



Faith is alive on
Elon's campus

PAGE 11

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SPRING BREAK

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ONLINE

Rip_Chord performs
at Midnight Meals

PAGE 12



THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010 | VOLUME 36, EDITION 9

www.elon.edu/pendulum



If the smoking ban on campus passes, ashtrays like this one will be removed forcing students, faculty and staff to go off campus to light up. BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Smoking survey ignites discussion on campus

Jack Dodson
News Editor

In an effort to better understand the habits of smokers on Elon University's campus, a group of students in coordination with the Office of Substance Abuse recently sent out a survey to students looking at their knowledge and opinions of the current tobacco policy.

The students who created the survey were leadership fellows who worked with the office to look at the current climate of tobacco on campus, part of which included sending out the survey to students, said Coordinator for Substance Education Lauren Martin.

Martin said another survey will be sent to faculty and staff asking similar questions in the next few weeks.

The survey had a two-fold effect, she said, by attempting to educate the student body on the smoking policy and to have a better picture of tobacco use on campus.

"We wanted to see how aware the campus was," Martin said. "Do we need to do a better job of educating the campus on what the policy is?"

She said she didn't think a lot of people on campus are aware of the current policy, which she said is in part because she doesn't think many people on campus smoke.

According to the current policy, smoking is prohibited inside buildings on campus, as well as within 30 feet of all buildings.

Martin said every two years her office puts out a survey to the student body to look at the climate of substance use on campus, but it looks very broadly at tobacco use, not taking into account the various types of tobacco available.

"On this survey, what we wanted to do was actually break it down for students, because sometimes students don't associate cigars or hookahs as tobacco ... to see



Freshman John Zurkulchlen smokes a cigar outside of Smith Residence Hall. BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

what students are using, if anything."

To senior Matt Moroughan, though, the survey represented a bias against the smoking population on campus.

"They didn't really remain neutral in the wording of the questions," he said, citing a part of the survey that asked if smokers could get behind a smoke-free

See SMOKING | PAGE 3

Lighthouse to be audited in April

Samantha King
News Editor

Elon University's Lighthouse Tavern is scheduled to undergo a tax exempt audit in April after the use of alcohol at the facility and the property's educational exempt status came into question.

According to the property exempt application Elon completed in 2009, the Lighthouse Tavern is a "Campus Center for students and student activities."

The property came into question when Gerald York, tax administrator for Alamance County, was notified by a citizen's complaint, which York did not elaborate on.

"I wasn't aware that the property was tax exempt," York said.

Most of Elon University's properties are tax exempt because of the university's nonprofit status.

On the tax exemption application, the university cites N.C. General Statute 105-278.4 and 105-278.7, which lists specific reasons the property should be exempt. The statutes say the property will be "wholly and exclusively used for educational purposes by the owner (Elon)."

The university doesn't mention its use of alcohol in the application, something Gerald Whittington, senior vice president of business, finance and technology, said was not asked for on the form.

York disagrees. The third item on the tax document asks the organization to list and explain the purposes for which the properties will be used.

The document read, "this facility is for Elon students and guests and is not open to the public."

The answer Elon provided on the tax exempt application does not mention how the facility will be used for educational reasons nor the facility's use of alcohol to turn profit.

Robert Dunlap, who is responsible for programming at Lighthouse, said the facility is a tremendous learning tool for students.

"Students are planning and hosting events and gaining leadership experience," Dunlap said.

Students who hold leadership positions often plan for weeks, publicizing the event on campus and finally seeing the event through. Without Lighthouse, Dunlap said, students would be severely limited as to where they could host events.

"The bar is open only 15 hours a week, and even then, some students rent (the facility) for nonalcoholic events," Dunlap said.

ARAMARK, Elon's food service provider, is licensed to sell alcohol, but the university policy states that alcohol cannot be served at fundraising events. Dunlap said most commonly the Greek organizations rent Lighthouse to host events.

The university bought the property in 2008 for almost \$300,000 more than the assessed value from the owner, Grayson Chad Snyder, an adjunct professor at the time. Snyder was arrested for possession and intent to sell cocaine and GHB, a date rape drug.

After fights and drug-related instances became increasingly problematic, the university made Lighthouse into a "hangout" for students and faculty, Whittington said.

"We began to worry about the safety of students," he said.

The application also said Lighthouse would not be open to the public, a practice that has not been enforced, although York said whether it was open to the public, did not matter for tax exempt status.

According to Whittington, a campus committee requested it be made public last summer.

"We didn't know a change had been made," Whittington said. "Effective Monday, March 22, Lighthouse will no longer be open to the public."

Every three years, one-eighth of all properties in the country must be audited, and each property must be approved on a case-by-case standing, York said.

"Every one just assumes that if Elon owns it, the property should be exempt," York said. "That's just not the case."

Whittington said the university plans to meet with York this week to listen to his concerns and decide how to respond to the matter.

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Poll finds support for health care reform, concern for economic conditions of state

Caitlin O'Donnell
Assistant News Editor

The most recent Elon University poll found the majority of North Carolina residents continue to support health care reform but consider the economy to be the most important issue facing the state.

