

*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.*

# EDITORIAL

## Two meal swipes too many

With the opening of the Colonnades dining hall, many students are interested and excited about new, higher quality food. But many will soon become disenchanted by the high cost and forced decisions associated with this new dining option.

While Colonnades offers quality food, its costs are highly prohibitive. Most food offered at this establishment, whether a sandwich, large salad or a meal from the 1889 Grill Room, costs two meal plan swipes.

Even though each meal plan is equivalent to \$2.50, depending on your selected meal plan, students actually pay between \$6.50 for someone with a 19 meal plan, to \$10.84 for someone with a 9 meal plan. This translates to a sandwich from Boars Head potentially being \$21.68, depending on your meal plan option.

For students who live off campus, with smaller meal plans, the Colonnades is far too expensive to be a viable option for a weekend meal, because any meal from the Colonnades would cost them 40 percent of their meal plan ration for that week.

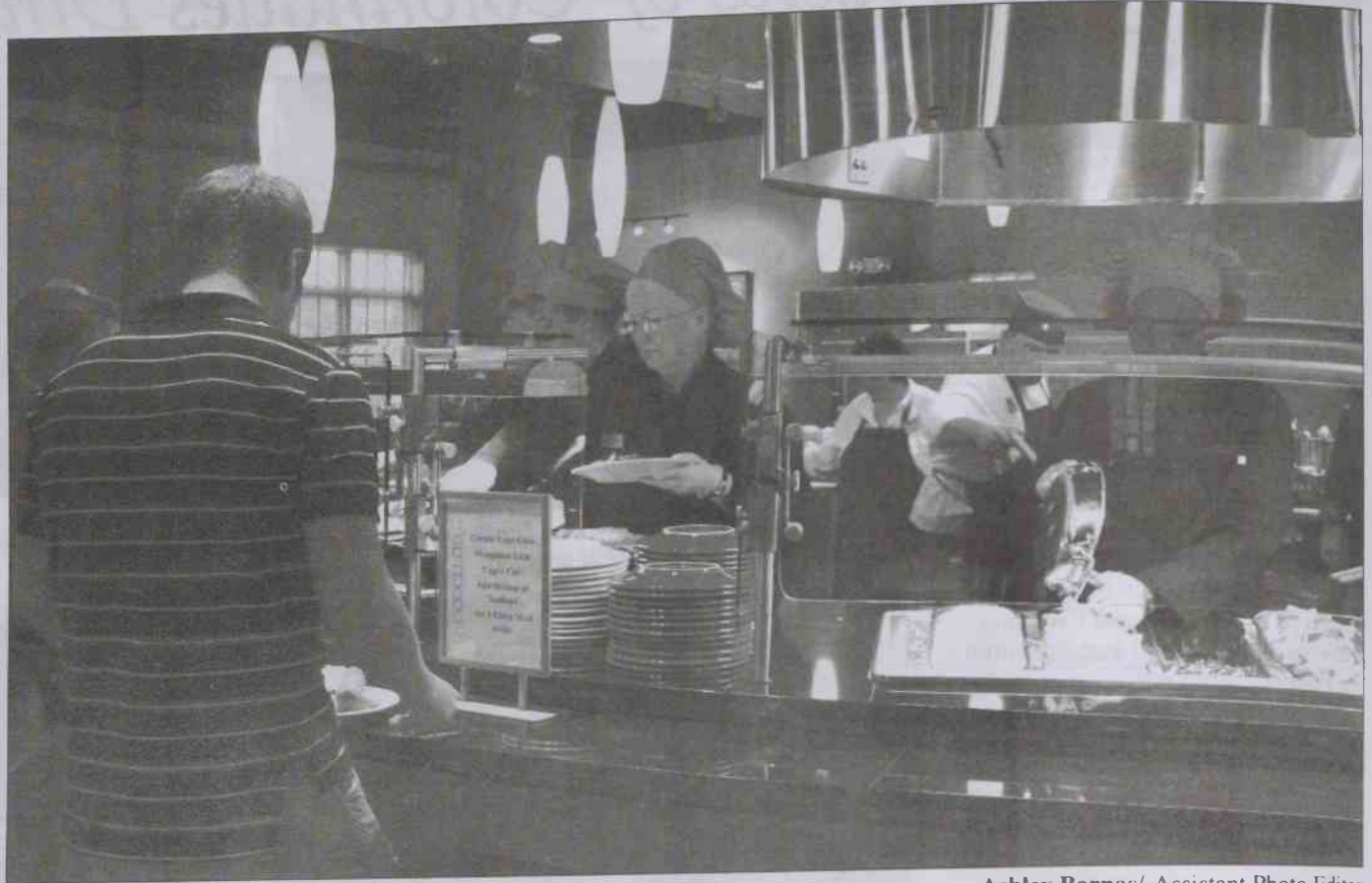
Furthermore, starting this week Harden will remain closed on the weekends, forcing students to go to the Colonnades should they want a full meal.

