments over a long period of time, nurturing and building the Domino's brand.

He told the story of his business accomplishments and his personal rise from disadvantage to organizational and financial success – on the basis of hard work and perseverance, exercised day-by-day over a long period of time.

This message of adaptive persistence is an important one for the Love School of Business students and the Elon community to hear. We believe everyone who attended the lecture agreed that the business message Monaghan delivered was an important one.

Monaghan has taken a stand on controversial issues, and his views, like those of

other speakers on campus, generated debate and discussion. Those discussions demand that we assess and clarify our own views, individually and as a community. If Monaghan's visit accomplished that as well, his visit was all the richer.

In the final analysis, we are all here to examine and develop the values and principles that will allow us to contribute to a good and a genuine life for ourselves and our community.

The visit of Monaghan – his story, the questions asked of him and the answers he gave, your letter – all contribute to this important goal at Elon. We can look forward to other debates and discussions resulting from the visits of other speakers at Elon. It is something that keeps us vital and alive and relevant.

-John Burbridge, dean of business
school

Our nation is at war with itself

On April 16, I woke up to see and hear of the horror at VT. I am afraid it will happen again unless we as a nation consider it a serious problem rooted in our social and cultural structure and do something to address its root causes rather than trying to combat it by "policing it" as and when it occurs and then forgetting all about it the next day.

We are currently engaged in two foreign wars under the banner of "War on Terrorism," wasting our precious emotional energy and national resources to win these wars thousands of miles away while we ignore the Oklahoma City, Columbine, and VT type of domestic terrorism.

Our government's approach to these overseas wars on terrorism is similar to the approach to combat terrorism and other forms of violence here at home. Police work, disregarding the root causes of why people might resort to violence as a powerful reaction to their real or perceived powerlessness, like the young man at VT and the insurgents in the cities of Iraq and

the streets of Baghdad.

This police work overseas is responsible for killing and maiming hundreds of thousands of innocent people; it has destroyed their communities and families, and brought upon them a bleak vision of their future, causing the death and destruction of thousands of our own troops and their families.

There is a close connection between the violence our nation inflicts on other societies, the death penalty our justice system inflicts on violent criminals and the violence here at home committed by disillusioned individuals.

Strong as this connection might be, it does not offer a sensible explanation of the homegrown violence.

Most discussion on the subject was met with sentiments of denial proclaiming that "[youth] violence is no longer a serious problem in America" against overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

-Aqueil Ahmad, adjunct professor