Half of respondents said they are satisfied with the quality of their health care, three out of every four said they support reform within the system. Since October 2009, the support for such reform has remained unchanged according to the poll.

Fifty-three percent of respondents said they are in favor of legislation that includes a public option, a 1 percent decrease from the fall when pollsters asked the same question.

The public option would give Americans the option to purchase insurance through a government-run plan.

Hunter Bacot, director of the poll, said although people are generally pleased with the quality of services they are currently receiving through their health care, they still see a definite need for reform.

More than half of the respondents said they favor more government involvement in health care reform, while 23 percent said the government has overstepped its boundaries.

Sharon Spray, associate professor of political science, said the proposed policy is difficult to understand.

"When you ask people what they think of the policy broken down, most people agree," she said. "Yet, they still disagree with the overall policy, showing that they don't completely understand what they oppose."

Amidst a storm of controversy, President Obama officially signed the health care reform bill into law March 23, leading to immediate legal challenges from the Republican Party.

Though the poll indicates general support for the president's plans for reform, the opposition has remained vocal and active in its attempts to rescind the bill. Spray said though factions of the opposition are loud, they are not necessarily representative of the majority.

"We're in a time where press must have coverage and so you must cover these loud voices," she said. "Extreme factions are more interesting to cover than the moderate voices."

The poll also examined residents' opinions of the economic situation within the state, finding that the

ELON POLL RESULTS

Health care reform

8% support health care reform
15% think health care is fine the way it is
6% health care needs something done, just not by the government

53% support legislation that includes a public option
37% opposed legislation that includes a public option

48% think the government isn't going far enough
23% government is going too far
17% health insurance is a private sector issue

Economic situation results

57% consider the economy the most important issue
14% consider the environment the most important issue
35% expect economy to improve
33% expect personal financial situations to improve

Further poll results

34% say the state government should control liquor sales
23% say private companies should control liquor sales

SARAH BETH COSTELLO | Graphics Editor

economy remains the most significant issue since the same question was posed in October 2009.

Recent results show about 57 percent of those polled consider the economy the most important issue, compared to 50 percent in October. In both cases, the environment was the next most frequent answer with about a 14 percent response.

Thirty-five percent of those polled said they expect the economy to improve, twice the amount of positive outlooks given in the fall. Similarly, twice as many people anticipate an improvement in their personal financial situations, up to 33 percent from around 18 percent in the fall of last year.

Spray said there are many indicators throughout

North Carolina that the economy is improving.

"Even though many are still unemployed, there is more building going on and a trend of more job security throughout the state," she said. "The stock market is also doing better, so there is more confidence in the economy."

As stabilizing steps within the state are taken, Spray said people begin looking forward. Though discontent increases as elections approach, spring often brings stability.

"This is the overall outcome of turbulence settling down," she said.

Complete poll results can be found at www.elon.edu/e-web/elonpoll/.

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Blue light towers provide another method of emergency contact

Eva Hill
Senior Reporter

The red safety towers on campus often escape the minds of students in emergency situations. But these safety towers also offer an immediate, local response to emergency medical or safety information.

According to Chuck Gantos, director of Campus Safety and Police, when someone pushes the button on the tower, their call is immediately directed to campus security and a flashing blue light comes on.

The safety towers have been on Elon's campus for more than 14 years, and new ones are added as the campus expands.

According to Mike Thompson, manager of telecommunications at Elon, there are about 25 towers on campus, and Physical Plant spends a fair amount of time inspecting and repairing them.

Thompson said the phones usually provide most of the technical issues, but the machines are tested regularly to ensure they are functioning properly.

"Each tower has a phone and electronic switchboard, and these electrical devices require an average of two hours of maintenance every week," Thompson said. "Physical plant checks the lights and changes them as

needed. Every Friday night a security officer checks each unit and updates me with their status on Monday."

According to Thompson, these safety structures are also costly to maintain and build. Code Blue, a company based in Michigan, manufactures the emergency telephone systems and each unit costs between \$4,500 and \$5,000.

The costs rise with the cement used to keep them in the ground and installment charges.

"There are no regulations for strategic tower placement, and administrators determine placement based on the location," Gantos said.

Only two calls have been made from these safety towers in 14 years, both of which were EMT calls.

With the convenience of cell phones, many students are able to program and dial 911 quickly and efficiently.

Senior Alexie Anderson said cell phones are more convenient in certain situations.

"In an emergency situation, I would be more likely to use my cell phone because I always have it with me," Anderson said.

Gantos understands the convenience of cell phones in emergency situations and said the towers add extra protection.

"Most students on campus carry cell phones, and most of the emergency



There are 25 safety towers on campus. The towers come equipped with a phone and emergency lights. To date, they have only been used twice.

JACK DODSON | Photographer

communication comes from cell phones," Gantos said. "The towers are an asset, but we don't need two or three hundred."

Other students believe the safety towers are more effective in a dangerous situation than cell phones. Junior Dylan Clements said

he would be more likely to use one if he needed to contact the police or 911.

"If you were near one and push it, the blue light will go off. I believe this is a more effective deterrent than making a call on a cell phone," Clements said.