While Octagon, Varsity and Acorn will still offer service, the Colonnades will be the only facility to offer a la carte options.

Octagon offers very little filling or nutritional food during the weekends, and nothing at Varsity can be purchased with a single meal plan. This leaves Acorn as the only real alternative to the Colonnades during the weekend.

The simple fact that many meals at the Colonnades cost two meal plan swipes may prove too costly. If a student were to eat two meals a day on the weekend, they would subsequently be out eight meal plans.

For an on-campus resident, this could be as much as half of their



Ashley Barnas/ Assistant Photo Editor

weekly allowance. While it is true that thrifty students could choose to go to Acorn instead, Acorn cannot handle the influx of students that used to be served by Harden on the weekend.

If Acorn receives as many as 20 students at one time, it is considered packed. Most students only have \$85 in meal dollars each semester, and cannot afford to give their patronage to Cantina Roble or Varsity on a regular basis.

Unlike other schools, Elon's dining strategy is based upon dispersal, keeping the dining options diverse and diffuse, spreading students out so there is not too much glut in any one spot. But dining options are disappearing.

With the closing of Danieleley Center Commons and the recent removal of Harden as a weekend dining option, students are forced to choose between the Colonnades, Octagon and Acorn

for dinner options.

This will lead to overcrowding in the facilities, and if last weekend is an indicator, the Colonnades staff members are unprepared to deal with such an influx of students, leading to a wait of more than 30 minutes at the Boars Head deli.

The prohibitive price of dining at the Colonnades and the new reliance serve a large portion of the student body forces one to question why the decision was made to make the food so expensive.

The food is adequate, but at a potential \$21.68 for a sandwich, the price is absurd. Perhaps a larger meal plan will be offered next year.

How many students will ask for more meals plans just so they can eat during the weekends without jeopardizing their meal plan rations during the week?

It is imaginable that many students are willing to pay an extra meal plan at an establishment such as the 1889 Grill Room.

However, paying upwards of \$20 for a sandwich is unconscionable. Furthermore, being forced to pay that much, because of a lack of weekend options allows Elon, Aramark and the Colonnades a captive audience from which they can demand whatever price they want.

While higher quality food may superficially justify a raise in price, when considering the actual price associated with eating at any of the options at Colonnades, many students would be justified in feeling that their best interests were not taken into account when the planning of this facility was conducted.

## The Pendulum

Elon University  
Elon, N.C.  
Established 1974

The Pendulum is published each Wednesday of the academic year. The advertising and editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. the Friday before the publication.

Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed and e-mailed with a telephone number for verification. Submissions are accepted as Word documents.

The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns be trimmed to fit.

All submissions become the property of the Pendulum and will not be returned.

You can reach The Pendulum by e-mail at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu).

Visit our Web site at [www.elon.edu/pendulum](http://www.elon.edu/pendulum).

Brittany Smith, Editor in Chief

Justin Hite, Managing Editor

### Section Editors

Kaitlin Ugolik, News Editor  
Olivia Hubert-Allen, News Editor  
Bryan Ray, Opinions Editor  
Andie Diemer, Special Projects Editor

Caroline Matthews, Features Editor  
RJ Kraft, A & E Editor  
Jeff Rickel, Sports Editor

### Photography

Anna Tolner, Photo Editor  
Ashley Barnas, Assistant Photo Editor

### Graphics

Angie Lovelace, Graphic Designer  
Alison Binnie, Design Editor  
Kelsey Bryant, Design Editor  
Alison Welch, Design Editor

### Copy Desk

Mary Cunningham, Copy Editor  
Meredith Long, Copy Editor  
Bethany Swanson, Copy Editor  
Miriam Williamson, Copy Editor

### Business

Adam Justice, Business Manager  
Chris Dorsey, Assistant Business Manager  
Derek Bronsteen, Ad Designer

### Online

Bryan LeGrand, Web Editor

### Faculty

Colin Donohue, Adviser