



Reflecting on the teams' seasons, reliving the tournament runs and looking to the future

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Victims tell their stories and experts share advice

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

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THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009 | VOLUME 35, EDITION 8

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PRACTICE WITH A PURPOSE



ANDREW DODD | Staff Photographer

Brandon Landreth sophomore has worked with the N.C. Missions of Mercy dental program for almost two years. For him, the experience is valuable for his future career in dentistry and he said he hopes this event will spark interest in

Andrew Dodd
Reporter

Since 1998, the North Carolina Missions of Mercy dental clinic has traveled around the state providing free dental care to residents in need, offering teeth cleaning, extraction and fillings.

A dozen Elon students volunteered to translate Spanish to English during the program's run last Friday and Saturday.

Since its founding, the clinic has donated more than \$1.5 million worth of free services to

patients. This particular event treated roughly 450 people via through dental chairs and did not turn anyone away. Many dental students from Elon, UNC Chapel Hill, Eastern Carolina University and Duke University attended to assist the handful of practicing dentists and conduct minor procedures themselves.

This opportunity gave the dental students a chance to hone their skills under supervision, while the patients benefited from dental services they would have otherwise gone without.

See DENTAL | PAGE 2

Nestor leaves 'The Nest'

Michelle Longo and Pam Richter
Executive Editors

Elon men's head basketball coach Ernie Nestor will not return next season after six years at the helm of the program.

"We just feel that it's time for a new direction," said Dave Blank, Elon's director of athletics. "Coach Nestor and his staff have done a great job and taken the program from where it was when he got here. But to take it further, we're just going to look for a different direction."

Nestor declined to comment for the story.

The decision to release Nestor came on Monday evening, two days after the season-ending 79-78 loss to Chattanooga in the quarterfinal round of this year's Southern Conference tournament.

"Obviously, the sooner people are notified of intent, the sooner that they can get on with their direction. That's the fairest way to treat people," Blank said.

During his career at Elon, Nestor compiled a 67-117 record. This season the team finished with an overall record of 11-20.

"There were certain decisions made that are out of our control," sophomore guard Chris Long said.

The 2008-2009 team had three seniors who played for Nestor for four seasons — forwards Ola Atoyebi, Brett James and Monty Sanders.

"He was a good guy and I am sad to see him go, but the athletic department wants to go in a new direction," James said.

Blank said the search for a new head coach will begin immediately. The university will work with Carr Sports Associates during the process.

"I'm interested to see what these next couple months bring and the effect of that," junior forward Adam Constantine said.

During the 2007-2008 season, Nestor led the Phoenix to a Southern Conference tournament final showdown with Davidson College, which Elon eventually lost. It was the first time an Elon men's basketball team advanced to the finals of the SoCon tournament.

Before coaching at Elon, Nestor was the head basketball coach at George Mason University from 1988 to 1993. In his first season as head coach, Nestor reached the first round of the NCAA tournament.

He was also an assistant coach for two years at the University of South Carolina and at Wake Forest at two different times, from 1979-1985 and from 1993-2001. He had a 10-year hiatus in his head-coaching career before being hired as Elon's coach in 2003.

In the 2005-2006 season, Nestor accumulated his highest win total in his Elon career, when his team finished with a 15-14 overall record. That year the team was the SoCon North Division Champions.

His lowest win total came a year later in the 2006-2007, when he went 7-23.

In 11 seasons as a head coach, Nestor has a 135-198 record.

FOR PLAYER REACTIONS, SEE PAGE 23

Budget for 2009-2010 includes tuition increases

Olivia Hubert-Allen
Senior Reporter

On March 3 the Elon University Board of Trustees approved a 2009-2010 budget that includes a \$1,413 increase in the price of tuition and a \$466 increase in the price of room and board. The tuition increase will add an extra \$8.9 million to Elon's budget from undergraduate and graduate school tuition.

The board also voted to cut departmental operating budgets by 2 percent, a move President Leo Lambert said will probably not be noticed by students. Lambert said he doesn't expect more departmental budget cuts year after year.

"We are trying to be as sensitive as possible to

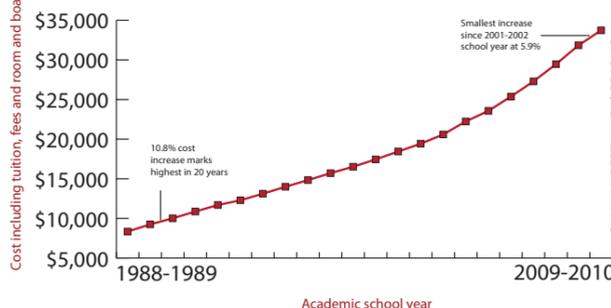
the broader economic situation," Lambert said. "We have tried to keep the tuition increase as low as we possibly could while still advancing critical goals."

The budget targets several key areas where the university plans to show exceptional commitment, including expanding financial aid, adding more support for faculty members and faculty scholarship and the addition of nine full-time faculty members.

Several positions that were left vacant this year will not be filled as the university re-allocates its budget. The responsibilities of these empty positions, like the director of developing

See BUDGET | PAGE 3

The price of an Elon education



INFORMATION COURTESY OF ELON INSTITUTION ADVANCEMENT

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON ELON NEWS, VISIT WWW.ELON.EDU/PENDULUM

DENTAL from PAGE 1

Spreading smiles across North Carolina



ANDREW DODD | Staff Photographer



ABOVE: The North Carolina Missions of Mercy dental clinic was held Feb. 6 and 7 at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter on East Davis Street in downtown Burlington.

CENTER: Elon senior Brian Beaty volunteers his Spanish-speaking capabilities at the clinic.



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Campus considers risks, benefits of sharing Belk Library with outside community

Laura Smith
News Editor

Following the sexual harassment incident that occurred in Belk library Feb. 7, many have been questioning the safety of a place Elon students consider the central location for student interaction.

Belk Library, while a prime location for studying, writing and other collegiate educational purposes, has open doors to members of the local community as well.

In the wake of the alleged rape that took place on the first floor of Belk, Elon has created a subcommittee under the Student Life Committee to oversee the safety of the building.

Organized by Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of student life, the subcommittee has met once last week, to discuss the matter.

"We wanted to put a process to review security (in

the library)," Jackson said.

Also involved are Mary Wise, assistant vice president for academic affairs, Chuck Gantos, director of Campus Safety and Police, two students from the Student Life Committee and Kate Hickey, dean and university librarian.

"Part of the mission of the library is to provide some local service to the local community," Hickey said. "It's one of those things that could have happened anywhere."

Hickey reports to Wise, who agrees with Hickey that the library is there for the local community as well.

"I think the library should be open to residents because we have some concern about being a community member," Wise said.

She also said some of these people may not have computers at home and Belk allows them to have use of its computers.

The Carol Grotnes Belk Library was built in 2000. Prior, it was housed in

what is now the McEwen communications building. The library has always been open to the public.

In order to use the library, an unaffiliated Elon resident must show an ID if over the age of 16 and is given a password to the first floor computers that is only good for one day.

On busy weekends, such as Parent's Weekend and orientation weekends, generic passwords are given out due to a high flow of activity in the library at those times.

Residents can also purchase a "guest card" on which they can put money for copying and printing.

In addition, residents can pay \$25 for a Friends of the Library card in order to check out books. On this card, reserves and DVDs cannot be checked out.

According to Hickey, there are currently around 200 people with these cards.

She also estimates she distributes around 50 passwords to visitors on a

busy day.

Hickey said she has never seen an incident such as the one that occurred on Feb. 7.

"We have very few residents after nine," she said. "We've never had a problem late at night."

Sophomore Katie Ward, who is a library assistant, said she feels a little uneasy about the incident but nothing extreme to prevent her from doing her job.

"I feel a little less safe because it was so strange that no one was here (to see it)," she said. "As long as students have priority, I think it's fine (residents use the library)."

Hickey said she feels the same way.

"This particular incident seemed like there was no threat to me," she said. "I'm disturbed about it, but I don't feel threatened."

The library has security rounds where campus police walk through, and according to Hickey, taking extreme security measures such as installing cameras in study

rooms is out of the question.

Hickey said it is an invasion of privacy and students would react negatively. So far, there have been no complaints from students to library staff in regards to the incident.

According to Jackson, the result of the committee's meeting was the decision to enhance safety features such as registration, IDs for people under age 16, signs reminding students to watch their belongings and storage spaces for laptops.

"It was unanimous to people that we don't want to change policy to not allow people from the community to use the library," Jackson said.

Jackson also reiterated that if an incident such as this were to happen again, the campus would be notified immediately.

"In general, we can make the library a safer place," Hickey said. "If students are encountering incidents in the library that are making them uncomfortable, I would hope

Tenures and promotions proves difficult process, weighty results

Andie Diemer
Editor-in-Chief

Some of the most important decisions made at Elon revolve around the promotions and tenure of faculty, Provost Gerry Francis said.

Aside from the initial hiring of faculty, being promoted secures a commitment from both the university to the faculty member and the faculty member to the university, he said.

This year, 17 faculty members were standing for tenure and 29 faculty members were standing for promotion. While Francis would not disclose the final number of faculty members that were granted promotion or tenure, he said each year a majority is approved and that Elon's process to select them is very similar to other schools.

"It's an important decision in the sense of the long-term viability of the institution," Francis said. "The institution is making a decision as to long term association with that faculty member and seeing if they're doing and can do the job to challenge and move the university and students in the right direction."

Elon aims to maintain a faculty that is between 85 and 90 percent tenured or on a tenure track, according to the Faculty Handbook.

"These guidelines will enable the university to benefit from the stability of a core of tenured faculty and from the influx of new faculty," according to the handbook.

Francis said this year's numbers of faculty members standing for promotion and tenure were fairly average compared to the past three or four years, but will start to shrink as the university raises their tenure track numbers and the institution stops growing as much.

Associate Professor of Communications George Padgett serves with seven other members on the Promotions and Tenure Committee. The committee, which is composed of all tenured professors, is just one part of the process to select faculty members to new positions (see flow chart for full process).

Padgett said when a new faculty member is hired, they are usually automatically placed on a tenured track position that will last for six years if they have

no previous teaching experience. Depending on their previous employment, this number can be lowered to four.

"It gives me the stability, a more permanent contract," Padgett said. "Not that you can't be fired or let go, but you have at least an expectation of longevity that allows you to engage in projects that are long term."

Padgett said one of the main benefits of making tenure is a salary raise, as well as the idea that the professor will be employed with the university until retirement.

But if faculty members are not granted a promotion or tenure, they are normally given until the end of the next academic year to leave.

Business Administration Lecturer Tonya Riney's contract with Elon was not approved this year.

When junior business major Sami Leonard learned Riney was not granted a promotion, she created a Facebook group called "Please Save Riney" to attempt to help reverse the decision.

Even though she is studying abroad in China for the semester, Leonard asked her peers to draft letters to Francis, who also works as part of the process for selecting faculty members for promotion and tenure.

"She is my, as well as several others', personal role model," Leonard said. "I can pretty much say collectively that when we come out of the semester alive we are better businessmen and women, have gained this sense of confidence that we can undertake any project and stand in front of any audience and succeed."

Francis would not comment on the Riney situation, but said anytime students approach him with a concern about any kind of decision, he listens.

"I will always, always pay attention to and value what they have to say," Francis said. "It can be a difficult time."

Padgett said even though student input through semester evaluations are very important in supporting faculty members, it can be the "fire that is dangerous" to a faculty member as well.

Because faculty normally only go through the appeal process if there has been a violation with his

MAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR PROMOTION OR TENURE

Teaching: This includes not just work in the classroom but other activities, such as advising, collaborating with student organizations and working with students outside of the classroom.

Service: Everything from catering to the community to serving on committees at Elon to mentoring students plays a part.

Professional activity: This spans from research to published work to presenting at national conferences.

INFORMATION COURTESY OF ELON'S FACULTY HANDBOOK

or her process — such as members missing from the committees — Padgett said all the students' effort will probably not have much of an impact on Riney's current decision.

Though the decision may not be reversed, Riney said she appreciates the support her students have shown her since learning she was not promoted.

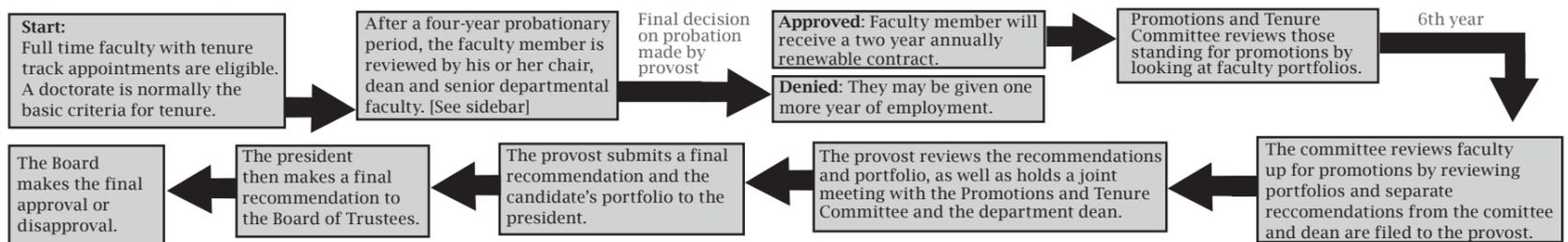
"The tremendous outpouring and support shown to me by my students and others has been a wonderful gift," Riney said. "Each of my students, whether current or former, has provided me opportunities and classroom experiences that have been unmatched in my academic career. Elon is an amazing institution, and I am proud to be part of it."

While there are many components to receiving a promotion or tenure, Padgett said it's important that students know their input really does matter, especially when it comes to evaluating teaching.

"If we're not doing the job, we're trying to get better always, and that evaluation can be very meaningful, both in the annual adjustment we make as well as in determining if that person gets to stay around after four or six years," Padgett said.

For more information on the tenure process, including the lecturer track and appeal process, see the Faculty Handbook.

A typical* tenure process:



INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE FACULTY HANDBOOK

*This process can change depending on various factors and does not represent every move to a promotion. For full details, see the Faculty Handbook.

Tuition and boarding prices rise, but overall cost remains comparatively low

from BUDGET | PAGE 1

campus.

"We had a meeting at the senior staff level about how we are going to get these functions performed without a person in that job," Lambert said. "Those conversations will be taking place more frequently."

Despite the increases in tuition, the cost of Elon remains below the

national average for private four-year universities. Neither Lambert nor Whittington, vice president for business, finance and technology, foresees that changing anytime in the future.

"I see our position as being a value in higher education as strategically important for the institution," Lambert said. "There's no question in my mind

that our robust application pool with more than 9,000 applicants is due in part to our relatively low sticker price."

"We don't have a very high tuition discount," Whittington said. "We don't give a lot of money in financial aid so it's critical to have a sticker price that's below the national average."

The board of trustees visits campus

each April but votes on the budget in March so the office of financial planning can grant financial aid to rising students. Many members of the board teleconferenced in for the vote.

Elon's Board of Trustees also voted on faculty tenure and promotions. A full list of these promotions can be found at www.elon.edu/pendulum.

Students plan trips to Mexico despite warnings of violence

Chris Lorch
Reporter

Despite warnings of the recent upturn in drug-related violence near tourist destinations in Mexico, students and faculty at Elon are looking forward to traveling south this spring break.

The Elon community received the warning just in time to make or break spring travel plans. In late February, Dean of Elon International Programs Laurence Basirico received an e-mail alert for Mexico through Eric Townsend of University Relations.

Basirico consulted with Vice President Smith Jackson, who distributed the warning that reached most Elon students and faculty regarding the "surge in drug-related murder and mayhem," in the region.

Elon's study abroad program has many policies in place to ensure students are safe when traveling abroad. Basirico pioneered pre-abroad classes at Elon, all of which emphasize that students take their personal safety very seriously. Basirico gives the same advice to each study abroad group.

"Every incident where Elon students were endangered while studying abroad at Elon happened between the hours of 1 and 5 in the morning," he said.

Basirico said the incidents usually involve alcohol, which increase the chances of high-risk situations. Basirico urges students going to any country over spring break to take a cab

at night and to stay in groups.

Basirico's comments do exclude the incident in Costa Rica this past September, where a group of five Elon students were targeted and robbed at gunpoint.

Basirico said he believes students should consider all the available information and remember that "it doesn't matter where you go in the world, you have to exercise caution."

While the violence in Mexico has been substantial, the policy for canceling any study abroad programs at Elon is an active travel warning from the U.S. Department of State.

While the Kenyan study abroad trip has been canceled for such a warning on threats of terrorism and high rates of violent crime in the area, trips to Mexico next year are moving forward as planned.

As for spring break, Basirico believes there is really only one question for students to ask themselves when considering visiting Mexico with the recent violence: "Do you really want to go there right now?"

Mexico is highly invested in Americans answering affirmatively to Basirico's question. With the U.S. economy declining, Mexico is becoming increasingly more important in breaking the economic recession. The Mexican economy currently holds the 11th highest GDP worldwide, and tourism accounts for a significant portion of that figure.

Mexico was the 10th most visited country in the world more than 21.4 million visitors



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Progreso, in the Yucatan province, is one of the many popular vacation spots for students traveling during Spring Break.

in 2007, and is only second to the United States in North America, according to the World Tourism Organization. Without the success of key spring break tourism, Mexico could face large deficits in a major portion of its economy.

A deficit in Mexico's tourism during a low point in the U.S. economy would be backwards considering how tourists' preferences change in recession. Less travel resources from American consumers naturally contribute to a higher amount of travel to the nearer and cheaper Mexico, where the exchange rate is encouraging, currently at 15.25 pesos to the dollar.

Some Elon students said they were discouraged when scheduling conflicts led to the cancellation of the service trip to Mexico, especially considering the great price they caught on travel.

The trip was advertised to cost a total of \$1,000, but had dropped to \$500. The lowered price was partly because of grants from the Truitt Center and from lowered travel prices to Mexico. These discounts provide a stark contrast to the Peru trip's cancellation because of prices skyrocketing in light of the economy.

Although Elon librarian Lynne Bisko did receive the

e-mail travel alert in her office, she said she hadn't thought about the violence affecting her upcoming trip to Mexico. Bisko will be visiting San Luis Potosi with a group of five to seven friends in the Elon community.

San Luis Potosi is admittedly farther from the action and a more peaceful area than other cities, she said.

Going alone to Mexico on spring break isn't many college students' prerogative, and Elon junior Jonathan Matheny is no exception. He will be visiting Acapulco with a group of Elon students during spring break, where he said they only expect risks involving cliff diving,

Extracurriculars compete with class for student attention

Laura Smith
News Editor

Whether through service, Greek Life, religious groups or more, Elon breeds an engaged learning culture and a sense of student interaction on campus.

But what happens when students take on more than they can handle in an attempt to become a part of this engaged and involved culture?