CORRECTION:

A link to a video was incorrectly listed in the Pendulum's March 17th issue. The correct link to the dodgeball story is <http://www.elon.edu/pendulum/Story.aspx?id=3559>

Elon's tobacco habits SMOKING from Page 1

effort without offering a definite "no" as an option.

"It seemed like they were doing it so when they were showing the results of it, they could word it more toward what they were trying to find," Moroughan said.

L.D. Russell, a lecturer in religious studies, starts every morning smoking an American Spirit cigarette with his coffee. And on any given day, he smokes about a pack a day, frequently on campus.

He said he's conscientious about his smoking on campus, trying to be mindful of people around him who might not want to breathe in the secondhand smoke. To him, the survey represents a movement in the country towards being entirely smoke free.

"I'm surprised we're not a smoke free campus already since apparently we're moving toward being a smoke-free nation," Russell said.

He said he's already seen the smoking population at Elon drop since he's come to work here.

"When I first came, it was much more of a smoking campus," he said.

Martin said she would like to see Elon one day become smoke-free, but she doesn't know if that will happen.

"I would like to see the campus go smoke free because there's research out there that does say that any exposure to second-hand smoke, even a little bit, can do damage," Martin said.

In part, she said, this comes from the fact that it can't be an overnight change.

"It's one of those things where you prepare people," she said.

For now, though, both Martin and Russell said they don't think the campus is particularly well-versed on the tobacco policy.

Russell said the fact that many buildings have ashtrays right next to the doors can be confusing, too.

"It's perhaps a mixed message that ashtrays are so close to the buildings," he said.

One proposal Russell made was to designate certain areas where people could smoke on campus, allowing for smokers to still have a place to go on campus. Moroughan said he would be able to get behind the idea of a designated area for smokers because the school "would have to accommodate an area for people to smoke."

Russell said it could protect smokers from the weather while providing a social place for people who like to smoke.

"It just seems like we could work out a way to be more inclusive," Russell said. "It's weird to feel quarantined."

Burlington park to add rides, seeks visitors

Rachel Southmayd
Senior Reporter

In the wake of the temporary closure of a recreational park in Raleigh, the Burlington City Park opened for the season last weekend, planning to host unique attractions through the spring.

Burlington city officials hope the temporary closure in Raleigh will attract more visitors this season.

The park re-opened its rides for the season in late March, featuring five amusement rides, including a carousel that's more than one hundred years old, according to park superintendent Tim Johnson.

Coleman Rich, senior lecturer at Elon and the operations and supply manager for the Love School of Business, served as the park manager for the past three seasons.

"I think it's very positive for the community," he said.

Rich said residents of the Triad and Triangle often choose to come to the City Park in Burlington instead of visiting Pullen Amusements in Raleigh. Pullen will not open for the 2010 season as it undergoes extensive renovations.

Now, Burlington officials hope to add rides to the park and attract more visitors this year.

"Over the years we've added a miniature train and some kiddie rides," Johnson said.

The budget for City Park operation is \$245,047, Johnson said, which is about 4.5 percent of the Burlington Department of Parks and Recreation's annual budget.

In addition to the amusement rides, the park features athletic fields, tennis courts and a grilling and picnic area. The park generates income by charging for amusement rides and for groups to use the picnic facilities for parties and events.

"We normally turn a profit," Johnson said. "What we make goes back into the general funds for the entire city."

New additions to the park this year include sunshades over several of the rides and Internet access.

"We are in the process of adding wireless Internet," Johnson said, "Hopefully, we'll get even more adults coming out and just enjoying the park."

Johnson also said the city park amusements will be generating between 20 and 25 part-time jobs for students during the spring, summer and fall.

The City of Burlington Web site reports thousands of visitors come to the City Park each year.

"On a good Saturday night during the summer, we might have four or five hundred (people)," said Rich.

Rich and Johnson both said many of the park's visitors come from communities surrounding Burlington.

"I've had out-of-towners say they wish their cities had something like this," said Rich.

Johnson said the city is preparing for a larger amount of visitors this year.

"I'm sure its going to increase our traffic," Johnson said, "I already have a senior group out of Raleigh that's scheduled to come and ride our carousel."

For the rest of the spring, the park amusements will be open on the weekends, and once local schools are on summer vacation, the hours will increase to six days a week, Rich said.

He said the City Park has been a tradition in the area for many years.

"We grew up with it here. As kids, our parents used to take us down there," he said. "Now, you've got people that I grew up with taking their grandkids."

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Elon professor unveils the truth behind the 2012 myth

Professor dismisses Maya calendar's connection to myth about world's end

Caroline McDonough
Reporter

As 2012 draws nearer, the Maya calendar continues to ignite debate and make Elon students and others question the future.

Elon physics professor Anthony Crider has taken the time to explore the myth that the end of the Maya calendar is an indicator of the end of the world. Crider, who teaches astronomy at Elon, has tried to help his students understand the truth behind this myth that has turned into a cultural phenomenon.

"I wanted to explain who's responsible for perpetuating these myths," Crider said.

Crider began his research of the Maya and their calendar after leading Elon's study abroad program in 2005 and 2006, titled "Astronomy in Mexico: Maya to Modern." The class visited ancient Maya sites and the people who live there.

Crider was intrigued by the Maya and Aztec. He presented his research earlier this month at the Triad Starfest in Guilford during a speech on the Maya calendar and the never-ending question of what will happen in 2012. Crider's presentation stressed the importance of finding evidence and the credibility of the source.

"The simplest answer is the most probable one," Crider said. "If you see something and don't have the time to investigate it or don't know any better, you might start to question very basic things."

The truth behind the Maya calendar can cause confusion. The Maya created two calendars, the Haab and the Tzolkin. When looking at the

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The simplest answer is the most probable one. If you see something and don't have the time to investigate it or don't know any better, you might start to question very basic things.

- Anthony Crider
PHYSICS PROFESSOR

”

calendars, the Maya separated time into blocks called baktuns. Each baktun marks the end of 394 years. The 13th baktun will end in the year 2012, sparking controversy and panic.

"It will be the end of the 13th baktun, but there's nothing to suggest in their literature that they thought our world would end at the end of their 13th baktun," Crider said.

To date, there is only one physical piece of evidence that shows the end of the 13th Maya baktun. A piece of stone found in the Yucatan depicts what the Maya thought may happen. Though it hints at something happening in 2012, there is no proof that the world will end on that day, Crider said.

"The Maya didn't predict that," Crider said. "Even if the Maya did predict that, there's no reason to believe that they had special psychic knowledge."

Despite Crider's rationale, many simply do not know as much about the myth.

"It's confusing because I don't know anything about it," sophomore Hunter Parrish said. "It's hard to trust the facts when you don't really know the history behind them."

This is exactly the confusion Crider urges students to question.

"Who's actually perpetuating these myths?" Crider said. "People who sell things."

He pointed to notable figures in the media, especially filmmakers like Roland Emmerich who create movies essentially promoting the end of the world.

Crider says films such as "Independence Day" and "2012" create unnecessary fear in people. He pushes people to always go back to the source.

"If you don't go check the source, you might hear that something will happen in 2012 and think that maybe some incredible scientist said it," Crider said. "You can edit anyone to look like an expert."

Often, people find themselves believing these sources but with skepticism.

"Those movies are scary but seriously who would actually believe that these things are going to happen?" sophomore Carly Beggett said.

Surrounded by myths about the Maya calendar and the so-called oncoming apocalypse, there are those who believe the world will cease to exist in 2012.

"This is why I teach," Crider said. "After showing my students a video and realizing how gullible we are as a society, I made it the primary focus of my classes. I wanted students to critically think about who created this material and is it reliable."

Students struggle to sublet apartments for fall semester

Tracy McBride
Reporter

As the percentage of students planning to study abroad increases, the number of students looking to sublet off-campus housing also increases.

About 70 percent of Elon's students study abroad before they graduate. Students often commit to study abroad programs without considering finding someone to sublet their housing, according to Lisa Alcon, program assistant for Isabella Cannon Centre for international studies. Alcon said she often sees students forget to plan ahead before committing to study abroad.

The Isabella Cannon International Centre approved 229 students to study abroad for 2010 fall semester.

"All we do is tell them it's something you need to pre-plan," Alcon said of advising students about housing arrangements.

Students studying abroad desperately search to find someone to fill their housing, but many are not successful.

Since March 1, more than 30 ads have been posted on E-net as students frantically search to find subletters. There are numerous Facebook groups and online resources that assist students in finding others in need of housing.

"I don't know anything about sublets or apartments," sophomore Sarah Carideo said. "It would be better to have the school more involved because with student housing Elon does not hold your hand."

Forty-two percent of students live off-campus, and those individuals are expected to find their own accommodations for off-campus housing, which they do through online resources and local realtors like BC Parker.

"It is difficult because people you know are usually studying abroad at the same time," junior Catherine Waters said. "So all of your friends want to sublet for the same semester."

Most students struggle to find subletters because of the three-week Winter Term, which is often absorbed into semester study abroad.

"It's not only looking for someone to switch off with, but there is the awkward overlap month of Winter Term," Carideo said.

The majority of students looking for a sublet usually have multiple roommates and a common room, so students can easily find a fully furnished apartment with all of the amenities included.

Although subletting often costs the same price as most off-campus housing, some may find last minute

housing deals.

"Originally I would have made the subletter pay the same rent, but I cut the cost last minute in a desperate search for someone to pay the sublet while I was abroad," senior Liz McGlinn said.

While many students may find the search for subletting, Carideo urges students to keep trying and find the best solution.

"You truly have to take what you get, when it comes to subletting," Carideo said.

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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.

Serious consideration necessary for potential smoking ban at Elon

A quick snap of the lighter. The pull of smoke. The small, red ember brightens at the end of the cigarette.

To some, smoking is a disgusting habit that has no place in the public sphere. To others, it is a leisure activity and stress reliever. It is an addicting and unhealthy habit, but there is no question it is a legal activity performed by consenting adults across the nation.

Before spring break, Dean of Student Life Smith Jackson sent a survey on behalf of a student leadership team working with the Office of Substance Education. The survey's intent was to gauge student's understanding of the current smoking policy on campus and to "gather student, faculty and staff opinions on whether Elon should become an entirely smoke-free or tobacco-free campus."