It is not uncommon to see students with bags under their eyes and venti café lattes in their hands when they come to class in the morning. The question is, were they up late working on a class paper or preparing for SGA?

Involvement in extracurricular organizations, while forming a more well-rounded person, can also greatly interfere with academics.

Sophomore Drew Smith, news director at Phoenix14News, says he feels this pressure often.

"I definitely spend more time at Phoenix14 than on my class work," Smith said. "I probably spend 10 hours a week on class-related homework, compared to 15 hours a week on organization work."

In addition to Phoenix14 and ESTV, Smith also works with Elon Television Services.

"All the work can be stressful at times, and live television is always intense and stressful," he said. "But I try to delegate as much work as possible and not stress about the small things."

In an anonymous, voluntary survey of 100 students given by the Pendulum from March 4 - 8, results found that 52 percent of students participate

in three to five extracurricular organizations and 55 percent are taking 15 to 17 credit hours. The survey also showed that students spend 11-15 hours a week on both class work and extracurriculars, showing a balance between the two for most.

Though the survey also showed 54 percent of students believe class work is more important than outside activities, 60 percent of students said they feel pressure from Elon and students around them to get involved on campus.

SGA president Chase Rumley also knows what this pressure feels like. In addition to his leadership role in SGA, Rumley is involved in the Isabella Cannon Leadership Program, the Leadership Fellows program and Pi Kappa Phi fraternity.

"I think at times (stress) can easily get to me," Rumley said. "But I try and take a breath and keep going. The funny thing about being stressed is that it always happens all at once. I just feel like I am going along with no problem and then all of a sudden, I am completely overwhelmed."

Rumley may spend up to 20 hours a week working on SGA-related tasks alone. He spends roughly one-fourth of his time on class work, he said.

SGA adviser and assistant dean for student life, Jana Lynn Patterson, said she sees students over-commit themselves all the time.

"I think the problem is in high school," she said.

Patterson said the pressure to get into college causes students to dedicate too much

of their time that should be focused on academics to other commitments.

She also attributes it to Elon's engaged learning culture.

"Students who are successful buy into that," Patterson said.

Patterson recommends joining four organizations: one that "feeds their soul," one that links with academics, one that feeds their social life and one that feeds their body (this includes sleeping, nutrition and exercise, she said).

"Our best students are the ones that get involved," Patterson said.

She said she believes that interaction with fellow students creates a sense of belonging to the Elon community.

"Those students (who get involved) are the happiest," she said.

Patterson did stress the idea that it is more important to take a leadership role in only one organization in order to devote more time to it.

"We can be better about helping people understand balance, their commitment to their academics and at some point make a decision to have a deeper and more meaningful experience," she said. "People worry about failing if they don't do everything, but it's actually more humbling."

Rumley understands this sense of humility in balancing all he does.

"It can be tough at times. But I honestly have a passion for all that I do," he said. "In the end, I seem to get everything done and I feel proud of what I accomplished, which gives me motivation the next time I feel unbalanced and overwhelmed."

'Spring Promise' event opens students eyes to important topics for college



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Students and community members gathered in the KOBC parking lot on March 7 for the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program EXPO. The EXPO featured driving simulations, alcohol awareness information and 3-dimensional goggles that allowed participants to experience the effects of alcohol on judgment. Among the

Outside the bubble

Forgive me father, for I am drunk

Amnesty program might spread to Appalachian State

Morgan Little
Opinions Editor

To combat the problem of student alcohol habits, universities across the country have instituted policies ranging from the draconian to the laissez-faire.

The Student Government Association at Appalachian State University recently proposed a change in the way it treats the liabilities of those who request assistance as a result of illegal activity.

Under the legislation, amnesty would be granted to students if they request medical help while intoxicated, regardless of whether the request is for themselves or another student.

Educational programs are lined up for after the student receives treatment, but typical punitive measures, such as fines and academic probation, are off the table.

The policy bears some similarities to Elon's "Good Samaritan rule," enacted in August 2007, in which a student calling for medical aid will not be held accountable for their own violations of Elon's alcohol policy.

The key difference lies in the necessity of a second party.

Under Elon's policy, students calling for their own assistance are fully liable for punitive measures.

These measures, for a first

offense, include "disciplinary probation with possible disciplinary suspension for one year, a \$150 to \$300 fine, 30 campus restitution hours and restitution," according to the student handbook.

In truth, Appalachian State's proposed change more closely resembles Cornell University's Medical Amnesty Protocol, instituted in 2002. Under the policy, calls to emergency medical services increased, while decreasing the number of alcohol intoxication cases treated in the emergency room.

The effects of Elon's own revised policy have been less clear.

Judicial Affairs Coordinator Whitney Gregory, speaking anecdotally, said students have been more likely to call for help knowing they won't be punished, but there are no statistics on the matter as the actual occurrences are so uncommon.

Under the "Good Samaritan rule," students are heavily encouraged to assist dangerously intoxicated companions. Refusing to do so, for whatever reason, can lead to the same punishments as engaging in the illegal behaviors.

An ongoing study conducted by psychology professor Mark Kline surveyed the results of undergraduate drinking over four consecutive weeks at Elon. Kline's study was inspired

by a desire to understand what positive effects students derive from drinking to better understand why they drink in the first place.

The survey reveals both the scope of drinking at Elon and sheds some myths regarding drinking habits.

Slightly less than 40 percent of students have engaged in binge drinking, 15 percent binge drink weekly and the drinking habits of Greek organizations or sports teams are marginally smaller in comparison with the rest of campus.

Each of the amnesty policies, from the MAP, Good Samaritan or Appalachian State, strictly pertain to alcohol-related violations.

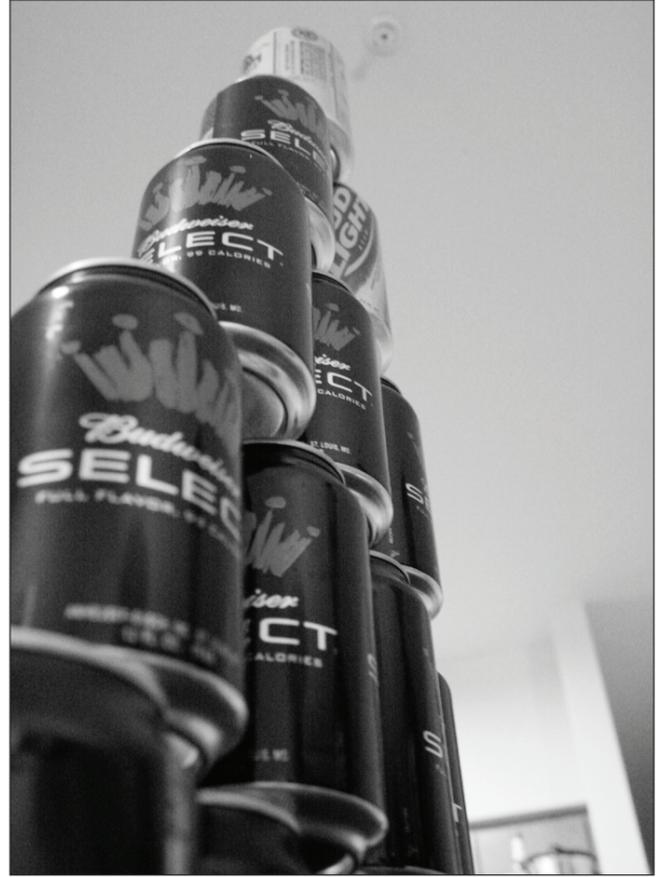
Behavior incurred by drug use and then reported to authorities for the purpose of medical assistance is given no protection at all, whether or not the assistance is requested for the student calling or someone else.

The "Good Samaritan rule" didn't come easily to Elon's rulebooks.

"As with any debate, there is a split in viewpoints," Gregory said.

The main fissure lies between those in agreement with the policy, who think calling for help should not be something to be feared.

There is still a contingent that believes the rule is a matter of fairness and that



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

The Student Government Association at Appalachian State University recently proposed a change in the way it treats the liabilities of those

if the caller is intoxicated, whether they're underage or of age and on campus, there needs to be a punitive response from the university.

The change in policy is up

in the legislative air at the moment, but Appalachian State's administration is currently weighing in on the proposal, and the changes could be implemented in fall 2010.

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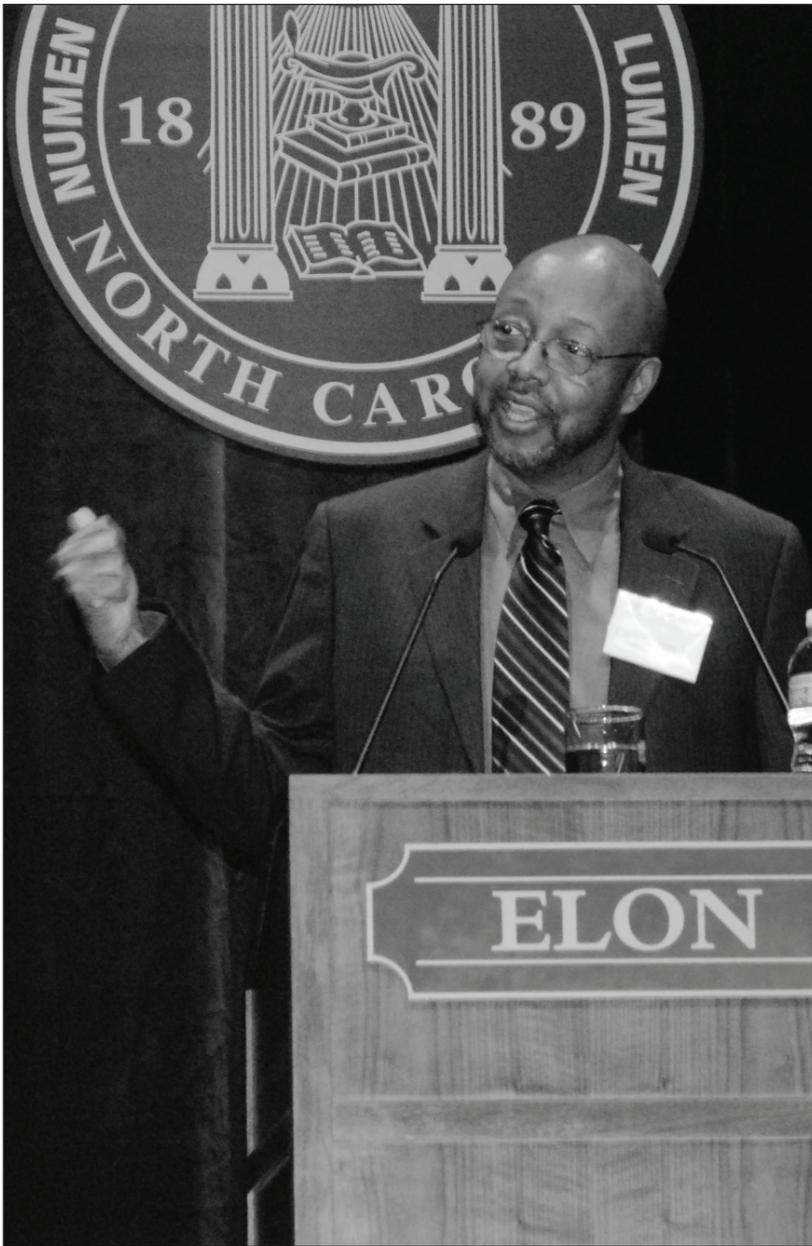
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Religion and Media Conference

Pitts speaks on Christianity's changes, politics



MY NGUYEN | Photographer

The keynote speaker of Monday's "Faith, Doubt and the Media" conference featured Pulitzer Prize winner for commentary Leonard Pitts Jr., who said there will always be doubt when

Rebecca Smith
Reporter

Leonard Pitts addressed his belief that Christianity has changed over the years as a way to advance the agenda of conservative ideals. At 7:30 p.m. on Monday in McCrary Theatre, Pitts claimed God is more than any faction, or petty label, including political parties.

Pitts is a syndicated columnist who often addresses the topic of religion and is also the winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary. He was the keynote speaker of an all-day event titled "Faith, Doubt, and the Media," hosted at Elon through the combined efforts of the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, the School of Communications and the Society of Professional Journalists.

"Under the definition formulated by the Christian Right movement, Christian no longer meant just one who follows Christ, but meant one who follows Reagan, Linbaugh, Bush, Gingrich, Coulter, Caldwell, Robertson," Pitts said. "It meant he or she who believes in tax cuts for the wealthiest, in the dehumanization of gay people, Muslim people, African American people, poor people, feminist people, Hollywood people, certain members of the judiciary, the French and the media."

He said once people started claiming causation between tragedies and people's actions, he started to not understand the Christ they were referencing. For example, he did not agree with those Christians who said that America was attacked on Sept. 11 because of the ACLU. He cited this as a catalyst of why he started using his column to talk about God and even at times to God.

One of the excerpts he read from his column during his speech was a conversation he imagined having with God. In his column, God said that people were always quoting Him and putting his name to things that He had nothing to do with. Pitts acknowledged that through his articles he is doing the same thing that fundamentalists are doing by imagining what cannot be imagined.

"When we talk about God, our words reveal more about us than they do about

Him," Pitts said. "How can we, with our short lives and limited vision, accurately picture Him? Mortality by definition cannot comprehend immortality."

He said that since humans have an inherent inability to understand immortality and God, there will always be doubt. This bifurcation between faith and doubt is at the base of religion. He claims fundamentalists do not want to admit the presence of doubt yet discuss God readily. But he said that the progressive view of God is rarely mentioned in society. Pitts said he grew up somewhere between those two extremes.

"If you look at what Christianity has been synonymous with for the last 20 or 30 years, why would you want to be (a Christian)?" Pitts said. "Christianity has allowed itself to be caught by this political movement to the degree that it and the political movement are now synonymous. Anybody who does not agree with the political movement feels they cannot be with Christianity."

Pitts said he has never considered himself particularly ideological that he injects both conservative and liberal views into his column depending on the subject matter.

"Some of us would have the rest of us believe that Christ who consorted with prostitutes and lepers, tax collectors and women, who challenged the orthodoxy of the day, was the original conservative," Pitts said. "It was as if God was kidnapped in the 1980s and put to work for the Republican field office."

Pitts' own personal beliefs on God disassociate God with any political party. Instead, he said he views God as someone who is with us through the mundane moments of our lives.

"When babies are born, and yes, even when babies die and tear a chunk out of your heart in the process, you are seeing evidence in God," Pitts said. "I believe that God is found in the rituals that bind us one to another in generation to generation, as when just yesterday morning before dawn I sat in the hospital waiting for my son's fiancée to give birth to my granddaughter."

Panel discussion gives insight into religion and media

Carolyn VanBrocklin
Reporter

At 4 p.m. on Monday, several panel members discussed topics revolving around the issue of faith and the media.

The members involved were Leonard Pitts Jr., the keynote speaker of the day's activities and a Pulitzer Prize winner for commentary, Brett Younger, associate professor of preaching at Mercer University School of Theology, Yonat Shimron, the religious reporter for the News and Observer, William Lobdell, journalist with the Los Angeles Times and author of the memoir "Losing My Religion: How I Lost My Faith Reporting on Religion in America — and Found Unexpected Peace" and Jason Byassee, director of the Center for Theology, Writing and Media at Duke Divinity School.

When asked about immorality and the financial situation, Byassee said it would be important to have "a moral conversation about right and wrong uses of money." He also suggested perhaps turning to traditional Islamic investment, which prevents against loaning money.

The panel next discussed the recent assertion that many main religions are losing membership, but non-

mainstream religions are increasing in membership.

"We live in a world full of doubts and shadows and gray areas," Pitts said. "People need a foundation that tries to make the gray areas become absolutes."

Others agreed, stressing these people need a community that makes sense.

Shimron referred to this shift in religious population as a "revolving door," saying some people fit into a certain church for a while but eventually move on to something else and others enter.

"Forty percent of Americans switch faiths over the course of their lifetime," Shimron said.

After the panel discussion, audience members were able to come forward and ask their own questions. One such question addressed the issue of explaining religion through short paragraphs in newspapers.

"We are transferring into an information kind of mode and I do see that as a challenge," Shimron said. "There's a part of me that wants to say that being able to convey things concisely is a worthwhile goal."

In addition, the panel discussed the implications of separation of church and state.

"There is no difference



MY NGUYEN | Photographer

(left to right) Panelists Jason Byassee, Yonat Shimron, Brett Younger, Leonard Pitts Jr. and William Lobdell discuss issues surrounding religion and media.

between politics and religion," Pitts said. "It has become part of political coverage because it may give readers insight into how a particular politician makes decisions. The audience should still be aware that just because a politician can speak the religious language it

does not mean he will always use that standard. There is a certain amount of danger and the public getting swindled."

The panel members did not talk about their experiences, but rather answered questions based on the interaction between religion and the

media.

They did give some insights on what it is like to be a religious reporter.

"You need to have a passion for the religion beat, and you need to have a passion to be fair, to be accurate," Lobdell said.

Religion and Media Conference

Living with doubt: Journalist shares insights on religion

Derek Noble
Multimedia Editor

As both a journalist and a Christian, William Lobdell has put his faith to the test. He came to Elon not only to share his experiences, but also to discuss his new book, "Losing My Religion."

"Every place I turned to gather up my faith pointed to a different direction and the opposite direction. This was terribly disturbing to me," Lobdell said.

Lobdell, who found his niche writing for the religion beat in the Los Angeles

Times, spent most of his time writing about various scandals within religious hierarchies.

While covering clergy sexual abuse cases,

Lobdell said started to doubt how the trauma of molestation affected people.

"My little dark journalistic heart thought that was way too much money for being molested," Lobdell said. "It was a couple times, it was 12 years ago. He should be able to get over it."

After the press release Lobdell interviewed a victims applicant who read into his questions and invited him to a victims meeting.

"At this meeting there were six people from ages of 20 to 70 and every single one of them had been viciously raped by their priest many times," he said. "They were just changed people. They were empty."

Lobdell listened to their stories and said the tales of how the church hierarchy treated these victims became engraved into his mind.

"I had written so much about the redemptive power of faith I had never seen the real and personal way, the opposite, the damage religion can do in the hands of bad people," he said.

Lobdell claimed he was living a double life — going to Catholic conversion classes and at the same time covering sex abuse scandals full-time. He said he viewed the church power structure as the problem but had faith the fundamentals of the church itself and the majority of its followers were pure.

During this time Lobdell went to a church service where the priest was stepping down from his position for a past "boundary violation." After his speech, the entire crowd stood for a standing ovation. After the service the congregation had a meeting in the parish hall and the laypeople wanted to vote to

name the new parish hall after him.

"That really shook me up because it was the laity that was so blind," Lobdell said.

It was these two particular incidents that caused Lobdell's faith to waiver.

"I started to do extra prayer, I started to do extra Bible study and I went on another retreat to try to re-energize my faith," Lobdell said. "I tried so hard to keep it but now I have to admit what is the truth for me."