Is smoking on campus a problem at Elon? This question can only be answered by the student body. If there is a concern, students should strive to make their voices heard regardless of what position they hold.

The real question is this: how will enacting a smoking ban be any more effective than the current policy? If non-smokers on campus find smoking to be a problem, then it surely means proper enforcement of the current smoking policy is not taking place.

Whitney Gregory, coordinator of Judicial Affairs, said there have only been five or six smoking cases brought to Judicial Affairs during the entire school year. She said a majority of those cases were students who smoked in the residence halls. If students are smoking too close to the buildings and causing a problem, there should be more reports coming through the Judicial Affairs office.

Resident assistants are in charge of keeping smokers 30 feet away from buildings. Brian Collins, associate director of Residence Life, said at the beginning of the year there are more violations of the policy, but it "is not a big problem."

"We have some smoking near the building, and we let them know they can't smoke that close," Collins said. "We give suggestions on where they will have shade or shelter out of the weather. Most of our efforts have to do with reminding students of the policy. But we don't have a lot of policy violations, and once a student is asked to step away they are more than happy to move."

He said that in his own walks around campus he doesn't see a

lot of smoking compared to other schools. According to Lauren Martin, coordinator for substance education, only 12 percent of Elon students smoke daily and another 8 percent smoke socially.

Evan Heiser, assistant director of Residence Life for North Area, said he's had six write-ups on smoking violations this year. But he said there are students who complain of other students smoking too close to the building. As many as two or three in a day, he said.

So it seems there are more violations than the higher disciplinary authorities are seeing. Thomas Bowie, the assistant director of Residence Life for the Oaks, said it is a mixture of students not knowing the policy and lack of enforcement.

"It is one of those policies that isn't strictly enforced," Bowie said. "They can document it, but it is one of those ones that aren't strictly enforced." As to why, he said he "didn't know."

Martin said she has spoken with several students who do not know the current policy.

"Two things could happen," Martin said. "If the policy is not being enforced and we don't go smoke-free or tobacco-free, we could do a much better job of advertising the policy and making sure all students know about it."

Those suggestions should already be occurring. The policy should be currently advertised and student smokers should be aware of where they can and cannot smoke. There are some signs on academic buildings, but they are not on all residence or dining halls. Flyers have not been placed around campus. In Elon 101 classes and hall meetings the focus is on drugs and alcohol, not smoking.

Instead, a small percentage of student smokers unknowingly break the rules — sometimes repeatedly — before an RA informs them of the policy, and it brings discomfort to residents in their homes who choose not to smoke.

"The easy thing with going completely tobacco free or smoke free, it doesn't matter where you are standing," Martin said.

Elon: before choosing the easy option, evaluate the ill-publicized policy. Decide if everything has been done to make smokers aware of the current rules. Decide if students have been told whom to report smoking violations to. Decide if RAs are diligently enforcing the current rules before restricting the campus with a tighter harness. Before taking a rash step, take a deep breath and think about the future of this university and the freedoms that will be lost if this policy changes. Now, exhale.



Community Colleges

Total: 21 out of 57 (37 percent) N.C. community colleges are tobacco free.

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Universities/Colleges

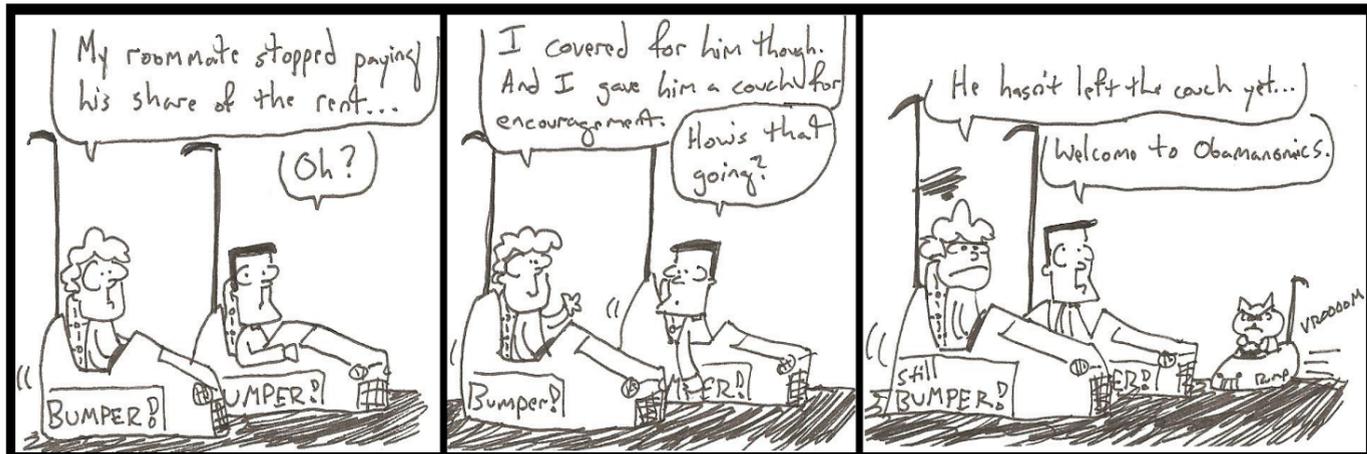
Total: 14 out of 57 (25 percent) N.C. accredited colleges and universities are tobacco free.