This truth, according to Lobdell and his book, is that faith no longer exists for him. Lobdell has found peace in this realization.

He said he has found himself living life more in the moment and hopes his publications and various talks will enlighten others who are also struggling with their own faith.



The differences between meaning and content

Shea Northcut
Reporter

Brett Younger, author of "Who Moved My Pulpit?" came to Elon Monday morning to kick off the Faith, Doubt and the Media Conference.

"This conference is called Faith, Doubt and the Media. That only works if you recognize that faith and doubt aren't in opposition in movies," Younger said. "Doubt keeps faith alive, especially in the movies."

The author of "The Lighter Side" for Baptists Today split up faith and the media into four topics: non-religious content and meaning, non-religious content with religious meaning, religious content with non-religious meaning, and religious content with religious meaning.

Reporter's dilemma illuminates concerns

Sophie Duensing
Reporter

Journalism students are taught early on the importance of keeping personal opinions separate from work. A situation not discussed in the classroom is what to do when an editor wants to run an ad containing a controversial religious DVD that certain will upset many loyal readers.

This was the moral dilemma faced by Yonat Shimron, the religion reporter for the Raleigh News & Observer.

On Sept. 8, 2008, Shimron walked into her office and noticed a flyer with a note on it saying the ad would run the following Sunday. Inside the flyer was a DVD called "Obsession," a stark, violent documentary about Islamic extremism. Created by a Canadian rabbi, the funding of the film is still unclear. The listed producer, "Pete Mier," is not a real person but a pseudonym.

In the opening credits there is a brief disclaimer stating the film is not meant to represent all Muslims, only

the extremists. Despite the disclaimer the DVD is a one-sided coin, depicting Muslims as horrific, insane monsters obsessed with destroying America.

"They say it is not about modern Muslims, yet the people it interviewed are almost exclusively Islama-phobes," Shimron said. "The DVD makes no attempt to distinguish groups. It only wants to say this is an ideology that wants to destroy the West."

After viewing the DVD, Shimron knew running the ad risked upsetting readers, particularly Muslims. But the paper was getting paid to run the ad, along with at least 70 others that had agreed to bundle it in their Sunday edition. It was the heat of the 2008 election, just days after the Republican Convention.

The Muslim holiday of Ramadan had begun a few days ago. The News & Observer ran the ad despite lacking any solid knowledge where the ad came from or who was behind it, claiming it was not inflammatory as it included a disclaimer and that the News & Observer doesn't take kindly

to censorship. "Newspapers err on the side of free speech," the publisher told Shimron.

The public reaction to the ad was almost immediate. Shimron received 10 phone messages, and her editor received 300 phone and e-mail messages. About 15 percent were positive, but the vast majority were upset by the DVD. Fifty people canceled subscriptions and the local Muslim mosque formed a petition three inches thick with signatures.

While the publisher never apologized, publication editors expressed regret regarding the lack of information provided about the source of the ad.

"I think newspapers have a duty to be as transparent with readers with the information they apply," Shimron said. "Newspapers are not immune to the stereotypes we have in society. They can be part of the fear and prejudice of Muslims that is still present in the United States. However, people expect a higher standard when they look to the News & Observer."

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Elon Poll results

A look at the results from Elon's March 2 poll of North Carolina residents about state issues.

Majority of North Carolinians support offshore drilling

Alexa Milan
Managing Editor

Sixty-six percent of North Carolina residents said they would support drilling for oil off the North Carolina coast, according to the most recent Elon Poll. This is just slightly behind the 68 percent of people nationwide who support offshore drilling, according to November's Rasmussen Report.

"I think the (reason) is that people think it's one of the ways we can move toward energy independence," said David Vandermast, assistant professor of biology.

Junior Rachel Shain, co-president of the Sierra Club, said she thinks people might support offshore drilling because high gas prices triggered a desire to find oil in new places. But she said she is worried about some potential dangers.

"The advantages would be decreasing the amount of foreign oil that we use, which, considering the political and international climate, is a good thing," Shain said. "The disadvantages are that offshore drilling could have negative effects on the environment."

Offshore drilling would require the construction of platforms in the middle of the ocean for extracting the oil. Vandermast said while there is always a risk of some pollution or oil spills, the construction and ongoing use of the platforms themselves would be environmentally safe. But he said there have been a few rare instances of the platforms catching fire.

"I think they're generally pretty safe, and even if a platform caught fire, I don't think it would endanger people on land," Vandermast said.

Shain said even if the actual platforms are safe, she is still worried about possible detrimental effects on the environment.

"The oceans are suffering as it is from human influence, and I am concerned about oil spills and pollution," Shain said. "Our oceans are already overfished, polluted and coral reefs are dying. Let's not add yet another problem into the mix."

Vandermast is concerned about the potential emotional effects the oil rigs could have on people living on the coast. Oil platforms are large and visible from shore, and Vandermast said he worries the rigs obstructing coastal viewscapes could upset residents of North Carolina beaches and dissuade visitors.

"What if the state gained \$10 million in revenue (from offshore drilling) but they lost \$12 million in revenue because people didn't want to come to North Carolina beaches anymore?" Vandermast said. "That would not be a good trade."

While the platforms don't pose as much of an environmental threat, Vandermast said the bigger picture is that fossil fuels will be burned and dispersed into the earth's atmosphere.

"My biggest single problem with these platforms is that it's still what I would call 'old school' thinking," Vandermast said. "It's all based on fossil fuels."

Shain said while offshore drilling has its advantages and disadvantages, people should first consider alternative fuel sources before giving offshore drilling their full support.

"There are many other ways to solve our fuel problems," Shain said. "We just have to think outside the box."

Vandermast said there will never be just one alternative energy source, but he cited one Massachusetts proposal as a place to start. The proposal suggests building turbines to harvest wind energy, which is a renewable resource.

"The wind is always going to be there," Vandermast said. "But the oil won't."

State residents split on death penalty

Libby Dean
Reporter

There have been 1,151 executions in the United States since 1976. Approximately two-thirds of states including N.C. have the death penalty, according to Victor Streib, visiting professor of law at Elon.

Elon poll respondents indicated that 48 percent of those surveyed believe the death penalty for first degree murderers is an acceptable punishment, while 39 percent said life in prison is a better form of punishment.

Streib said while the death penalty law has not changed much during the past couple of years, there are periods in which the public has more interest in the subject. The way people feel about the death penalty is less about the technical aspect of how much it costs and more about moral and religious ideologies.

Nicholas Ochsner, co-chairman of College Republicans, said while the death penalty is not one of the banner issues of the Republican Party, the usual Republican belief is that the death penalty is carrying out justice.

"Opinions can vary, but the typical Republican point of view is that the death penalty law exists for good reason," Ochsner said. "It is a punishment to those who only have committed extreme crimes. We have a firm belief of holding people accountable for their actions."

Ochsner said the death penalty law should remain as it is because it enforces the idea that all actions have consequences. Streib said he does not personally support the death penalty because research has

shown that states that enforce the death penalty do not have a lower rate of violent crime.

Martin Fowler, lecturer in philosophy at Elon, said when Americans debate capital punishment, they often don't know or care that many countries have abandoned or don't often enforce the death penalty.

"Why is the death penalty still a part of American life in most states, when it has fallen out of favor with the rest of the world?" Fowler said. "Many other countries do not agree with the United States' insistence upon the death penalty as an appropriate punishment."

Ochsner said comparing the U.S. sentiment regarding the death penalty to other countries is irrelevant because each country has its own ideas and sentiments that are unique to them.

"Americans have a sense of right and wrong that differs from those of other countries. Other countries have different ideas of what is appropriate," Ochsner said.

Despite strong sentiments both for and against the death penalty, the death penalty has always been a part of the U.S. judicial system. Streib said that the death penalty is strongly implied in the Constitution.

"The Constitution says we cannot deprive someone of life and liberty without due process, so this suggests that we can deprive someone life and liberty if we give them a fair proceeding," Streib said. "The Constitution does not authorize the death penalty, but it does not prohibit it."

Regardless of being for or against

To learn more about capital punishment issues, here are some classes offered at Elon:

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (PHILOSOPHY COURSE)

This course discusses violence and its implications on the offender, victim and community. Restorative justice has the offender apologize and work to fix, repair and compensate for the violence that occurred. It is about restoring lives and relationships affected by violence.

For more information, contact Martin Fowler at fowlerm@elon.edu.

NON-VIOLENCE STUDIES (MINOR)

This minor focuses on the problems of violence and social injustice and explores solutions, particularly non-violent alternatives.

For more information, contact Anne Cassebaum, current coordinator, at cassebaum@elon.edu.

the death penalty, both Fowler and Ochsner stressed the importance of convicting those who are truly guilty. With the new technology available, such as DNA technology, they wish to end wrongful conviction.

"It takes time for a life and community to heal after a violent crime," Fowler said. "Justice can do more than just catch and punish. It can restore and respect the victim's rights and well being and make offenders accountable members of the community."

N.C. legislators consider instituting statewide smoking plan in public places

Jake Martin
Senior Reporter

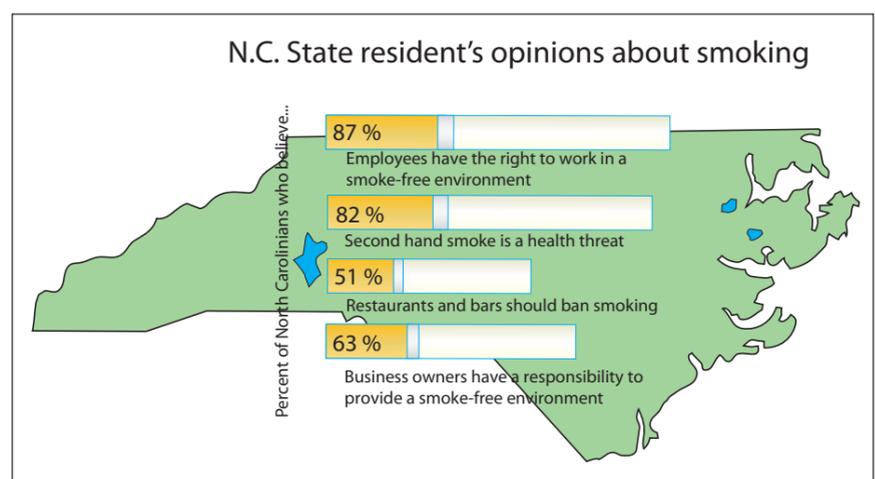
N.C. Legislators considering instituting a statewide smoking ban in public places

Elon Poll finds general approval of anti-smoking laws

The home of Tobacco Road and the birthplace of the U.S. tobacco industry may soon pass legislation banning smoking in all public places. The Elon University Poll has conducted several polls over the past few years finding support of such legislation.

The most recent poll, conducted Feb. 22-26, found that 87 percent of North Carolina residents believe employees have the right to work in smoke-free environments while 67 percent support state laws banning smoking.

However, when asked specifically whether all restaurants and bars should ban smoking, only 51 percent were in favor. For all places of business, there was a preference for business action over government regulation. Sixty-one percent said it should be up to the individual owner, and not the government, to decide whether smoking should



be allowed in a place of business.

While people generally support the individual business owners to make the call, 63 percent felt that it was their responsibility to also provide their workers with a smoke-free environment.

The American Lung Association gave North Carolina an "F" in all four areas it evaluates for smoking control policies: tobacco prevention and control spending, smoke-free air, cigarette taxes and cessation coverage. The association's Web site estimated North Carolina's economic costs due to smoking at over

\$6 billion annually, based on smoking-attributable health care expenditures.

North Carolina has a long history with tobacco, dating back to colonial times. The state is the primary producer of the crop and home to the second largest cigarette maker, R.J. Reynolds in Winston-Salem. The leader is Phillip Morris, which also has strong connections with North Carolina.

Despite the deep roots of the tobacco industry in North Carolina's economy, the general public appears to be more concerned with the health implications and dangers of smoking.

Rep. Hugh Holliman,

House Majority Leader and lung-cancer survivor is the chief sponsor of the bill expanding prohibitions on smoking to include all public places. The current laws only include bans on smoking in prisons and state-owned property. Holliman has stated before that there is no doubt that second-hand smoke is a serious health hazard.

If Holliman and other state lawmakers get their way, smoking would be banned in all restaurants, bars and indoor workplaces. North Carolina is behind many other states in passing anti-smoking laws. Only 15 other states have no controls on smoking.

North Carolinians still chatting behind wheel despite knowing dangers it causes

Nick Massa
Reporter

A recent Elon Poll shows 80 percent of residents believe the use of cell phones while driving decreases highway safety. But at the same time, 54 percent of those cell phone users use a phone while they're behind the wheel.

Countless studies have been done that show driving while using a cell phone causes hundreds of driving accidents a year, with some going so far as to say cell phone use impairs drivers as much as alcohol use.

While driving and talking on a cell phone is discouraged, it is not illegal in North Carolina and is permitted on Elon's campus.

Elon's van use policy does prohibit drivers from using cell phones while operating vans.

According to Clifton Johnson, assistant director of campus center operations at Elon, actually finding the van drivers who use their cell phones is very difficult.

There are also rarely any administrators present to catch drivers who ignore the sign in vans banning cell phone use, making the policy mainly honor based.

If a person is proven to be using a cell phone while driving a university van, it could result in loss of van privileges or certification.

Amit Almor, a psychology professor at the University of South Carolina, studied the effect of talking and listening on attention levels and found that the test subjects were "four times more distracted while preparing to speak or speaking than when they were listening. People can tune in or out as needed when listening.

Almor performed two experiments. One required test subjects to detect shapes on a screen, or track a fast moving object on a screen, while listening to and responding to a narrative.

The second involved the same experiments, but used pairs of friends who would actually converse with each other while performing the experiment.

He found visual attention dropped even more because people were trying to contribute to the conversation and were not paying much attention to the screens.

Almor's experiments found people could concentrate on the visual task more if the voice came from in front of them, rather than from the sides or back.

DRIVING ON THE PHONE

54 percent of Elon poll respondents use a cell phone while they are behind the wheel.

Studies have shown that driving while using a cell phone causes hundreds of driving accidents each year.

Driving and talking on a cell phone is not illegal in North Carolina.

Almor said this is because people tend to focus on the direction they think the sound is coming from, so if it is coming from the front, they will pay more attention to what is in front of them.

This finding may result in new developments in car phones, which could put speakers in the front of the car so people could hold conversations but still focus on the road.

This technology could also be used for PowerPoint presentations and in

CORRECTION

Last week's news story "Grade inflation plagues many universities" contained a graph with percentages for fall 2009. The graph may have caused confusion because it did not contain half grades. The complete graph can be found at www.elon.edu/pendulum.

State transportation improvements on track, Elon Poll indicates

Pam Richter
Sports Editor

One part of the Elon Poll conducted this week focuses on transportation within North Carolina and 69 percent of respondents said they supported a regional rail system.

According to Mike Nunn, the planning manager for the Burlington-Graham Metropolitan Planning Organization, the area is ahead of most in terms of railway transportation.

"We're lucky to have that Amtrak station in Burlington. We've got that infrastructure in place," Nunn said. "We're somewhat ahead of other areas to have that in our community."

The Amtrak station in Burlington provides commuters with a closer option to take public transportation.

Nunn also said the train station needs to be renovated to be more appealing to travelers.

Improving the railway system is not an issue isolated to the Burlington and Graham areas, but one that concerns the entire state.

"As North Carolina's population and traffic grow, development of rail transportation becomes increasingly important as an alternative to auto and air transport for both freight and passengers," the North Carolina Department of Transportation Web site said.

The results of the poll also revealed 77 percent of North Carolina residents would like to see commuter railways developed in urban areas.

These regional railways would be funded by the state budget.

"A lot of those funds would be used to improve existing railways," Nunn said. "A second rail would need to be created for commuters."

There are no specific details about expanding railways in place yet, Nunn said.

The NCDOT Web site said plans for improving railways are in progress.

The department is investing state,

TRANSPORTATION POLL RESULTS

51 percent oppose collecting tolls to fund statewide transportation projects.

77 percent would like to see commuter railways developed in urban areas.

69 percent support regional rail systems.

INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE ELON POLL

federal and surface transportation funds to improve existing tracks and to build new stretches of track to improve the state's rail system.

A number of states have highway tolls on certain roadways.

According to the Elon Poll, 51 percent of North Carolinians oppose collecting tolls to fund statewide transportation projects and North Carolina currently does not have highway tolls.

Nunn said the reason tolls are implemented is to provide the state with more sources for revenue to improve transportation.

Steps to improve transportation overall in the state are already in place.

On Feb. 24, North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue announced road and bridge projects as part of the federal economic stimulus plan.

A total of 70 highway and bridge projects throughout the state will be started, using \$466 million in federal stimulus funding.

According to state transportation officials, the first round of infrastructure investments will create about 14,000 jobs for North Carolina.

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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.

THE PENDULUM
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 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 may 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. If you have questions or concerns about an article contact a section editor. Please do not respond to reporters directly.

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One step forward, two steps back

International law inching toward justice in Darfur

Courts by themselves have few powers. They don't control the purse and they have no armies at their side. Chief Justice John Roberts doesn't kick down the doors of the murderous and libelous to bring them to justice.

On March 3, the International Criminal Court issued a warrant for the arrest of Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir, the president of Sudan, on five counts of crimes against humanity and two counts of war crimes.

Undoubtedly a massive success for human rights groups, who have fought for years against Bashir's 20-year grip on Sudan's government, the warrant is at the moment merely a slip of paper.

Sudan does not recognize the ICC, and the court has questionable jurisdiction to go into sovereign states to apprehend heads of state. Previous national leaders, like Charles Taylor of Liberia and Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia, charged by the ICC were all arrested after they had been forced out of power.

The international community is also split on the matter. Western powers applaud the move as a step toward peace in the region, while Russia and China have actively spoken out against any legal action. The African Union has asked for the charges to be postponed to allow Bashir a chance to end the conflict in Darfur while not under legal pressure.

Bashir's stance on the warrant is predictably hostile, redirecting the blame for his country's current state on the United States and Europe, calling the warrant a form of "neo-colonialism."

His most immediate retaliation was the expulsion of 13 international aid agencies, including OXFAM and Save the Children. The exile of the agencies, which previously

had assisted more than 4.4 million Sudanese, with some overlapping, could only be the beginning of Bashir's consolidation of power.

Now unable to travel to any ICC-supporting country for fear of arrest and facing increased pressure from the U.N., Bashir could throw his weight against the upcoming Sudanese general election, its first in nine years. The election is expected to take place before the end of this year. The thought of political competition could prove to be too much for Bashir, limiting what little democratic gains have been made in the region.

As with any situation as horrid as that in Sudan and Darfur, action must be taken. Every attempted measure to relieve the torment endured throughout the country has proven ineffective. U.N. Resolution 1769, which promised 26,000 troops, police and civilian personnel, has resulted in less than 10,000 personnel so far.