Including:

Gardner-Webb University
Greensboro College
Montreat College
Wingate University
High Point University
Barber-Scotia College

Sources: College Foundation of North Carolina, www.tobaccofreecollegesnc.com, U.S. Department of Education

ILLUSTRATING THE ISSUES: A COMIC BLAST FROM THE PAST (6.24.09)



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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Opinions

Studies in aggression: Gender ratios change atmosphere on campus



Rebecca Smith
Columnist

With all the recent attention on the gender divide in college, one must wonder how the higher percentage of females enrolled at most universities has impacted the social atmosphere of college campuses. Sure, it may be easier for a guy to get a date on a campus full of females, but does the gossip and backstabbing increase too?

Females are expected to handle aggression differently than males. While two males may get into a physical dispute to settle their issues without intense consequences to their reputation, two females who use physical means to handle a problem spark major controversy.

Instead, society has come to expect females to partake in more covert acts of retaliation when they are attacked. Backstabbing, manipulating, gossiping and other ways to indirectly express anger have become the norm. In academic circles, this type of action to display anger is called relational aggression.

People learn how to exclude other people on their preschool playgrounds, and this behavior continues on in college life. College students are just as likely as 5-year-old schoolchildren to pick a group of friends and isolate those who they do not want in their social circle.

A study conducted by the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships observed 300 college freshmen and observed that males were more likely than females to self-report physically aggressive acts. Surprisingly, males and females both showed a tendency toward relational

aggression during their college years.

One theory on the increased levels of relational aggression in males is because of a change in social networks. Men and women are interacting at a higher rate than ever before. Now that females have higher enrollment numbers at universities and are working side-by-side with men, males are beginning to adopt relational aggression techniques. At a school like Elon University, where 60 percent of the students are females, the males have to adapt. Males have become just as likely to gossip or backstab as females — normally as a survival technique.

A study titled Psychological Warfare: The Media and Relational Aggression among Female College Students researched this. The study surveyed 202 female undergraduate students enrolled in southeastern universities during the 2008-2009 academic year. The study examined the correlation between media and aggression in females, but they did not find a positive relationship. What the study did find is when people have stronger friendships they are less likely to partake in relational aggression.

If you talk to students from Elon, one thing you will hear continually is how great the “Elon community is.” I have reason to conclude that the close relationships that students create with other students, professors and staff decreases the level of aggression — overt or otherwise — on campus.

People at Elon understand how they are supposed to act and in general are moderate in their behaviors, and I think it is because Elon students have developed a community. The student body has created a safety net for themselves among the friendly smiles abundant on campus, and we continue to preserve that sense of bELONGing.

Hidden implications lurk within ‘post-racial’ society



Jasmine Gregory
Columnist

I remember being about 13 years old when my older cousin told me that she didn’t see skin color when she looked at people. It was the kind of statement that both baffled me and stuck with me, as I had no idea how she could look at someone and not see their race.

Recently, a discussion hosted by Lambda Chi Alpha and the Black Cultural Society delved into a discussion about whether we live in a “post-racial” society. Immediately, students jumped to the conclusion that our country’s election of a biracial man as president, has helped our country evolve into one that recognizes and seeks to prevent all racial injustices. I beg to differ.

Electing President Obama was one gigantic step in the right direction as far as race matters go, but it doesn’t magically erase all past injustices. For African-Americans, there is still a lot of controversial ground that needs to be covered before we as a race can progress forward.

Within the realm of a “post-racial” society, the entire connotation of “Black America” would not exist. There would be no divide. Although the media rarely suggests this divide, it is definitely a theme existing among black leadership. Without “Black America,” black Americans would cease to be identified as a diverse group, blending into the masses of some historically indifferent counterparts of the American population. It is with that differentiation that the struggle for freedom becomes appreciated. Diverse races also visibly gravitate towards

one another. In a “post-racial society,” this gravitation would cease to exist.

Because certain races share a common experience by simply living in America, a sense of unity develops, though it is sometimes misinterpreted as a form of self-segregation.

As a black female, I am just as big a part of two worlds as I would have been during the Civil Rights Movement. In one world I see “America the Beautiful” with the great colors of red, white and blue — in the other I see the great struggles my ancestors faced as slaves in America. Never are these two worlds viewed as a disadvantage. They are simply my reality when living as a minority in America.

The term ‘post-racial’ indicates a time where society makes concentrated efforts to see beyond race and assimilate to the expectations of being “American.” In this way, “American” becomes a one word, all-inclusive group, yet sadly, the expectations of being “American” still seem to reflect a middle-class white male. Yes, the United States can resemble a melting pot, but certain constants within our culture seem to withstand the test of time and the strides made by all races.

I would rather live in a world that allows all races to be openly accepted while still holding our heritage near and dear to our hearts. Harmony is bound to occur when people are able to unite within their respective races without penalty or criticism.

Ideally, this utopian post-racial society allows us to completely disregard skin color and simply be human beings. Unfortunately, I don’t believe a day will ever come that will allow humans to be able to see past skin color unless one day, physical features cannot define ethnicity. That will be the day when we can truly label our society “post-racial.”

Stop talking; start making a difference



Clint Edmondson
Guest Columnist

As someone who has been raised in a service-intensive environment since my youth, I think it’s great that people feel self-fulfillment from helping others. If that’s what makes you happy, then great. I’ve got filmmaking, you have your bleeding heart. Don’t get me wrong — contributing to service efforts is on my list of priorities. It’s just that the idea of “service” is diluted by people’s general need for causes. They have to have a

cause, just like they have to have a religion and go to church to return to their white picket fences and cul-de-sac with a wife and three kids. This brings me to the topic of cookie cutter America, but let’s not stray too far off topic — I’ll save conformity for another day.

So what’s wrong with causes? Isn’t it important to have a purpose? Of course it is, but the problem with causes is not that people feel like they should have them, but rather the things they do to contribute to them don’t achieve anything in terms of solving the problems themselves. This leads to my least favorite form of service: promoting “awareness.”

When people declare, “I am going to promote awareness about domestic violence,” I want to tell them to stop while they’re ahead. People watch “Law and Order: SVU.” We’ve seen enough wife beatings and rapes to suffice for this “awareness” — plus actors Mariska Hargitay and Christopher Meloni make these subjects much more entertaining, though no less serious. The reason I hate the idea of “awareness” is that it really doesn’t help or solve the problem. You can make me as aware about world hunger as you want, but it doesn’t change the fact that some emaciated child is going to keel over today. Is that a bit heartless? Maybe. But sooner or later, you’ll have to confront reality.

People are poor. Crazy dictators commit social injustices. Decrepit men abuse their wives. Maybe you are noticing a trend here; these are all insurmountable problems. Don’t walk around pretending that by holding some hour-long pow-wow, the world will become a better place. Want to help with hunger? Go help at a soup kitchen. Want to help with domestic violence? Volunteer at a shelter for battered women. Stop living in this fairytale land where talking about an issue does anything to solve it. No one is saying don’t discuss social issues. Just don’t do it and slap the title “service” or “philanthropy” on it.

Because if talking about solving social problems is philanthropy, then politicians are saints. Just look at any candidate’s platform — they sure do a lot of talking about problems they do nothing about.

Psychologist Lawrence Kohlberg charted out moral development in three main stages: pre-conventional, conventional and post conventional. Conventional, the one that most people fall within, is what I like to call the “good neighbor” front. Those in the conventional stage gravitate toward morality norms established by religion, social norms and government.

In other words, they are the people who drop the check in the basket at church in order to not look like terrible human beings. It’s great that they do that, but throw all these norms out the window and they’d be singing to a different tune.

So where is this going? Another problem with causes is that people support them because they feel like they should. Causes are not fads. They don’t go out of season. Causes aren’t like the color white—you can still wear them after Labor Day. Don’t join a cause just because your girlfriends do it. This isn’t book club.

If you are going to put that cause on, try to actually care about it. You don’t have to commit for life — just make sure you don’t change them on every feeble whim.

We get it. You are passionate about something. Who isn’t? Stop cheapening what you do by feeling like you have to show off. It is a humility thing, to an extent. If you are going around showing off your causes, then chances are your dedication to it is skin-deep. Part of Humility 101 is knowing when to shut the front door.

Causes. Be practical. Be consistent. And keep it to yourself.

B-b-b-blogger page, b-b-blogger page...

www.pendulumopinions.wordpress.com



Dissecting the Form 990

Samantha King
News Editor

The Form 990 is an annual reporting return that certain federally tax-exempt organizations must file with the IRS, according to GUIDE Star, an organization that deals with non-profit transparency. Elon University is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the IRS, it files the Form 990 each year. The Form 990 is a public document required by the IRS of organizations with annual assets totaling more than \$250,000. The

form is a comprehensive financial report of the university's assets and revenues.

According to the IRS Web site the three main principles of the Form 990 are enhancing transparency, promoting tax compliance and minimizing the burden on the filing organization.

The form looks at what Elon's expenses, ranging from travel expenses to total amount of money Elon receives for tuition. The form requires the organization to list

the five highest paid employees, those who earn more than \$100,000, and key employees, and those who earn more than \$150,000.

Colleges and universities devote funds to property. The Alamance County Geographic Information System provides information on what property is owned by Elon.