Bashir's government has continually road-blocked U.N. efforts, tampering with their logistics, denying proper facilities and outright banning personnel from various countries.

All economic measures have also proven ineffective. China continues to support Bashir through its purchases of two-thirds of Sudan's oil exports, and it allegedly provides the government with many of its weaponry.

There's a wide berth between symbolic and effective action. At the moment, the ICC's warrant is regrettably symbolic. Unless Bashir sets foot in a western country, the likelihood of him sitting in a cell in the Hague is marginal.

It's more likely that the warrant will evoke a punitive reaction in Bashir as he seeks to consolidate his power against his political and military opponents. The warrant is a step in the right direction, but it's still a step taken in a minefield.

Quiet in the library

Walking the tightrope of academics and security

At times, reactions to events can be more surprising than the events themselves. Elon students were shocked to discover that a Burlington resident was charged with two counts of statutory rape, both of which allegedly occurred outside the first floor restroom of Belk Library.

But the response, aside from the terribly delayed e-mail from Smith Jackson addressing the event, has been calm and logical. There has been no immediate action taken to increase pre-existing security measures at Belk and not even the slightest suggestion of impeding student and community access to the facilities in the name of security has been considered.

This may have a great deal to do with the fact that no one, ranging from faculty to students working in Belk, has spoken up with concerns about their own safety while in the building.

Kate Hickey, dean and university librarian, emphasized that point and highlighted the dichotomy between openness and security in Belk.

"Part of the mission of the library is to provide service to the community," she said, later emphasizing, "We're a private institution. People don't have a right to be here — they're our guests."

When something as repugnant as the charges levied against Scott Dwante Moore arise, a light flickers in the back of everyone's mind. There has to be a reaction, but this reflexive action has been rather muted in regard to the recent events at Belk, mainly because there is no effective response that Elon can take.

There could be security patrols going around each of the floors, checking to make sure that past a certain hour everyone in the library is a student. But to do so, students would be required to regularly prove their enrollment, which would ruin the efforts of Hickey and the library staff to make Belk a welcoming environment.

Up until Feb. 7, the biggest criminal problems facing Belk were occasional thefts.

"If anyone gives us the slightest difficulty, we just call security," Hickey said. Campus security already patrols the premises.

While Hickey emphasized students are the top priorities at Belk, the library still has an obligation to the local community. There are about 200 people with "Friends of the Library" cards, which allow their limited rights to check out certain materials. These cardholders tend to be retired and visit Belk out of convenience.

Based on Hickey's estimation, close to 50 non-Elon students and citizens visit Belk every day, and those numbers increase on the weekends and during the summer. Without the "Friends of the Library" card, these visitors cannot check out university materials. To access computers, they must register at the front desk and are limited to the facilities on the first floor.

The events of Feb. 7 were the first of their kind in the library's history, running back prior to Belk's opening. As such, it must be viewed as an outlier, not a trend or an indication of things to come.

Though a committee composed of faculty members, Jackson and members of student life is looking into whether any security policies need to be changed, there's little that can be done to tighten security at Belk without compromising its accessibility to the vast majority of students and community members who simply want to use it as a resource.

TO COMMENT...

We appreciate original responses to Pendulum articles. Feedback of 500 words or fewer can be sent in several ways.

Letters to the Editor and columns can be e-mailed to pendulum@elon.edu or sent to 7012 Campus Box, Elon, N.C. 27244

Content will be edited for clarity, length and accuracy. All submissions must include a name and phone number.

A message board also accompanies each article online at www.elon.edu/pendulum where commentary can be quickly posted.

ILLUSTRATING THE ISSUES:



Opinions

Behind the broken door Shaky cause, unnecessary force used in bust



Neel Arora
Guest Columnist

By now, almost everyone is aware of the drug bust that took place last week, but most people don't know exactly what happened at 203 Colonnade Drive, the first house raided on the morning of Feb. 26.

At roughly 7:30 a.m., there was a loud knock on the door and a voice echoed shortly thereafter: "Police, open up." A few seconds later, the door was broken down and about 10 police officers stormed in with a police dog, guns pointed everywhere.

"Get on the ground, get on the ground," they shouted at the sleeping college students, pointing guns in their faces. The six students, two women and four men, had their hands cuffed behind their backs and were shown an 11-page warrant signed by Judge Tom Lambeth, instructing the police to search the premises for drugs and stolen property.

The students were warned that the dog would bite if they tried to fight back. They were taken to a bedroom and searched one-by-one, then held for three to four hours while the house was turned upside down. Lastly, they were placed in holding cells at the Alamance County Detention Center in the company of hardened criminals.

They were allowed a collect call to a landline in order to ask someone to post their bail, but how many people have friends or know someone with a landline at Elon? Later, they had to wear the customary striped suits of inmates. Some of them did not get out that night and were forced to be in the presence of individuals who can euphemistically be described as bad influences, to say the least. The arrests then led to the bust at Oak Hill, though the connection between the two warrants is speculative.

What was found at the Colonnade Drive residence was allegedly stolen property that

had not yet been reported stolen, 31 grams of marijuana (a little over an ounce) and drug paraphernalia. Some smaller charges have also been levied. A few of the charges, serious as they may look, have been inflated with the subjectivity of the law.

Some might argue Elon is in a state of transition, in that it is beginning to face big-school problems. The police appear to be starved for action and found an excuse to traumatize college students who are at least making a conscious effort to stay in school, off the streets and improving society.

Burlington falls below the national average for violent crimes based on its per capita. Despite the illegality and negative effects of drug use, the planning, which spanned about a month, and ferocious execution of the operation is a total waste of taxpayer money. It damaged the reputation of a university the town prides itself on and gave the impression of reducing the right to privacy to an absolute minimum while maximizing the subjectivity of the law.

The police allegedly found probable cause to break down a door while college students were fast asleep because empty baggies originally containing marijuana, cigarette paper and the guts from cigarettes or cigars were found in the trash earlier last month.

The police need to focus their efforts on more pressing matters and on larger issues concerning society rather than finding an excuse to make scapegoats out of college students while also destroying their lives in the name of "cracking down," or the War on Drugs.

The information reveals evidence that the police have no concept of dealing with college students but rather only hardened criminals. The police used extreme measures, and it would have been no surprise if they brought a SWAT team in to go along with the 10 officers and the dog.

Editor's Note: All information and conclusions are based on an interview with one of the students involved, who wishes to remain anonymous.

A green source of greenbacks

When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated in 1933, the United States was at the lowest point of the worst depression in American history.



Derek Kiszely
Columnist

Roosevelt "saved" the banking system during the first seven days of his presidency, and on the eighth day he was famously quoted saying, "I think this would be a good time for beer."

Roosevelt signed into law an amendment that allowed the manufacture and sale of beer, effectively ending Prohibition.

With a quarter of the workforce unemployed at the time, Roosevelt knew legalizing beer would help

fix the problem by creating a million jobs.

The Wall Street Journal recently released a study predicting a 20 percent chance that our stock market crash will lead to another depression. The Bureau of Labor announced unemployment has jumped to 8.1 percent, the worst since 1983. America has lost 4.4 million jobs since the recession began in late 2007.

It's time Obama considers channeling Roosevelt in a way other than one-upping the "New Deal" with his \$787 billion stimulus package: Obama should legalize, regulate and tax marijuana, or at the very least consider it.

Harvard economist Jeffrey Miron argues in his report "The Budgetary Implications of Marijuana Prohibition" that legalizing, regulating and taxing marijuana would generate between \$10 and \$14 billion in savings and taxes a year. More than 530 economists have since endorsed his conclusions.

But when Obama's transition team was asked whether it would consider legalizing marijuana to "create millions of new jobs and a billion dollar industry right here in the U.S.," its response was, "President-elect Obama is not in favor of the legalization of marijuana."

The last time a governmental committee looked at the marijuana issue was in 1971 with the Schaffer Commission, under President Richard Nixon. They recommended the immediate decriminalization of marijuana, and Nixon threw their report in the trash.

Nixon's comments made it clear that his reasons for disregarding the recommendation of the Schaffer Commission were based upon fear and not science. Can the president actually listen to the scientists about science this time?

Even if Obama isn't willing to consider taking innovative and unprecedented steps toward jump-starting our economy by legalizing marijuana like we did with cigarettes and alcohol, he at least needs to repeal the ban on hemp cultivated for industrial, non-drug use.

By opening avenues to allow the cultivation of hemp, which has been called "the billion-dollar cash crop with 25,000 uses," a new branch of commerce could be built.

Legalizing hemp, at the very least, could revive our economy and create virtually endless renewable energy in the form of bio-fuel that would help break our addiction to oil and combat global warming.

After all, the Declaration of Independence was written on paper made from hemp.

Ultimately, the War on Drugs, particularly when it comes to marijuana, has been an absolute failure. Over 10 million Americans have been arrested for violating marijuana laws since 1990.

We could save billions of dollars every year by ending the senseless arrest, prosecution and incarceration of non-violent marijuana users. Couple this with the potential revenue from legalizing and taxing marijuana and the total revenue would be staggering.

Hopefully Obama's administration will do something this country hasn't done in almost 40 years and form a presidential commission that is comprised of a group of experts to take an evidentiary and logical — not ideological — approach to study marijuana use, look at drug policy, make recommendations and then actually listen to its advice on how to proceed.

It took the depression of the 1930s to repeal the prohibition of alcohol. Maybe it will take the recession of 2008 to repeal the prohibition of marijuana, which has proven to be much less dangerous.

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Learning to love Limbaugh



Sara Costello
Guest Columnist

It is ironic that President Barack Obama is willing to meet and negotiate with known terrorists that desire to blow America off the face of the earth, but refuses to join Rush Limbaugh's conservative talk show for a political debate.

Limbaugh is America's leading talk show host, who uses his constitutionally guaranteed right to free speech as a means of

taking a public stand on current issues.

Though Limbaugh has every right to publicly voice his opinions, he is now marked as America's public enemy No. 1 by many Democrats.

As a public figure and president of the United States, Obama should be accustomed to criticism from the media. But Limbaugh has put Obama on the defense to the extent that Obama told Republicans to stop listening to the commentator.

"You can't just listen to Rush Limbaugh and get things done," Obama said.

Freedom of expression distinguished America from every other society and nation. We are great because we possess the ability to achieve greatness without parameters enforced by the government.

Limbaugh has every right to speak out against the Obama administration and to support conservative politicians who refuse to conform to present ideologies.

The fact that Limbaugh is perceived as a threat exposes the weakness and doubts that already exist in the Democratic Party. Limbaugh is not just spouting words in an effort to create havoc.

Much of what he says is supported by history, factual evidence and contextual examples to prove

Obama's plans will not work. He has a widely-heard voice throughout America and his words are ringing with truth across the nation. He's not a threat to Obama's life or his presidency. But Limbaugh is a presumed threat to liberalism and therefore a public enemy.

It is no secret Limbaugh hopes Obama's policies will fail. Though the left has made this statement into a huge issue, Limbaugh believes the failure of Obama's policies will mean a failed attempt at socialism.

If Obama's actions become unconstitutional, if more government actually hurts America, if this increased spending causes another depression, if shutting down Guantanamo Bay decreases safety and security, if pulling out of Iraq results in chaos and more death, if supporting Palestine and meeting with an Iranian dictator results in the end of Israel, then we have every right to refuse support of our president and hope for failure.

"Barack Obama, the Democratic Party has one responsibility, and that's to respect the oath they gave to protect, defend and follow the U.S. Constitution," Limbaugh said at the Conservative Political Action Conference in February.

Obama has no intention of abiding by the centuries-old constitution drafted by our forefathers. Obama is already transforming America into a government-dependent nation.

As Limbaugh said, it is not Obama's responsibility to spend excessively, cut off ties with our allies, make friends with our enemies and hurt businesses by weakening capitalism.

Limbaugh is perceived as a spouting maniac, whose words stir discontent and anger among those in opposition. But Limbaugh's only offense is public speaking.

Our president is remaking America in his own image. He's responsible for the decisions that will affect all Americans. He's the one that should be questioned unceasingly, not Limbaugh.

PARTY SMART WITH THESE TIPS

Travel in groups.

Be aware of surroundings.

Don't leave drinks unattended.

Stick with your group and make sure everyone is accounted for.

COMMON DATE RAPE DRUGS**ALCOHOL**

Depressant, impairs coordination, judgment and reaction time.

ROHYPNOL

A trade name for flunitrazepam, belongs to a class of drugs known as benzodiazepines.

When mixed with alcohol, Rohypnol can incapacitate victims and prevent them from resisting sexual assault. It can produce "anterograde amnesia," which means individuals may not remember events they experienced while under the effects of the drug. Also, Rohypnol may be lethal when mixed with alcohol and/or other depressants.

GAMMA HYDROXYBUTYRUC ACID (GHB)

Central nervous system depressant that has been used since 1990 in the U.S. primarily for its euphoric, sedative and anabolic (body-building) effects. May cause comas and seizures.

KETAMINE

Ketamine is an anesthetic that has been approved for both human and animal use in medical settings since 1970. About 90 percent of the ketamine legally sold is intended for veterinary use. It can be injected or snorted. Ketamine is also known as "special K" or "vitamin K." Certain doses of ketamine can cause dream-like states and hallucinations. In high doses, ketamine can cause delirium, amnesia, impaired motor function, high blood pressure, depression and potentially fatal respiratory problems.

ECSTASY (MDMA)

A synthetic, psychoactive drug chemically similar to the stimulant methamphetamine and the hallucinogen mescaline.

INFORMATION FROM ELON'S OFFICE OF PERSONAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

She was 19. It was Valentine's Day. All she wanted was a night out with friends. They got dressed, pre-gamed and hit up the on-campus bar. It was a typical night out, the only difference: she was drunker than she had ever been before.

He was 25.

"I remember seeing this guy and I thought he was cute," she said. "I was drunk enough that I went up and introduced myself."

Life was never the same after that night for Kelly McDonald, an Elon freshman whose name has been changed. She was raped by the man she had called "just a nice guy." During the course of a semester, he raped her four times.

AN UNFORTUNATELY FAMILIAR NIGHTMARE

"One in three to one in four women will be a survivor of attempted or completed sexual assault during their time in college," said Leigh-Anne Royster, the coordinator for personal health programs and community well-being at Elon. "I think it's a cultural issue. I certainly don't think it is individual behavior."

Still, Royster said staying alert can help to reduce risk and suggested traveling in groups at night, being aware of surroundings and staying in a group while out.

Alcohol consumption is a major contributor to college students losing control over themselves and what's going on around them, she said. It is also the most common drug used in instances of sexual assault.

"After drinking, it becomes easier to dance, easier to make conversation with people we don't know, to talk, to laugh, whatever. Inhibitions break down," according to The BACCHUS Network, which has grown to be the largest student health education program, advocating peer education and providing educational brochures since its start in 1975.

Elon provides informative brochures about sexual and relationship abuse in upstairs Moseley and the health center.

BURSTING THE BUBBLE

The "Elon bubble" isn't a protective barrier against domestic violence, which is prevalent both on college campuses and in real life.

"(Nationally), the sanctions and punishments set in place for rape and sexual assaults are strong, which is

what they need to be," said Elon junior Josh Pfeiffer who has witnessed domestic violence firsthand. "It's important for governments to recognize the seriousness of this issue."

Although punishments are in place for perpetrators, the World Health Organization notes in its "World Report on Violence and Health" that sexual violence has been a neglected area of research. Because not much has been studied about it, there are still many issues with people reporting incidents of assault.

"Probably a large number of relationship violence and sexual violence goes unreported," Royster said. "Roughly 40 to 50 women and men per year seek services from my office and that includes intimate partner violence or rape or sexual assault; all those things together."

Forty-two people sought services from Royster's office from August 2007 to February 2008, which is about average for that time frame, Royster said. She usually sees between 400 and 500 cases a year, but she knows the number of people needing the ser-

"I didn't really think 'rape' until long after the fact. All I knew was that I was very uncomfortable and not okay with it.

- Kelly McDonald

VICTIM WHOSE NAME HAS BEEN CHANGED

vices is higher.

REPORTING MEANS RELIVING, WHICH CAN LEAD TO SILENCE

Reporting a sexual assault can be difficult for people for many reasons. Victims may be afraid to tell their story to the police, their family or their friends because of embarrassment or shame, Royster said the perpetrator also may have threatened the victim, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In order to tell someone what happened, the victim has to relive the experience, said McDonald, and many do not want to do so because of the emotional distress it causes.

Elon encourages students to visit the health center if they have experienced rape or sexual assault. McDonald did so the morning after she was raped, but she didn't tell anyone what

had happened.

"I knew he didn't use a condom, so that's why I had to go the first time," McDonald said. "But they never asked me if I was raped. I had been going a lot because I was scared."

McDonald said the doctors and nurses assumed she had a boyfriend and she just went along with it. McDonald was asked if she was having "rough sex" because she was bleeding. No one ever hinted toward her being raped.

"I was kind of hoping someone would bring it up," she said. "I was in such a state of denial."

WHAT CONSTITUTES RAPE?

"I didn't really think 'rape' until long after the fact," McDonald said. "All I knew was that I was very uncomfortable and not OK with it, but I never could really call it rape because I knew that I had been hanging out with him and I had initiated so much of getting to know this person."

Royster said deciphering between rape and consensual intercourse shouldn't be the brain-racking decision it is for many women.

The CDC defines sexual violence as any sexual activity where consent is not obtained or freely given, including but not limited to sexual harassment, threats, peeping, unwanted touching and forced intercourse or rape.

"Domestic violence is a pattern of domination in which batterers intentionally choose to cause fear, injury and/or pain in order to gain and maintain power and control over their partners," according to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Although rape or sexual violence during their time in college, there are many who experience it at an earlier age, as well. One in four women experience sexual abuse before college, said Sam Parker, executive director of Family Abuse Services in Burlington.

"Not a lot of people will talk about it and recognize rape as rape and take it for what it is," McDonald said. "But that doesn't mean that you're not justified in saying you were raped and seeking help."

UNWANTED ADVANCES

Elon sophomore Marcy Holland, whose name has also been changed, became a victim of rape her sophomore year of high school when she was 15.

During a trip to Pittsburgh, Pa. to visit a friend, Holland was introduced

to Greg, a student in her friend's math class.

"Everybody loved him," Holland said.

Their talking led to making out, and making out led to much more.

"It got really intense, and I was not comfortable with that," Holland said.

She then passed out. She woke up later that night to Greg raping her. She repeatedly told him "no" and "stop," but she was too drunk to do anything else, and passed out again.

To this day, Holland does not know how she got back to her friend's house that night. The next morning, she woke up in her friend's bed with absolutely no recollection of what had happened the night before until she found a used condom in her underwear and "it all flooded back."

Among high school students surveyed nationwide, about 8 percent have reported being forced to have sex, including 11 percent of females and 4 percent of males, according to the CDC.

"I couldn't believe I had let it happen," Holland said. "I was drunk and I didn't fight back. I was stupid enough to hook up with him in the first place. I never thought it was his fault because I had let myself be taken advantage of, even though I had said no."

Unfortunately, like Holland's experience, saying no is not normally the case with many rape victims.

DATE-RAPE DRUGS ENABLE PERPETRATORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The third time she was raped, McDonald ran into her rapist at the local bar.

"I remember talking to him and him apologizing [for the previous two times] and just acting like it was a normal thing," she said. "(He was) not apologizing because he did something wrong, but I just remember him being apologetic."

Her memory is a complete blank until the next morning, when she woke up with him lying next to her in bed. McDonald's abdominal ached and she was wrapped in a bloody towel with wet hair. She woke up the sleeping man and told him he had to leave because she had class. Oddly, he obliged.

"At that point, I was scared," McDonald said. As she entered the bathroom to take her morning shower, "I noticed his clothes at the bottom of the shower," she said. "I started to remember a little bit and the only thing I did

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Thousands of people
victims of sexual violence
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Victims and experts

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remember was being in the shower, but it was really brief."

Brief, but clear; her memory is of him holding her up by her neck in the shower with the water running.

"It was obvious that he did have sex with me," McDonald said.

The dangers of date-rape drugs are introduced as early as health class in middle school, yet these substances still manage to circulate in schools and communities.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, alcohol is the most common drug used in instances of sexual assault.

"Even if a victim of sexual assault drank alcohol or willingly took drugs, the victim is not at fault for being assaulted. You cannot 'ask for it' or cause it to happen," according to the department. "The drugs can make you become weak and confused — or even pass out — so that you are unable to refuse sex or defend yourself. If you are drugged, you might not remember what happened while you were drugged."

Date-rape drugs come in all forms: pills, powder and vaccinations. They can be odorless and/or colorless and slipped into food or drinks without any trace.

The three most common drugs, other than alcohol, are Rohypnol, Gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid (GHB) and Ketamine. Rohypnol is the only one of these that's illegal in the U.S. The other two are used for medicinal purposes, Ketamine more predominately in veterinary clinics. Ecstasy is also used as a date-rape drug, but less commonly.

FROM "I DO" TO "I DON'T"

Rape can occur in all kinds of relationships: between strangers, acquaintances, relationships and marriages. According to the WHO, "Often, men who coerce a spouse into a sexual act believe their actions are legitimate because they are married to the woman."

In the early 1990s, North Carolina labeled unwanted sex between spouses as rape. Domestic violence (also referred to as "family violence") affects every man, woman and child in America.

"Sexual violence can destroy relationships and marriages," Pfeiffer said.

Perpetrators of rape are reported to be intimate partners of their victims 30.4 percent of the time, according to the CDC. About 1.5 million women

each year are raped or sexually assaulted by an intimate partner.

After being raped, Holland found herself in a two-year relationship with a physically and emotionally abusive boyfriend. She said he hit her twice, and both times it was completely unwarranted.

"I was irritating him and he slapped me," Holland said. "We'd fight all the time because I'd be doing sweet things for him and he wouldn't appreciate me."

During the relationship, Holland was forced to drive the 20 minutes to pick her boyfriend up so they could spend time together, and never once did they celebrate her birthday.

Holland said whenever she protested, her boyfriend's response was, "We're in a relationship. You can get over it."

After one fight, in which he called her several derogatory names, Holland cut herself off from the relationship entirely. She said, "I didn't get anything from him."

A SOCIETAL CHANGE

"We live in a culture of violence," Royster said. "We socialize gender roles from a very early age. Expectations of men, or expectations of women in our culture, contribute to sexual and relationship violence in the biggest way."

Royster helps both male and female students cope with the stress of relationship and sexual violence, despite the stigma that women are the only victims of rape and violence. Roughly 5 percent of women abuse men, Parker said.

"Males should be made aware at an early age about the negatives of sexual violence," Pfeiffer said. "As someone who has experienced a violent act within my family, I have seen firsthand the damages that can be done."

"'Domestic violence' is a name we've given to extreme violence in our culture," Parker said. "It's a civil rights issue."

He said girls who grow up in an abusive home are much more likely to end up in a violent relationship, and young boys who see violence being inflicted upon women in their lives are more likely to repeat the behavior.

Parker and his co-workers at Family Abuse Services are working to change the current societal cycle, as are many other organizations. Parker recommended four ways to prevent sexual violence among future gen-

erations: educate the public about the problem, set behavioral standards for interaction at an early age, teach children about sexual violence and work toward equal rights for women and children globally.

Part of working toward a better future is helping those suffering now from violence at home, primarily women and children.

In Burlington, Family Abuse Ser-

“

Roughly 40 to 50 women and men per year seek services from my office, and that includes intimate partner violence or rape or sexual assault.

- Leigh-Anne Royster
COORDINATOR FOR PERSONAL HEALTH
AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AT ELON

”

vices acts as a transitional housing center and is equipped with 28 beds, where women fleeing abusive home lives can stay for up to 90 days. Each year, roughly 700 people utilize this community service.

The North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault created The Statewide Campus Consortium to "present an opportunity for colleges and universities in North Carolina to work together on the issue of sexual violence on campus." About 30 schools are currently involved. Created in 2000 as a hub of information about the various resources for victims of sexual assault and rape available around the country, the center also has around 30 schools involved helping.

"It's important to work with local people," Parker said. Most communities have service locations such as Family Abuse Services, but there are not as many as there should be, Parker said.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Being honest with oneself and with others is the most important thing after experiencing trauma such as rape, McDonald said.

"This is not something you can deal with on your own," she said. "I thought I could, but it gets to you. (Even) if it doesn't have an immediate effect, it has a long-lasting effect."

Victims can let it take over them, or they can be in control of it.

"You will eventually be at a place that's OK," Holland said. "You can

still be successful. No one's going to look at you and define you by what happened to you."

The more survivors that speak out to tell their stories, like McDonald and Holland, and the more people get involved with helping those in need of safety from situations of violence, like Parker, the closer our culture is to eliminating the epidemic of sexual assault.

"We're a violent culture. There's tension in the world," Parker said. "We've got a lot of work to do."

Style

WANNABES ROCK



LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer
The "Sassy Sophisticated Ladies of Pink and Green" were the winners of the night.

RSA hosts lip sync contest

Lindsay Fendt
Reporter

What happens when one combine five guys dressed in drag, two crazy DJs and popular '90s music? Elon gets the RSA Wannabe competition, the campus' very own lip sync contest.

Teams went head-to-head in McKinnon Hall Monday for a grand prize of \$500. The last team, the "Sassy and Sophisticated Ladies of Pink and Green," took home the big prize, performing a mash-up of various songs and ending with Beyoncé's "Single Ladies."

"I'm now \$90 richer," said senior Cynthia Pope, one of the six members of the winning team. "I can get some gas for my car."

With only three teams in the competition, everyone took home a prize. The third place team, the "Ex-Men," won \$200 and the second place team, "Bewitch," got a prize of \$300.



LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer
RSA members were the DJs for the night and performed.



LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer
Members of the group "Bewitch" cross-dressed for their performance.



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A&E IN BRIEF

Piano Recital:
March 12

Acclaimed pianist Joseph Kalichstein will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Whitley Auditorium. In association with the Times-News, Elon will bring Kalichstein as part of the Adams Foundation Recital Series. His performance will include works by composers Chopin, Mendelssohn and Schumann.

International Carnival:
March 13

Sponsored by the Intercultural Relations Club, "Lucky Charms and Mardi Gras" will offer games, contests, music and free food in honor of the arrival of spring from 3-5 p.m. in Young Commons. The IRC is also sponsoring a fundraiser during the event. For \$2.50, guests can purchase a secret shamrock gift bag, which will be delivered to the person of your choice on March 17.

Chamber Ensemble Concert:
March 13

A number of Elon's student musicians will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. in McCrary Theatre. The concert will include pieces played by the brass quintet, two saxophone quartets, the flute ensemble, jazz combo and several duet and trio numbers. Titled "Musica da Camera," or chamber music, the show will contain pieces from a number of stylistic periods and composers.

Movie on the Lawn:
March 14

SUB's selection this week, "Four Christmases," stars Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon as a couple forced to visit all four sets of parents over the Christmas holidays. The movie will air at 9 p.m. in the Zone.

Faculty Organ Recital:
March 15

Music professor Billy Summers will perform an organ recital at 3 p.m. in Whitley Auditorium. This is a solo performance, including works from composers Bach, Franck and Liszt.

"Writing in the Margins:"
March 17

Writer Nancy Mairs will speak about self-expression through writing at 7:30 p.m. in Whitley Auditorium. Mairs will discuss how "marginalized" writing, including her own essays about topics such as disabilities, aging, feminism and spirituality, fall outside the "mainstream," but prove to be culturally significant pieces.

50/50 Film Festival Results :

On March 9 the winners of the 50/50 Film Festival were announced at a special screening. Cash prizes ranging from \$75 to \$500 for actors and filmmakers were awarded. The winners were as follows:

1st Place: "Life According to Garry," Peyton Lea

2nd Place: "My Brother," Max Cantor

Viewer's Choice: "Identity," by Michael Allen

Best Male Lead: Malik Daniels in "Thoughts of a Black Student Athlete"

Best Female Lead: Kabby Borders in "Adam"

All of the student documentaries can be viewed at www.elon5050.wordpress.com.

Visit www.elon.edu/pendulum for video from the festival.

'Dancing with the Stars' Elon style:

Students teach dance to raise funds for Invisible Children

Emily Silva
Senior Reporter

"Dancing with the Stars" came to life March 6 when Elon's Ballroom Dance Club hosted the Black and White Ball, to benefit Invisible Children. This group of student dancers selects a charity to partner with for each of its major events throughout the semester and all proceeds from the event go to that charity's cause.

The Black and White Ball invited Elon students to come and raise funds to help support Invisible Children. This national nonprofit organization focuses on gaining support for war-ravaged displaced children in Uganda. Throughout the night, \$109.60 was raised and the donations will be sent to the organization and used to both raise awareness of the children's plight and help find safe, permanent residences.

Students were able to enjoy performances by club members, as well as learn new moves themselves. The ball was a way to sponsor a worthy cause while enjoying a night of dress-up and dance.

"Our goal is to teach people how to dance," said senior Kris Hazard, the club's president and founder. "I am incredibly proud of what we've accomplished."

Blurs of black and white flew across the dance floor as students turned music of every kind from Santana to Christina Aguilera into a ballroom performance. But this group did not always twirl with such practiced grace and prestige.

The parish house was the original home of the club, back in 2005 when it first started. Membership consisted of only about six students at that time. In 2006, the majority of the club's current executive staff started dancing and the competition team was started. The ballroom program then split into two different groups: the club and the competitive team.

"We just got this crazy, hair-brained idea to start competing," said senior Kelly McCarty, the club's vice president and captain of the competition team.

In 2007, Elon awarded the group provisional club status. "That's when we really started to grow because we could put up flyers around campus," McCarty said.

Advertising continued to draw more interest from students around



Ballroom Dancing Club President Kris Hazard, a senior, and events coordinator Megan Cunningham, junior, dance at the Black and White Ball to raise funds to help support Invisible

campus and the membership of the club continued to increase.

The club began holding dance nights, open to the whole campus. A one-hour dance lesson is offered at 7 p.m., followed by one hour of open dance every Friday.

"We always start with the basics on Fridays," junior club member Carly Altizer said. "We play all kinds of music with all kinds of dancing."

Advanced classes are offered Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

"Once people pay dues, they can join our advanced class and audition for our team," McCarty said. "This year, our club has just exploded. We have quadrupled the number of the couples on the team. We now have eight couples on the competitive team."

Competing members have one two-hour rehearsal every week. McCarty and her partner, junior Jamie Gorsuch, rehearse every night for two to three months before competitions. The couple is on the USA Dance Standard silver level and has participated

in many competitions nationwide.

The USA Dance Standard sets the ballroom dancing standard for the country. The highest level is championship, followed by novice level, gold level, silver level, bronze level and newcomer level for dancers with only one year's experience. The other Elon dance couples compete at bronze level.

"It's class, organization, sensuality and respect for the opposite sex," Hazard said. "It's all those things that we forego in our society. We just want to dance respectfully."

Heels, skirts and ties are all in the mix of meringue, swing, cha-cha, salsa, waltz and even country-western line dancing that were taught at the Black and White Ball.

The club plans to continue spreading the love of dance, using it both to assist charities and teach others the force of the art.

"We're just a bunch of kids who love to dance," Hazard said. "We found a good model we can use in the future. The reason we're all here is the power of dance."

Movie box office continues to increase revenue

Alexa Milan
Managing Editor

Businesses across the country have taken a major hit during the past few months because of the declining economy. But while many industries are suffering, Hollywood is standing strong.

According to box office tracking company Media by Numbers, ticket sales are up to \$1.7 billion, a 17.5 percent rise from this time last year.

While some of this increase can be attributed to higher ticket costs, movie attendance has also risen about 16 percent.

Despite the fact that ticket prices have continued to increase, seeing a movie is still one of the cheaper entertainment options available to consumers, Associate Professor of Communications Michael Frontani said.

"Movie theaters, despite their exorbitant price, are still a relatively cheap night out, certainly cheaper than plane fare to London or Orlando for that matter, it is cheaper than a meal at McDonald's," Frontani said. "People may well feel that they can splurge on a movie once a week or so, particularly if they feel consciously or subconsciously that it is in lieu of a more expensive recreation."

Steve DeLoach, professor of economics, agrees with Frontani's assessment.

According to DeLoach, people may be substituting going to the movies for other forms of entertainment they no longer want to spend money on.

"Usually in a bad economy people will stop spending on things that aren't necessary," DeLoach said. "If they used to spend \$200 on entertainment,

they may try to spend \$100."

According to a recent article in the New York Times, there has been little research about this trend.

But the piece does cite a 2002 study from the journal Issues in Political Economy by Elon alumna Michelle Pautz, who graduated in 2003.

In "The Decline in Average Weekly Cinema Attendance," Pautz said in 1930 about 65 percent of the U.S. population went to the cinema each week.

That number dropped to about 40 percent during the Great Depression before peaking back above 60 percent during World War II.

But in the 1960s attendance dropped again to about 10 percent, and it has remained in that range ever since.

"According to (Pautz's) work, a recession should lead to fewer people going to the movies," said DeLoach, who mentored Pautz on her research. "So it is a bit odd."

Frontani said another factor in the recent box office increase could be that people are using the movies as a means of escape from the economic turmoil.

"When thinking about escapism, one shouldn't view it solely as a longing for something better, more fun, more beautiful, etc.," Frontani said. "It can also mean the 90 minutes that you sit in a theater watching a film, no matter the content, when you are simply taking a break from the day."

The kinds of movies that have generated the most box office success in recent months reflect Frontani's view.

The crowd-pleasing "Marley and Me" was a holiday season sensation with a \$141 million gross, the low-budget thriller "Taken" recently crossed the \$100 million mark and



Blockbuster "Marley and Me" drew in \$141 million during the holiday season.

Zack Snyder's dark and graphic adaptation of "Watchmen" earned \$55.7 million in its opening weekend.

While there are many reasons behind this box office resurgence, DeLoach said if a key factor is indeed people using cinema as a substitute for other forms of entertainment, box office revenue will likely go back down once the economy improves.

But according to DeLoach, Hollywood should be able to reap the benefits of the economic downturn for many months to come, as it might be a while before the recession takes a turn.

"If we're lucky we'll start seeing some positive signs by the end of the year," DeLoach said.

CD REVIEW



U2 reaches new 'Horizon'

Chris King
Senior Reporter

Irish great U2 released its 12th studio album on March 3. The magnificent "No Line on the Horizon" was supposed to be the group's new, edgy and "experimental" album, à la "Pop" and "Zooropa."

While the latter may have gotten a worse rap than it deserves, these experiments usually don't go over well with the fans. The one that did? "Achtung Baby," a 1991 release and one of the best albums of the group's career.

When the band announced that it would be experimenting with its sound on the new album, many fans got understandably concerned. Fortunately, "Horizon" is a lot more like "Achtung" than "Zooropa."

After making two consecutive "traditional" albums — 2000's "All That You Can't Leave Behind" and 2004's "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb" — it makes sense that the band would want to stretch its wings. So when the opening keyboard strains are heard on the title track, it can bring back some bad memories.

Think of "Lemon"... or rather, don't. Thankfully, the new sounds mesh into the old ones perfectly, forming a sort of stop-gap between the U2 of the past and the U2 of the future.

On the aptly-named cut "Magnificent," the band starts with a roaring guitar and pounding drums before some muted guitar and keyboards manage to work their way in. These ambient sounds fit, considering Brian Eno, the father of ambient music, produced "Horizon." But before things can get out of control, a snare roll comes in, and all of a sudden it sounds like an outtake from the classic album "War."

On the whole, "Horizon" is a rather quiet record, with the only true exception being the fuzzy rocker — and first single — "Get On Your Boots." "White as Snow" contains nothing more than Bono, tinkling piano, muted guitar and harmonies, while the closing track "Cedars of Lebanon" is a hushed eulogy for a dying world.

It is in these quiet moments that the true beauty of the record is found. The glorious "Moment of



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAILYFREEMUSIC.COM
U2's newest album, "No Line on the Horizon," combines experimental

"Surrender" finds Bono "speeding off the subway, through the stations of the cross."

As usual, Bono's lyrics are filled with a mixture of love, politics and religion, with all of them coming together to form the world as he sees it. But with "No Line on the Horizon," he stretches more than he has in years.

"Breathe" finds him rattling off non-sequitur lyrics reminiscent of Bob Dylan's "Subterranean Homesick Blues." "Get On Your Boots" is filled with "bomb scares," "love and community" and "women of the future," as Bono paints a picture of either the apocalypse or the present, which just may be one and the same.

The band has found a good balance. "Horizon" manages to shake up its sound without alienating it. This is still U2, and many songs still carry the powerful anthemic feeling that trademarks the band's fame. But the band throws in enough wrinkles to make it all sound fresh.

Many times throughout the album, Bono can be heard saying, "Let me in the sound!" This command perfectly encapsulates "Horizon." It is a complex, layered record that takes its time before settling into its groove, one that rewards patience and proves to be one of U2's finest.

THEATER REVIEW



Russian Ballet offers new twist on classic fairytale

Rachel Cieri
Features Editor

People may have seen "Cinderella," but they've never seen it like this.

Needing no words to tell the story, the Russian National Ballet Theatre transcended language barriers March 5 with its dancing in this classic fairy tale.

Far from the vanilla Disney version most Americans are familiar with, the magic of the production lay in the graceful motion of the dancers' bodies rather than McCrory Theatre's special effects. In fact, only a few puffs of fog, light changes and three backdrops colored the character of the production.

With music playing from a recording and costumes that were more functional than elaborate, dancers' interpretations carried the production.

Some of the first characters the audience sees certainly set the tone for the remainder of the show. Cinderella's evil stepmother clambors out in a gaudy gown, oversized loafers and a wig, looking like a makeup palette has exploded in her face, because this "matron" is played by a man.

The ugly stepsisters, both women, entered in equally hideous get-ups. Each exuded her own personality, one mean and one childish. It wasn't just the sisters' costumes that made them ugly. Holding their limbs at awkward angles instead of the beautiful extensions traditional to ballet, the dancers were fully committed to their characters.

In stark contrast, audiences were graced with the presence of Marianna Chemalina as Cinderella, who embodied the elegance and innocence of a classic Cinderella. Her dancing was near perfection, with every detail choreographed down to her fingertips.

The male dancers in this

production were exceptional across the board. From the "dance master," who leaped higher than seems humanly possible, to the prince, who was as graceful as he was charming.

At this point, the performance became less about the storyline and more about the full frills of a traditional ballet.

Upon the arrival of the fairy godmother, an entourage of ballerinas entered behind her, representative of fairies. Four of the fairies represented the seasons, but this interpretation may have been lost on audience members not frantically checking their programs.

After a long number by the fairies, a male dancer in a floppy brown costume makes his only appearance in the show as a personification of time. Had he stopped leaping and turning long enough to let the audience see the clock emblazoned on his chest, it might have made more sense.

The classic parts of the story seemed to pass quickly in this ballet. Cinderella being dressed for the ball, her appearance there, her flight from the ball and the fitting of the slipper each seemed minimal in comparison to the time devoted to side plots like the fairies and performances by "ambassadors" and their wives after the ball. The jester, however unnecessary he was to the story, ended up being quite entertaining with his acrobatic antics.

The exotic costumes and foreign styles of dancing were entertaining for a few minutes, but these numbers seemed to eat up the time that could have been devoted to the pumpkin stagecoach ride and Cinderella's conflict with her stepfamily.

In the end, the magic of the dancing made up for these shortcomings, leaving audiences with a long-awaited happily ever after.

MOVIE REVIEW



'Watchmen' grounds superheroes in reality

Adam Constantine
Film Critic

One of the most celebrated graphic novels of all time hit theaters March 6 with high expectations. It did not disappoint.

Hollywood's infatuation with various caped crusaders has continued to impress the eyes and ears of the movie-going public as "Watchmen" raked in \$55 million its opening weekend. Its biggest day was Friday, earning \$25.2 million, but ticket sales decreased on Saturday and Sunday.

Although "Watchmen" is a movie with a multitude of superheroes to follow in its 163 minutes, it does not have a typical comic book plot. Unlike mainstream superhero stories, this one is not based on superpowers.

In fact, all of the heroes, with the exception of Dr. Manhattan (Billy Crudup), do not have superpowers at all. They all come together to try and bring the world to peace.

Set in an alternate 1985, the Watchmen, once an icon marking the 1960s Golden Age of masked heroes, have been exiled and demanded by law to put their alter egos to rest. Some go quietly into the night, while others have not-so-subtle transitions to regular life.

Adrian Veidt, aka Ozymandias (Matthew Goode), turns his superhero popularity into a billion dollar business. Dr. Manhattan and Edward Blake, aka The Comedian (Jeffrey Dean Morgan), have been working for the government, which eventually ensures victory in Vietnam.

But there are some costumed heroes who refuse to give up. Walter Kovacs, aka Rorschach, continues his vigilante practices, fighting against the scum of the underworld.

Despite the hard work of the Watchmen, the



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.IMDB.COM
Billy Crudup plays Dr. Manhattan, the only member of the Watchmen with actual powers. He was transformed into a superhuman being following an atomic accident in the physics lab where he worked and now has the ability to teleport, move objects with his mind and be in multiple places at once.

United States is on the brink of nuclear war with the USSR. Dr. Manhattan and Adrian Veidt are working on different ways to end the war, but unfortunately, they are running out of time.

As if that wasn't enough, someone starts killing former Watchmen, which brings Rorschach on the case to discover why. The film follows his journey, as well as the journey of several other heroes, to find out the startling truth of what has been going on.

What makes "Watchmen" so intriguing is how all of the heroes are involved with each other. The promotional trailers shed very little light on the plot, which gives the audience a fresh sense of curiosity and pleasant confusion throughout the film.

There are many elements that are a lot heavier

if held up to the usual comic book film, but it is not shown in a poor light. While a lot of the characters take the suspension of disbelief to digest, the plot is actually very grounded and plausible, taking in all circumstances. In other words, the plot is what makes the movie.

No glaring errors were made that would make the movie something to dislike. "Watchmen" won't be the movie of the year, but it is definitely a movie that needs to be taken into consideration as far as some of the special effects go.

Because it is a movie that is science fiction-heavy, some people are going to hate it no matter what, but this is definitely a must-see movie.

Catch "Watchmen" at Carousel Cinemas at Alamance Crossing.

Earrings speak louder than words

ARAMARK employee Franny Light attempts a world record

Shea Northcut
Reporter

Next time students go to Boar's Head in downstairs Colonnades. They may be surprised to see mini replicas of the food they order dangling off their server's ears.

"As I wear the earrings, I am also advertising for the food that I am serving to the students," Francine "Franny Fran" Light said.

From bananas and apples to turkeys and hams and all the way to chips and ice cream, Light makes a complete meal from her earring collection, pairs of which she wears daily. Light shows off her eccentric collection of more than 400 pairs of earrings to students every day, hoping to connect with those whom she serves.

"This is my way to stay young," Light explained. "This is like alcohol to an alcoholic for me. I just want to collect them up because I guess you could say it's my addiction."

A rocky road

Born and raised in Burlington, N.C., Light experienced a childhood different than her peers.

"My grandparents had to raise me because my mother had a rare disease and had to drop out of school at a very young age," Light said. "Mom had to work two jobs all of her life, so my grandparents automatically became my parents instead."

After she was diagnosed with encephalitis, a disease that comes from mosquitoes, Light's mother went into a coma for seven days.

"The doctors thought she was going to die," Light said, "But thank the good Lord she didn't."

After her parents' divorce, Light moved to Jacksonville, Fla. with her grandparents. Ten years later, she came back to North Carolina after a tragic family death.

"My uncle was flying and had gotten into some fog and tried to get low enough in order to see," she said. "He flew too low and the tail hit a tree causing him to lose control and it ended up killing all four people in the airplane."

After this traumatic event, Light's life became very sheltered. Her grandparents kept her close by, not allowing her to experience life as she

wanted in her teenage years. At age 17, Light ran away from home and met a man at her first job.

"I met Mark during the first week of my new job, and he was security for me at the time," Light said. "We were soon married and I had my first child, Desarae, when I was 19."

Light and her husband also had a son, Mark Jr., but after 11 years of marriage, Light decided to leave her husband and head home in 2000.

"I thought my husband was taking care of my children," she said. "His drugs and drinking took over his life, and it was too much. It was so good to be back home and start over again. I had to go back to where I came from and provide my children with the life they deserved."

Bright future

After moving back home, Light decided to find a new job and a new beginning, which eventually brought her to Elon University in 2002. She started working in Danieley Center and discovered it was the perfect job.

"I was able to incorporate the two things that I love to do — interact with students and serve food," Light explained. "I never knew that this was something I was passionate about until after coming to Elon."

But it wasn't just the students who loved to interact with Light. Yvonne Whitt, an employee at Octagon, said it was a delight to work with Light at Danieley Center.

"She was such a joy to work with for six years," Whitt said. "She loves to joke around and have a good time while serving the students."

It was then Light discovered her desire to start collecting earrings.

"I always have loved jewelry, but I never knew how much I loved earrings," she said. "Yvonne sold earrings on the side, and that's when I got the idea that maybe this could become my new hobby."

Light met a new man, Timmy Light, and got married in 2003. But in this wedding, she got to wear something a little more special which were handcrafted by Whitt.

"I made her a special pair of earrings that were made from pearls and had a rose in the center," Whitt said. "This



SHEA NORTH CUT | Photographer

ARAMARK employee Franny Light discovered her passion for serving food and interacting with students when she began working at Elon in 2002. Light has collected hundreds of

was a present I knew she would be able to cherish, especially on her wedding day."

Light did just that. After the wedding, her husband showed her how to use eBay, and her earring collection grew exponentially in the following years.

"He always said that it was a mistake when he showed me how to work that site," Light said, with a laugh. "I am so glad he did, though, because I have been able to find a hobby that I truly love to do."

Why earrings?

This hobby has become a growing passion for Light. Her collection ranges from food to characters and even animals whose eyes pop out.

"I have earrings for all of the holidays of the year and, of course, all types of food," Light said. "One of my favorite pairs of them all would have to be my Woody Wood Pecker earrings."

She explained that by finding a different pair for every day, it allows her to spice up the uniform she wears at Colonnades.

The money spent on the earrings doesn't go to waste. Light found Jessica Pea, a young woman on eBay, who sells earrings to support her mother.

"Her mother has cancer, so the money she makes goes to the breast cancer research," Light said. "I like buying from her because I like helping support her in the efforts she makes while in college."

Light, who buys an average of one new pair a week, is working toward her goal to be in the Guinness Book of World Records.

"My goal is to get up to 1,000 before I turn 50," she said. "I want to make it to 1,000 pairs before I actually make the phone call to the Guinness Book of World Records."

As Light collects pair after pair, she tries to share her life story with students and connect with them. Only 11 years remain for her to reach her goal, but she is determined she will make it.

"When I wear my earrings, I get a feeling like none other," Light said. "They aren't just a pair of earrings to me but are my way of enjoying this life."

Daphne's story: Woman donates fragrance garden in honor of guide dog

Rebecca Smith
Reporter

A car crash, gas leaking, flames enveloping the car and a visually impaired person stuck inside.

This sounds like a scene from the latest adventure movie, but this was reality for Burlington resident Pat Yarborough.

In 1995, Yarborough was riding in a car with a driver and her seeing-eye dog, Daphne.

The car was hit from behind, and it ran off the road.

She and the driver could smell gas leaking and with the door jammed and the car on fire, things seemed hopeless.

Luckily, Daphne came to the rescue. "Daphne was a very outstanding dog," Yarborough said. "She did so many exceptional things beyond the call of duty, including saving my life and the lives of others. She was great in any emergency."

Daphne's heroic deed led to injuries while evacuating Yarborough from the car, including a broken hip.

Though she was retired as a seeing-

eye dog after that day, Daphne stayed by Yarborough's side for two more years until the dog died in 1997.

For 12 years, Daphne was Yarborough's guide to the world and helped change people's perspectives.

The pair traveled to schools and taught children about how to interact with the blind and their guide dogs.

"Helping people and making the world better is my mission," Yarborough said. "Ever since I started working here in 1965, I have been trying to help visually impaired people."

But Yarborough's generosity and altruism can be seen in more than just her visits to elementary schools.

She is now trying to help the lives of others who are visually impaired by creating a garden they can enjoy.

This garden is going to be in Daphne's honor at the John Robert Kernodle Senior Center.

"This garden will benefit the visually impaired by being able to stimulate senses other than sight," said Tommy Laws, an employee at the Senior Center. "All of the vegetation that has been picked has a strong aroma and this is a 'hands-on garden' so all of the foliage

will have a texture. And all of the signs in the garden will be written in Braille."

It will also be elevated and wheelchair accessible.

The Burlington City Council approved Yarborough's donation of \$60,000 to the construction of this garden in February.

This money will be used to make the plan she created with Living Landscapes, a local landscaping company, a reality.

"This garden will give people who are visually impaired access to plants they otherwise do not get to experience," Yarborough said. "It will also give people a place to think. This garden will be an asset to the whole community."

Committed to helping those around her, Yarborough petitioned for stoplights that can be heard, Braille courses at Alamance Community College and for Alamance Regional Medical Center to give out a copy of the patients' rights in Braille.

Yarborough continues with her crusade to make lives better for the people around her with her new seeing-eye dog, Mari, at her side.



BRYCE LITTLE | Staff Photographer

Pat Yarborough sits with her new seeing-

Elon's chaplains

Staff members provide shoulders to lean on

Rebecca Smith
Reporter

Sometimes the unexpected happens. During these moments, Elon students are able to turn to resources like the university's chaplains. They are not just an entity on the far side of campus, but are intertwined with all aspects of campus life.

They work in the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life and help out with religious organizations, student life organizations — including residence life — and serve as a constant presence on campus to help students grow.

"The center provides diverse programming," Chaplain Phil Smith said. "We serve as a conduit from many different organizations to the university. As a rule, we help with anything involving a spiritual nature, including programs that involve ethical decision-making and social injustice. We help to develop students' core values and core beliefs."

Smith said he grew exponentially during his college years and wanted to help other college students do the same. After graduating, he taught a college course in Georgia and worked at three different churches over a 12-year period.

Elon's founders had a vision of a school that enhanced the mind, body and spirit. In order to do this, different programs work together to encourage the growth of students as a whole. This holistic approach is mimicked through the cross-communication and collaboration of the different departments.

When a student experiences a loss, the chaplains are notified through a variety of people. Sometimes it is through a professor with whom the student is close, sometimes through another student, but the majority of time it is through the Student Development Department.

"We help students who have experienced loss through embracing



ANGIE LOVELACE | Photographer
Chaplain Phil Smith counsels students in

that person," Chaplain Richard McBride said. "Giving them comfort and security, we aim to help them feel safe during their grieving process."

When students lose a loved one, the chaplains reach out by making calls at home and doing follow-ups once the student returns to Elon. They find a chaplain with whom a student can truly connect, and that chaplain will then spend individualized time with the student.

The close relationship between the different departments allows the school to try and help students dealing with trauma. They will try to help the student book flights, get safe transportation to and from the airport and help them communicate with their teachers.

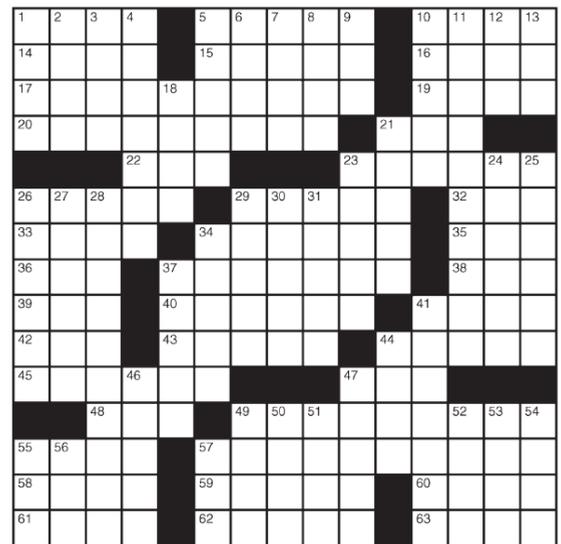
"To be an insider, as opposed to an outsider, makes a big difference," McBride said. "When something happens to a student, I can call them and say not only that I care about you, but that Elon University cares about you."

Some people may think of turning to the chaplains only during times of hardship, but the service is there for all moments of life and for people of all beliefs.

"We strive to be very engaged with all religious groups, including those who do not have the support and who are not the majority at the school," Smith said. "We are even open to those who do not have any specific religious traditions and who want to continue to develop their spirit."

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Way back ___
 - 5 Fawn of Disney fame
 - 10 Battle souvenir
 - 14 Sorority letter
 - 15 Not from this world
 - 16 Game divided into chukkers
 - 17 Prime cut
 - 19 Skip over
 - 20 Cheap, noisy bar
 - 21 "...a tale of ___"
 - 22 Wrath
 - 23 Like some peanuts
 - 26 Bangor's state
 - 29 Cons
 - 32 Lennon's widow
 - 33 Call up
 - 34 Fell or Rockwell
 - 35 Bad review
 - 36 A-Team actor
 - 37 Painting, sculpture, etc.
 - 38 Penny face?
 - 39 Have bills
 - 40 Frosted to the max
 - 41 Wight or Capri
 - 42 Old salt
 - 43 Packs of cards
 - 44 Sure-footed animals
 - 45 ___ Bay, Long Island
 - 47 Farrow or Sara
 - 48 Slippery one
 - 49 PCP
 - 55 Segments of circles
 - 57 System of beliefs
 - 58 Shot on the green
 - 59 Give a face-lift to
 - 60 Chess piece
 - 61 Kinski film
 - 62 Harbingers
 - 63 Pot starter
- DOWN
- 1 "Life ___ Father"
 - 2 Tramp
 - 3 Old school collar
 - 4 Former capital of China
 - 5 Sew loosely
 - 6 Voice range
 - 7 Demeanor
 - 8 Bird's bill
 - 9 Pen fill
 - 10 Thread reel
 - 11 Happen
 - 12 Legendary boxer
 - 13 Bosh!
 - 18 Bronte novel, "Jane ___"
 - 21 "The Man Who ___ There"
 - 23 Chic
 - 24 Activate
 - 25 Recipients
 - 26 P. Lorre character
 - 27 Ventilation shaft
 - 28 Crosses
 - 29 Part of SST
 - 30 Streamlet
 - 31 Build up
 - 34 More kindly
 - 37 Castro's first name
 - 41 Dancer Duncan
 - 44 Doesn't feel well
 - 46 Examines
 - 47 Cat's calls
 - 49 Hey!
 - 50 Count of Muses
 - 51 Hidden valley
 - 52 Abreast of
 - 53 Fired off
 - 54 Little child
 - 55 Likely
 - 56 Come to regret
 - 57 Money player



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3/14/09

Solutions



- name
- 51 Hidden valley
- 41 Dancer Duncan
- 52 Abreast of
- 44 Doesn't feel well
- 53 Fired off
- 46 Examines
- 54 Little child
- 47 Cat's calls
- 55 Likely
- 49 Hey!
- 56 Come to regret
- 50 Count of Muses
- 57 Money player

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WE ACCEPT PHOENIX CASH!!!

Where are they now?

Rachel Cieri
Features Editor

Alumna earns Rotary scholarship

For 2008 graduate Julie Kenneally, traveling is not just a hobby - it's a passion.

After studying abroad three times to while at Elon, Kenneally knew that she wanted more than just a desk job. She wanted to actually interact with people from different nations and cultures.

While still at Elon, the political science and international studies double-major applied for a Rotary scholarship to make her ambition a reality.

The Rotary Foundation, an international service organization, provides around 800 scholarships for international travel and study each year. Students must apply through local Rotary clubs, and Kenneally applied twice before being accepted.

"I started applying in North Carolina, and I applied again in Massachusetts. I heard back from North Carolina later that I'd been accepted," Kenneally said.

Now Kenneally is leaving her job at the Department of Commerce and is studying at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland through its Democracy and Human Rights graduate program.

Where she'll be after graduate school is still up in the air.

"I'd go back to Spain in a heartbeat, though," she said.

Megan Wanner
Reporter

Alumna serves in Peace Corps in Mali

Joelle Dent did not even know where Mali was until she joined the Peace Corps last summer.

"I made a request to be placed in an African country because I'd never visited that region of the world," Dent said. "Mali is known for its music and has music festivals every year. Also, the city Timbuktu which, yes, is a real place, is in Mali."

Focused on aiding the community and promoting general health awareness, she now works in a doctor's office weighing babies and teaching classes on nutrition in addition to spending time in a community garden helping the local women produce shea butter.

The 2008 graduate joined the Peace Corps because she was interested in working abroad with an organization dedicated to service and helping others.

"I wanted to make a difference, just make life a little easier for someone else," Dent said.

In college, Dent studied abroad and participated in Habitat for Humanity service projects.

Dent said the most rewarding part is not the service aspect, but getting to know the community in which she lives.

"You begin to realize how similar people are, even though we live on two different continents," she said.

Dent has learned how Western countries and organizations affect developing countries, and she said there is a difference between what the people need as opposed to what other people think they need.

One of her other favorite parts was seeing all the photos she had seen in magazines of Africa actually come to life.

"It makes this place real," Dent said.

Upon returning to the United States in 2010, Dent plans to work for a non-profit organization.

Timberline Station shopping center introduces ski shop, bar and grill

Rachel Cieri
Features Editor

Today's economy may not be an ideal time to open a new business, but two local entrepreneurs have high hopes for their projects in Elon's new Timberland Station.

Located directly across from the College Station apartments on West Haggard Avenue, this strip of shops had its first business open in December.

C&R Ski-Outdoor is owned by Dick Forrest, who has been in the business for 25 years, and he is opening the store as an extension of its first location in Hillsborough.

Elon may be closer to the beach than the mountains, but Forrest saw a potential market here. The Hillsborough store served a customer base out of Raleigh, and the Elon location aims to tap into the growing market in Greensboro and Winston-Salem.

"We've had good luck with the local people, but not as many students have been coming in," Forrest said of the Elon store.

Peter Ustach, an Elon senior and day manager at the store, said they plan to provide services and products specially catered to students.

Along with accepting Phoenix Cash, the store will be offering package trips to Snowshoe and Wintergreen, two popular ski resorts in the area. For a flat price, students will get rental equipment, a lift pass, dinner and breakfast as well as a bus ride to and from the resort.

The store carries more than just ski apparel. During the warmer months, it will offer summer clothing, and it will carry licensed Elon apparel and provide screen printing services all year.

As a small business, C&R aims to bring exceptional customer service.

"It's different than the big sporting goods stores. We'll actually give you the time of day," Ustach said. "You can even make an appointment, and Dick (Forrest) will sit down and talk with you."

Forrest is open to any student suggestions for how the store can improve, and there is even discussion of building a rock wall in the future.



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Store owner Dick Forrest established C&R Ski-Outdoor, a ski shop across from College Station apartments. Forrest opened the doors to his business at the end of last semester

Fat Frog to offer students another bar choice

There may already be three bars in the town of Elon, but the Fat Frog aims to provide a different option when it opens later this spring.

The 1,500-square-foot bar and grill owned by Elon alumnus Jeff Mackenzie will offer a "nostalgic," smoke-free atmosphere catered especially to university students in the Timberline Station shopping center.

"Some people say that students are only here nine months a year and that you have to do what other people want, too. But I somewhat disagree," Mackenzie said.

He plans to put in a stage with built-in sound equipment for bands, a dance floor, a patio and old-style games like shuffleboard. He is also envisioning a wall of old Elon memorabilia.

"We want to create a wall to tie the past and present together. I want it to be a place where students and alumni can come," Mackenzie said.

He also understands the problems of underage students who must pay a higher cover charge to be admitted to a bar, so he's hoping to provide another option.

"They might have to pay a higher cover, but we're thinking about giving them 'Frogg dollars' to buy food and non-alcoholic drinks once they're inside," he said.

Another idea Mackenzie is toying with is the possibility of a shuttle to bring students back and forth to the bar at night.

As for the unusual name for his business, Mackenzie said he wanted it to be memorable.

"We pushed around a lot of names, but we wanted a name we could market a bit and have

A unique spring break souvenir

Elon employee Sandy Hart requests newspapers from interesting locations

Laura Wainman
Senior Reporter

When most students travel, they pick up souvenirs for friends and family to share little pieces of their trips. But many Elon students, however, are helping to build the dream of one dining service worker at Elon.

Sandy Hart, who works in Danieley Commons, has made a hobby of collecting newspapers from students who have traveled outside of North Carolina.

Hart started her collection almost five years ago when she first started working at Elon.

"I know that Elon students have the opportunity to do a lot of traveling, and I don't get to go to these places," Hart said. "I always ask them to pick me up something that doesn't cost them anything, and it usually ends up being a newspaper. I have gotten other things before though, like sand from the local beach."

Currently her collection has not expanded beyond the U.S. borders, but she has newspapers from major U.S. cities such as Boston, which is the place she would like to go most out of any of the places she reads about in her newspapers. She said she has so many now that she couldn't begin to guess how many she has received.

Hart said she is always touched when a student remembers her simple request, and because of that she can't choose one newspaper as her favorite.

"They are all my favorite because of the people they represent," Hart said. "Some of the students I ask don't want to do it because they don't know me, so I can tell that when a student does bring me back something, they are the ones who care."

Many of Hart's regular customers think she is joking when she first asks them to bring her a paper from wherever they are going, even if they are just going home.

"Normally the students I ask laugh at first because they assume I am teasing, but after I tell them I'm not, the next thing I know I am getting a newspaper," Hart said.

If any of the students who have



LINDSAY FENDT | Photographer

A former Varsity Grill waitress, Sandy Hart, now works at Danie-

contributed to Hart's collection think they are quickly forgotten, they are certainly wrong.

"I have a box where I keep everything I have been given by students," Hart said. "I put the date that it was given to me on it, as well as the name of the student who gave it to me so that I don't ever forget."

Hart said she hopes her collection will receive some new additions from students' exotic spring break travels.

Elon baseball fights back

Russell Varner
Reporter

The Phoenix returns to the road today following a rough weekend of SoCon play. After sweeping its two-game set at Appalachian State, the team traveled to Charleston this past weekend where the Citadel Bulldogs welcomed them by taking two of three games from the Phoenix.

"This (past) week hurt us," head coach Mike Kennedy said before traveling to Charleston for the Citadel series. "We lost one game at App. (because of cancellation) and we lost two mid-week games. We're three weeks in now and we've only played six games, and that's not enough. We need to be playing and trying to get some other guys in the line-up."

Playing its first series in a week, the Phoenix looked rusty, committing a total of seven errors during the course of the weekend — all in their two losses — and the Phoenix bullpen, which was so reliable last year, gave up 20 earned runs.

The Phoenix lost game one after blowing a 7-2 lead in the eighth inning, ultimately losing to a walk-off grand slam from Bulldog second baseman Bryan Altman. In game two of the series, Elon let out its frustrations from the night before, scoring early and often to defeat The Citadel 17-5.

The win gave coach Kennedy 400 career wins as a head coach in his 13th season of coaching



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor
Junior pitcher Bobby Kennedy opened Monday night's game for

the Phoenix. Game three would not go as well as game two, as The Citadel took an early lead and had an answer to every Elon rally.

The Citadel ultimately defeated the Phoenix 8-5, dropping the Phoenix record to 5-4 on the year and 3-2 in conference play.

"(This series was) no more important than any other one," senior third baseman Bennett Davis said. "We have a good conference this year. Every team is tough, so it's important to take each week very, very seriously."

On Monday, Elon recorded a 10-8 victory over non-league opponent, La Salle College. Junior catcher Mike Melillo went 3-for-5 with two runs scored and four RBIs. The team battled back after falling behind 7-0 in the first inning.

Today, the Phoenix travels to Winston-Salem to take on ACC foe Wake Forest. The Demon Deacons, who were supposed to visit Latham Park on March



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor
Junior Justin Hilt takes advice from teammate Dallas Tarleton, a senior catcher, and slides into home to even the score during the first inning of Monday night's game against the La Salle Explorers. The Phoenix battled

4 in a game that was canceled because of poor field conditions from snow, have a 6-4 overall record (0-3 in ACC play) as of Monday. They have lost their past four games, including a 21-5 loss against the University of Virginia on Sunday.

The Phoenix faced Wake Forest twice last year and won both times, defeating the Demon Deacons 19-10 at Latham Park and 16-15 at Wake

Forest Baseball Park. Elon leads the all-time series against Wake Forest, holding a 13-12 series lead. The first pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m. tonight.

After taking on the Demon Deacons, the Phoenix returns to the friendly confines of Latham Park where it will host the Davidson Wildcats in a three-game set, looking to bounce back from last weekend's series loss against

The Citadel. Davidson, as of Monday, has a 6-4 record on the year, including 2-0 in SoCon play.

Last year, the Phoenix swept the Wildcats at Wilson Field, outscoring Davidson 36-15 over the three game set. The Phoenix has dominated the all-time series, holding a 16-4 edge against the Wildcats. The first pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m. Friday and again at 1 p.m. on

The Phoenix takes flight

Laura Wainman
Senior Reporter

Women's softball pulled out an 8-7 extra inning win over Michigan State in the final game of the Tar Heel Invitational, hosted by UNC Chapel Hill, on March 8 despite the Spartans' efforts to rally. The win was especially nice for head coach Patti Raduenez, since Michigan State is Raduenez's alma mater.

Elon came out strong with sophomore third baseman Ashlee Crewe smashing a double to left field in the first inning, which scored the Phoenix's first run of the game. Crewe led the offense going three-for-four at the plate accumulating four RBIs.

Senior pitcher Melanie Helterbran also delivered a stellar performance on the mound, allowing only three hits in six innings and no runs.

"Helterbran gave us six phenomenal innings on the mound," Raduenez said.



FILE PHOTO
Sophomore outfielder Hannah Shelton hit a single to tie the game 5-5 against Princeton last weekend. Elon went on to lose

"Michigan State is a strong hitting team and she shut them down."

The Phoenix offense exploded in the fifth inning with a double and single to center field from senior Brandi Jones and sophomore Jacqueline Gonzalez. Senior Patti Weber followed with a walk that loaded the bases and Crewe scored them all with a double to center.

The Spartans lived up to the reputation of their mascot with a seven-run rally in the 7th inning to put the game into extra innings.

Elon finished it off in the 8th inning when freshman Danielle Lafferty drove in the winning run with a single to right field, scoring sophomore Pam DelPizzo.

"As you can tell it was an all around team win," Raduenez said. "We needed everyone in terms of leadership and support."

The win on Sunday was a nice finish to the weekend for the Phoenix, who struggled in the rest of the tournament, finishing with a 1-3 record.

"We had our high moments and our low moments just like every team does," Raduenez said. "We made a few base running errors and had some costly defensive errors. We also saw what having a first team all-American pitcher on the mound can do when we played Carolina."

The team is focusing now on keeping its energy and enthusiasm high as it heads into a three-game series against Western Carolina this weekend, which begins conference play.

"Western Carolina is a scrappy team with a lot of older, more experienced players, particularly on the mound. But I'm not focused on them, I am focusing on what my team needs to do," Raduenez said. "We are going to keep playing Elon-style softball, executing our plays and having quality at bats."

The Phoenix follows with a double header against Southeast Missouri State on March 18 and a three game series against Appalachian State the first weekend of spring break.

"There is no game that is more important than another one. We only

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ATHLETIC RESULTS MARCH 4 - MARCH 9

MEN'S BASKETBALL

March 6
Elon 62
Wofford 55

March 7
Elon 78
Chattanooga 79

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

March 5
Elon 57
Georgia Southern 54

March 7
Elon 52
Western Carolina 71

BASEBALL

March 6
Elon 8
The Citadel 12

March 7
Elon 17
The Citadel 5

March 8
Elon 5
The Citadel 8

Mar. 9
Elon 10
LaSalle 8

SOFTBALL

March 6
Elon 0
North Carolina 8

March 7
Elon 6
Princeton 7
Elon 2
Georgetown 12

March 8
Elon 8
Michigan State 7

MEN'S TENNIS

March 6
Elon 6
Samford 1

March 7
Elon 7
Chattanooga 0

WOMEN'S TENNIS

March 6
Elon 7
Samford 0

March 7
Elon 6
Chattanooga 1

ELON SPORTS THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY 3/11

Baseball @ Wake Forest - 6 p.m.
Women's Tennis vs. UNC Greensboro - 3 p.m.

FRIDAY 3/13

Baseball vs. Davidson - 6 p.m.
Track and Field (Coastal Carolina Invitational) - 4 p.m.

SATURDAY 3/14

Baseball vs. Davidson - 1 p.m.
Softball vs. Western Carolina - 1 p.m., 3 p.m.
Men's Tennis vs. Winston-Salem State - 9:30 a.m.
Men's Tennis vs. Wofford - 1 p.m.
Women's Tennis @ Western Carolina - 1 p.m.
Track and Field (Coastal Carolina Invitational) - All Day

SUNDAY 3/15

Baseball vs. Davidson - 1 p.m.
Softball vs. Western Carolina - 1 p.m.
Men's Tennis vs. College of Charleston - 1 p.m.

ULTIMATE THROWDOWN: Elon's women's ultimate frisbee team sweeps field at

Emily Silva
Reporter

Both of Elon's Ultimate Frisbee teams dominated at last weekend's "Chucktown Throwdown" tournament in Charleston, S.C. The women's team won the entire tournament, finishing first out of 10 while the men's team finished sixth out of 20.

The tournament was important for Elon, whose women's team has competed there for the past four years.

"This is definitely the strongest our team has ever been, and that was apparent this weekend because we dominated," said senior Katy Branston, co-captain of the women's team.

Elon's men's team also finished well overall, junior men's co-captain Ryan Bleam said.

"We didn't have practice all last week because of the snow and then the wet field once the snow melted," Bleam said. "So coming off that, there were challenges with being in sync and being able to last the whole game. But overall, the things we wanted to work on, we worked on."

The men's team played four games on Saturday. They won three and lost one to the University of South Carolina.

"It was a really good experience because we got to play a good mix of levels of teams," Bleam said.



The women's team has nine graduating seniors and is looking for recruits. Talk to Katy Branston if interested at kbranston@elon.edu.

APRIL 4-5

Sectionals tournament at Elon (Club Sports Fields)

APRIL 25-26

Regionals in Charlotte, N.C.

Senior Liz Olszewski puts on a hard mark against Appalachian State during the tournament this weekend in Charleston, S.C.

Many of those schools' women's teams will come to Elon to compete the weekend of April 4 for the sectionals tournament.

This is the first year Elon will host both days of the sectional tournament.

Coming off of the high from last week's tournament,

Branston has high hopes.

"It's really big for us," Branston said. "It was probably the best tournament I've seen our team play so far."

ANGIE LOVELACE | Staff Photographer



This past week marked the start of the second annual World Baseball Classic, baseball's version of the World Cup. Some of the best players from around the world will be taking part in this year's event, but team owners are worried about their player injuries and fan displeasure with the event. So, is the World Baseball Classic really that important?

RUSSELL

I say that this is a very important event. You just need to take a look at how seriously players from other nations take this event to know how much it means to them. In other countries, like Japan and the Dominican Republic, their players are worshipped just short of gods. Players treat it as one of the greatest honors to play for their nation and respect their country. So yes, it is that important.

ANDY

Is it important? Yes. Do Americans act as if it is important? No. Think about how many U.S. players decided to sit out the Classic. As good as this current roster is, do you really think it's the best one we could put on the field? We could fill our rotation with five aces if we wanted, but instead Jeremy Guthrie is our No. 3 starter.

On top of a lack of interest from so many players, most major league clubs look at it as a thorn in their side, telling many of their players — even the healthy ones — to sit it out. It's really a shame because this tournament could be very entertaining if America were to take it as seriously as the rest of the world.

RUSSELL

I've always found it interesting how little

ONE ON ONE

World Baseball Classic: More chance for injury or benefit?

Russell Varner and Andy Harris
Sports Commentators

we as Americans care about most world events like this. We definitely are not fielding our best team possible since so many people backed out, though some were because of injury, so I understand that. But it's like that in all world events. The basketball team for the Summer Olympics and the World Baseball Classic for example. The only sport that we don't have people back out of is the World Cup and, sadly, few in America seem to care about that.

ANDY

I really wish we as Americans would rally around global competitions. I think the reason we don't is because our collective sports passions are split between about 50 different cities and hundreds of different colleges.

Our sports fans identify with a city rather than our country. A New York Yankees fan won't look at Josh Beckett and think to himself, "Hey, Josh is a great American pitcher, I'm glad to know that he'll be representing our nation one day." He's thinking about how much he hates Beckett because he plays for a rival city.

RUSSELL

One day maybe we can overlook our differences and come together under the American flag and recognize each other as Americans, not Blue Devils and Tar Heels, not Yankees and Red Sox, not Sooners and Longhorns, not Giants and Dodgers. One day, maybe one day we can do that. Until then, I don't think Americans will take world events as seriously as they should.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Gooch, team rise in the ITA rankings

In the most recent Division I men's tennis singles rankings released by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, senior Damon Gooch climbed to a program-high No. 56, rising from No. 61, where he sat last month.

The Phoenix also secured a spot in the ITA Division I team rankings at No. 75. This is the first time in Elon's men's tennis history the team has ever been ranked.

Milian grabs SoCon Athlete of the Week title

The Southern Conference awarded junior Anna Milian the Southern Conference Women's Tennis Player of the Week Wednesday. Milian also won the title in January 2008, becoming the first player from the program to do so.

Tennis rolls through Samford, Chattanooga

Both the men's and women's tennis teams traveled to Samford on Saturday to take on the Bulldogs. The women won 7-0, only losing one match at No. 2 doubles. The men followed suit 6-1, with a loss at No. 3 singles.

On Saturday, the teams journeyed to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. The women only gave up two matches at No. 2 doubles and No. 4 singles, winning 6-1 over the Mocs. The men are now 7-4 on the season, and the women are 6-6.

Young talent offers blueprint for future of women's program

Michelle Longo
Online Programs Director

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — A season of frustration ended in exactly the fashion first-year head coach Karen Barefoot was preaching throughout the bumpy road that ended in a 5-25 season March 7.

"For us, we are just trying to get better," Barefoot said. "We were in almost every game. At the end of the season, we kept getting after it and this is a positive ending to the year."

Her message, along with moving slowly, improving day by day and getting older and more experienced, was reflected on a consistent basis during a season that saw 19 consecutive losses in the heart of the schedule.

"The confidence was always there," junior forward Urysla Cotton said. "We just had trouble finishing games, but the confidence has always been there."

But, behind the talent of freshman walk-on Courtney Medley, the No. 11 Phoenix got past the first round of the tournament with a 57-54 upset against No. 6 Georgia Southern, notching the first loop in its experience belt.

In the first 20 minutes of play in the March 5 Southern Conference first-round win, Medley knocked down four 3s in an 18-point effort that rivaled that of her entire team's the last time the Phoenix clashed with the Eagles. She fell 11 points shy of tying Elon's posted final score of 29 in a 59-29 loss to Georgia Southern in a regular season match-up in late January.

"I went into the game with no fear," Medley said. "I was going to play my hardest and leave it all on the floor, win or lose. I played with passion and did what I had to do."

Saturday night's second round game against No. 3 Western Carolina did not prove much different for Medley and Elon.

Medley and SoCon Freshman of the Year guard Tierra Gause accounted for 28 of Elon's total in the 71-52 loss.

No other Phoenix player tallied more than five points for the game.

Elon's roster includes 11 underclassmen, three juniors and no seniors. A similar team will return next season to take the court.

On a defensive side of the ball, freshman forward Erica Keto averages 4.6 rebounds per game. In the last week of the regular season, in a game against UNC Greensboro, Keto pulled in a season-high 17 rebounds.

Junior forward Amber Wall leads the team in rebounds with 7.9 per game.

"I think (the team) has realized they can play with anybody," Barefoot said. "It was nice to see this team finish toward the end and see our coaching staff keep fighting at the end. Being so young, we just need to keep getting after it. I would love to win a championship and we are en route to do so."

Gause leads the team, and the league freshmen in scoring, averaging 10 points per game. She tallied double figures in six consecutive contests toward the end of the regular season, including a season-best 22 points against Davidson.

Hired last April, Barefoot did not have much time left to recruit. She managed to sign one player, Gause, who is now ranked among the top conference freshmen in five different categories.

This off-season, Barefoot has the chance to build her own roster in her first full recruiting class. She started in November, signing three high school seniors. The group is ranked among the top-125 recruiting classes in the country.

The class ranks third in the SoCon and is the first class in program history to ever be ranked nationally.



Senior guard Tiffany Davis opened the second half with four points during a Phoenix 11-2 run to put Elon up by 21 points against Georgia Southern in the opening round of the So-

COREY GROOM | Photographer

Women's basketball ends tough season with strong finish

Pam Richter
Sports Editor

In Karen Barefoot's first season as head coach of Elon women's basketball team, the team posted a 5-26 overall record and 2-18 in the Southern Conference.

After beginning the season with a win over non-conference opponent Winston-Salem State, the Phoenix dropped 19 straight games before winning against Southern Virginia on Jan. 29.

The team picked up its first conference win against Appalachian State on Feb. 9 and finished the season by winning two of its last three games.

In the SoCon tournament, No. 11 seed Elon defeated No. 5 seed Georgia Southern with a score of 57-54. For the Phoenix, freshman guard Courtney Medley scored her career-high 25 points.

For her efforts, Medley was named to the all Southern Conference Tournament, second team.

This season, Medley and fellow freshman guard Tiara Gause were named to the Southern Conference

all-freshman team by the league coaches.

Gause was named Southern Conference Freshman of the Year. This was the first time an Elon women's basketball player won this award.

Throughout the season, Barefoot emphasized the team could not measure progress by wins and losses, but by small victories.

In the quarterfinals, Elon's season ended with a loss against No. 3 Western Carolina with a score of 71-52. Medley and Gause both had 14 points in the game.

This season, the Phoenix does not have a senior on the roster. Juniors Urysla Cotton, Amber Wall and Tiffany Davis will provide the team with senior leadership next season.

Next season, the Phoenix will bring in three nationally ranked players for the 2009-2010 team. Eleisha Hariston from Reidsville, N.C., highlights the recruiting class. Hariston is ranked the 46th-best small forward in the country and is ranked among the top 300 players in the nation.

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT RECAP

Western Carolina wins three overtime thriller to win Southern Conference tournament.

Western Carolina earns an automatic bid to the 2009 women's NCAA tournament with 101-87 victory over College of Charleston.

This was the third straight year Western Carolina advanced to the SoCon tournament finals. Brooke Johnson had a double double with 21 points and 13 rebounds.

The game was sent into its first overtime period with a two point layup by College of Charleston guard, Tonia Gerty, with two seconds remaining.

To put the game into the second overtime, Western Carolina's Lauren Powell made two free throws to tie the game with one second left.

In the third overtime, Western Carolina outscored College of Charleston 16-2 to secure the victory. This third overtime was a SoCon-tournament record.

College of Charleston upset top-seeded UT Chattanooga in the other Southern Conference Semifinal game 53-51. This victory broke Chattanooga's three-year tournament winning streak.

All-Tournament Team

Brooke Johnson, Western Carolina
First Team
 Jade Hughes, College of Charleston
 Tagan Hatchett, Chattanooga
 Tonia Gerty, College of Charleston

Second Team

Chika Okoli, Samford
 Courtney Medley, Elon
 Emily Clarke, Western Carolina
 Jenaya Wade-Fray, Chattanooga
 Brittany Mixon, Appalachian State

Post season exit provides building block for future

Michelle Longo

Online Programs Director

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — There will be no more seasons, no more games, no more bus rides and no more tip-offs for three of Elon's men's basketball players.

Forward Ola Atoyebi, guard Brett James and forward Monty Sanders have all played their last minutes in the maroon and gold uniforms with the 79-78 loss to the eventual champs, No. 2 Chattanooga Mocs in the quarterfinal round of the Southern Conference Tournament Saturday night.

But, they all refused to leave without making their last presence known in a big performance.

The seniors' impact

In No. 5 Elon's first game of the tournament against No. 6 Wofford College, Sanders recorded a career-high 21 points while nailing 7-of-8 from the hardwood. He barely missed.

In the last five minutes of the game, Sanders hit two 3-pointers, grabbed two offensive rebounds on one crucial possession and screamed and pounded his chest in Adam Constantine fashion to keep his team in it. James said Sanders "saved" the team and in turn helped them live to see another game.

Previous to the final regular season game last Monday, when he dropped 17 points on Davidson, Sanders had averaged 4.7 points per game. His career points per game was 4.9. In his last three career games, Sanders collected 45 points.

"My heart feels so good for (Sanders)," said then-head coach Ernie Nestor, who was released Monday. "He has capsulated his whole basketball career into his senior year and it's still worth it. He can treasure (his last) game for the rest of his life."

In that same game against Wofford, James tallied 19 of his own points, 7 rebounds and 3 assists.

He is Elon's second-leading scorer, averaging 13.2 points per game. James is also one of the captains of the team.

Battling multiple injuries during the season, he was forced to play minimally the last week of the regular

season, but rebounded for his final performance in Alumni Gym and for the SoCon Tournament.

But, James was not on the court for the last few minutes of the loss to Chattanooga in the tournament.

"I felt at that time we had a good rhythm with the kids that were in," Nestor said. "It was a difficult decision. (James) is a very good player but when a team starts functioning well, we stay with it as long as you can. I know (James) wanted to be in there and I would have loved to have him in there but I made the decision."

Atoyebi, following in the footsteps of his brother who played four seasons at Elon ending in 2006, has been a scoring machine and consistent threat throughout his career.

This season, he led the team averaging 13.9 points per game. In his career finale, Atoyebi recorded 20 points and, although it didn't happen, the game-winning, season-extending shot was drawn to put the ball in his hands.

"(The loss to Chattanooga) is going to sting a while," Atoyebi said.

The young supporting cast

On top of picking up a few recruits in the off-season, the Phoenix has an experienced roster to work with for next season.

Freshman guard Josh Bonney played in all 31 games for Elon this season, including starting in the last 17. He averaged 5.4 points per game, recording a game-high 13 points against Western Carolina in January.

Bonney racked up serious minutes as the floor commander for the Phoenix, even competing in two games in a tournament setting.

Fellow freshman guard, Drew Spradlin, who came in with Bonney to replace the graduating Phoenix backcourt, also stepped it up late in the season. He supplied a season-high 17 points in the last week of regular season against Georgia Southern.

Spradlin helped the Phoenix climb out of a 15-point hole in the battle against Chattanooga, hitting two crucial 3s and grabbing six rebounds. He was also one of the five players to finish off the season.

Sophomore guard Chris Long who was previously on-and-off, turned it up for the

end of the season and the beginning of the tournament. In the last week of the season, Long knocked down four 3s en route to a 14-point night against UNC Greensboro.

In the Chattanooga loss, Long rounded out the first half with back-to-back 3s within 30 seconds. He came out shooting in the same fashion in the second half on his way to a 6-9 night, all six made shots from beyond the arc.

"Pistol Pete's out there in the name of Chris Long," Chattanooga head coach John Shulman said. "He was unbelievable."

Long has been bothered by an Achilles injury that has haunted him all season. In the long off-season, Nestor said he hopes it will heal so Long could produce on a more steady rate.

"Chris is a special kid," Nestor said. "He has an Achilles problem that limits him but he really gritted it out. It is just a big pain, but he handles it so well. He never says coach I can't do it. And that is why he is an excellent player and will continue to get better."

A new beginning

Three of five players that ended the Chattanooga game and the season, are returning next year. The prevailing Phoenix backcourt consists of two freshmen who received substantial amount of playing time, one being the decision maker on the court.

Junior guard Devan Carter had an equally explosive late-season run, averaging 14.5 points in four games late last month to round out the regular season. Carter barely missed the game-winning jumper just inside the 3-point line as time expired in the loss to Chattanooga.

Leading rebounder and proclaimed emotional leader of the team, Constantine, will also come back as a senior. He averages 4.8 rebounds per game, but is perhaps respected more for what he adds to the basketball game on a different level.

"He yells a lot," James said. "Sometimes he yells for no apparent reason and sometimes we don't even know what he's saying. But he starts yelling and everybody else starts yelling. He's the most energetic guy in the Southern Conference."



COREY GROOM | Photographer

Sophomore guard Chris Long tallied four points during Elon's win against Wofford College in the opening round of the SoCon tournament. Long also recorded 18 points off the bench, including six 3s, during the

CHATTANOOGA CRUISES TO TOURNAMENT VICTORY

On Monday night, Chattanooga clinched an NCAA tournament bid by defeating College of Charleston 80-69. The Mocs opened up the second half with a 20-0 run to post a convincing lead.

Chattanooga's senior, Stephen McDowell scored 15 points in the game and was named SoCon Tournament Most Outstanding Player.

In a losing effort, junior Tony White Jr. scored a career-high 31 points for the Cougars.

To make it to the finals, College of Charleston upset the conference No. 1 seed, Davidson, defeating them 59-52 on Sunday. Conference Player of the Year junior Stephen Curry had a game-high 20 points for Davidson in the loss.

The victory for Chattanooga is the 10th SoCon tournament title in program history. This ties the record held by Davidson and former SoCon member West Virginia.

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

FIRST TEAM

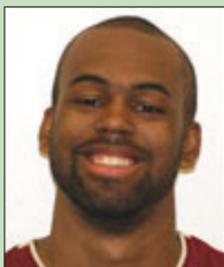
Stephen McDowell, Chattanooga
Tony White Jr., College of Charleston
Stephen Curry, Davidson
Kevin Goffney, Chattanooga
Bryan Friday, Samford

SECOND TEAM

Nicchaeus Doaks, Chattanooga
Dustin Scott, College of Charleston
Donald Sims, Appalachian State
Andrew Goudelock, College of Charleston
Jeremy Simmons, College of Charleston

NESTOR from PAGE 1

BASKETBALL PLAYERS REACT TO NESTOR LEAVING



Adam Constantine

"It's hard on everyone who knows him because you see how much work he puts into it and see how dedicated he is . . . He has been a part of my life for three years so it is hard to fill that void."



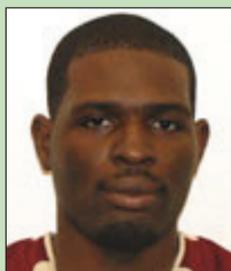
Chris Long

"It is definitely going to be different and weird. When you sign and start playing for him you assume it is going to be for all four years."



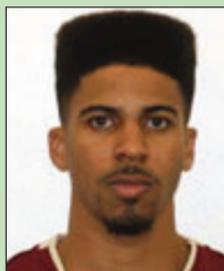
Brett James

"He said he was at peace with himself and he was going to figure something out and I fully believe that. As a person, you can't find someone better. He is true to his word and speaks from the heart. I wish him the absolute best."



Ola Atoyebi

"He gave me life experiences. He taught me how to deal with adversity and how to persevere."



Josh Bonney

"He is a nice guy. He recruited me so he is my first-ever head (college) coach. He recruited me all through high schools so once I got here, he took care of me, so it is like losing a father figure rather than a coach. It is going to be difficult to get through."

LEARN MORE. SEE MORE.

www.elon.edu/pendulum

Sports

Harrilchak's unconventional journey to Elon leads the Phoenix

Conor O'Neill
Reporter

At the conclusion of a recent Phoenix baseball practice, some players headed to the locker room. Other players went to their cars. A few players tossed snowballs at each other. And two players remain in the batting cage, still working on their hitting, working toward perfection.

One player in the cage is senior team captain Cory Harrilchak, who has extra motivation to work hard this year.

Harrilchak was named one of the top-10 returning seniors in the nation by Rivals.com and was named a first team Louisville Slugger/Collegiate Baseball Preseason All-American. He was also placed on the 2009 Brooks Wallace Player of the Year Watch List.

"It's quite an honor to receive such notice," Harrilchak said. "It's motivation to keep working and putting time in. It'd be great to get the same recognition at the end of the year."

Harrilchak, who is an outfielder and pitches, is building from his success last season. In the first seven games he had a .394 batting average and 10 runs scored.

If he keeps playing at his current level, Harrilchak can expect the same recognition as last year.

Last season the Phoenix started on a 10 game winning season, but it didn't start out as well as it could have for Harrilchak.

After struggling to transition from Surry Community College, he had a meeting with head coach Mike Kennedy, who thought he was pressing.

"He told me not to worry about the results and to have

“

Ever since Cory came here, he hasn't stopped working. When he was struggling last year, he just kept at it and kept working.

- Mike Kennedy
HEAD BASEBALL COACH

”

fun," Harrilchak said, who ended the 2008 season with a batting average of .410.

He was also named the Southern Conference Tournament Most Outstanding Player after hitting .591 with three home runs, 11 RBIs and 13 runs scored.

Harrilchak's strong offense lead the Phoenix to become the 2008 Southern Conference tournament and regular season champions.

"Ever since Cory came here, he hasn't stopped working," Kennedy said. "When he was struggling last year, he just kept at it and kept working."

Harrilchak's teammates have also taken notice of his work ethic and on-field success.

"He works hard. He's in the cage right now," junior second baseman Chase Austin said.

Elon was the only Division I school to heavily recruit Harrilchak as he came out of community college.

Harrilchak hurled seven shutout innings against then-No. 4-ranked UNC Chapel Hill last season in Elon's 2-0 victory over the Tar Heels.

As for his decision to come to Elon, Harrilchak said the draw for him was the same for many students who come to here.

"It's a great school and a beautiful campus," Harrilchak said. "I also like the coaching staff a lot, I enjoy playing for them."

The coaching staff said it enjoys having him and recognizes the contributions he makes.

"As our leadoff man, he puts a lot of pressure on the opponent because of everything he can do," Kennedy said. "With his speed and power, we could have him hit third or fourth for us."

At the conclusion of this season, Harrilchak said he would like to be drafted and play professionally.

"It's always been a dream of mine to play professional baseball," he said.

He said once he graduates, he'd like to return to Elon, as well as stay in sports.

Harrilchak would also like to stay in sports after graduation.

But now, his focus is on setting the table as the leadoff hitter for Elon.

If the future leads to a professional career in baseball, Harrilchak said he would welcome the opportunity to get paid to do what he loves.

FOR MORE ON THE BASEBALL TEAM, SEE PAGE 20



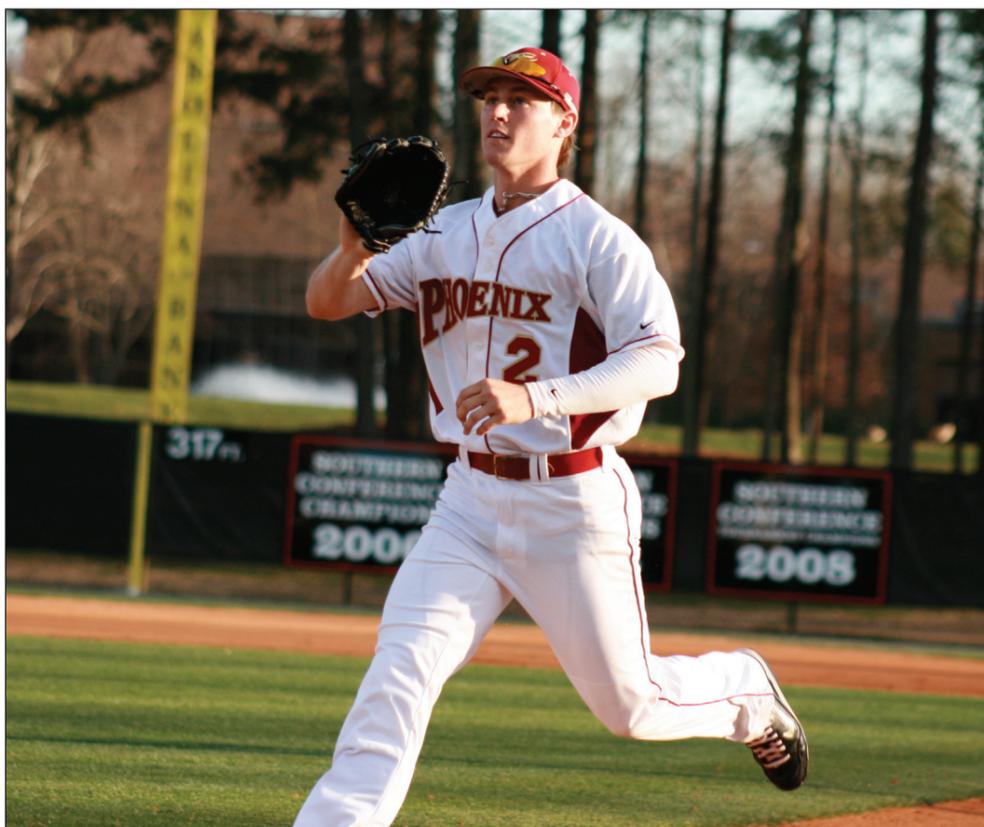
DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

After this season, senior Cory Harrilchak said he would like to play baseball professionally.



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Harrilchak, who is an outfielder and pitches, ended the 2008 season with a batting average of .410 and was named the Southern Conference



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Harrilchak was named one of the top-10 returning seniors in the nation by Rivals.com and was also named a first team Louisville Slugger/Collegiate Baseball Preseason All-American.

Getting to know Harrilchak

Year: Senior

Position: Outfielder/Pitcher

Hometown: Cary, N.C.

Bats: Left

Throws: Left

Favorite sports other than baseball: Hockey, wrestling

Favorite Professional Team: New York Yankees

Favorite Music: Classic rock

Major: Broadcast journalism

Favorite Major League player: Mickey Mantle