Here's a look at some of Elon's facts and figures.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

by the numbers

\$66,079,769

amount Elon pays to faculty and staff

\$260,878,596

net assets (including Elon's endowment)

3,801

number of students receiving financial aid

\$22,613,283

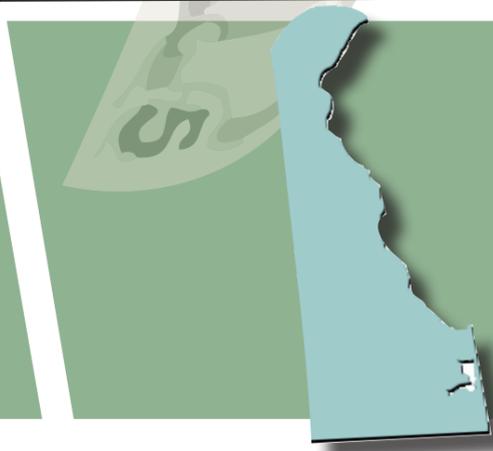
amount of financial aid available

\$192,691,211

total value of land, buildings and equipment

THE LAMBERTS

HOW FAR DOES ELON'S



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Realtor

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rather th



JUSTINE SCHULERUD | PHOTO EDITOR

Smithfield Foods: 762 E Haggard Ave. (Pictured above)
According to Whittington, the university is currently in negotiations to acquire the property. Some of the possibilities for the property includes academic uses such as lab space, recreation, technology and library storage options. Market Value effective Jan. 1, 2009: \$3,031,589

Walker Dance studio: 342 W. Haggard Ave. (Pictured below)

Date of Purchase Dec. 2008
Purchase Price: \$300,000
Market Value effective Jan. 1 2009: \$169, 251
No immediate plans.



JACK DODSON | PHOTOGRAPHER

PROPERTIES

Elon owns 112 properties in Alamance County and pays property tax on 29 properties totaling \$24,247.75 in 2009. The rest of the properties are tax exempt because Elon is a nonprofit.

Most of the taxable properties are residences and vacant lots, where the university has either bought land or demolished a building. "Each Property has a different story by and large," Whittington said. "Many of (the properties) we purchase do not have an immediate use to us, but could be used at a later time," Whittington said.

President Leo Lambert is the highest paid Elon employee and received a base salary of \$313,862 in 2008 calendar year. The base compensation excludes certain benefits such as retirement packages and traveling expenses.

"We feel we must continue to offer (Lambert) a competitive salary to stay with us," said Allen Gant, chair of the Board of Trustees. "He does a fantastic job, he really deserves more."

Leo's wife, Laurie Lambert, received a compensation of \$49,910 as an independent contractor to the university. Her

compensation does not include travel or event hosting fees. Laurie is not listed on the university's payroll nor does she receive the employee benefits of retirement packages or insurance.

"It is the national trend to have the spouses of the presidents to be recognized for the work they do," Whittington said. "Many times they set aside their professional career. We had an obligation to pay her."

Lambert hosts social gatherings and dinners numbering in the hundreds every year. She often travels to speak with benefactors across the nation.



TOP PAID AT ELON

- 1. Leo M. Lambert**
Title: President
2008 base salary: \$313,862
- 2. Gerald L. Francis**
Title: Executive Vice President
2008 base salary: \$242,270
- 3. Gerald Whittington**
Title: Senior Vice President for Business, Finance and Technology
2008 base salary: \$234,524
- 4. David Blank**
Title: Director of Athletics
2008 base salary: \$168,804
- Nan Perkins**
Title: Former Vice President of Institution Advancement.
2008 base salary: \$162,690

S MONEY STRETCH?

ELAWARE:

Company

years ago Elon purchased a realtor company, Real Properties LLC which is registered in Delaware. "We bought the company because we thought some sellers would rather deal with a realtor than the university itself," Whittington said.

Funds held in the UK

In one section, Form 990 asks if the university has any funds in other countries, Elon checked "yes." The country is the UK. No, Elon is not investing in a Ponsi scheme, but instead has a bank account for its students in its longest running and most successful study abroad program located in London. The account holds \$15,869 according to the 2008 990 report, and is used for convenience purposes of Elon students and faculty studying abroad.



Style

Working hard, growing hope

All Photos by Bryce Little
Staff Photographer

Peacehaven Farm is a community-oriented nonprofit that hopes to give homes to mentally and physically challenged adults. Located just outside of Whitsett, Peacehaven was established in 2007 by founders Buck and Tim Cochran and Susan Elliot. Elliot's son inspired the project.



Above: Farming is Peacehaven's secondary objective. Buck Cochran, Peacehaven's farm leader, explains the ultimate goal for Peacehaven is to be a sustainable living community for adults living with intellectual and physical disabilities. Right: Isaac Lee, 11, helps to renovate the barn at Peacehaven Farm in Whitsett. Volunteers of all ages came out to help start the growing season.



Far left: Volunteers are essential to Peacehaven. With no full time staff the generosity and commitment of the community is the only way work is completed on the farm. Even those volunteers with little or no farming experience are essential. Above left: North Carolina State University freshman John Tyler traveled all the way from Raleigh to volunteer at Peacehaven. Volunteers did jobs ranging from laying irrigation pipe to gutting and remodeling a barn. Left: Peacehaven is based completely around the generosity and hard work of the community. Members from all walks of life have made an effort to spend a Saturday morning working with the land. Above: These gloves were about the only thing resting at Peacehaven, as volunteers enthusiastically worked to get the farm in shape to start the growing season.

5 steps to snagging an internship:

Sarah Carideo
Reporter

In the spring, flowers bloom, the temperature rises and summer internship deadlines loom. During this time of the year, even the overachievers of Elon are feeling insecure. Students should remember to be confident and remember that they are the best, and by following a few tips employers will know that too.

→ 1. There are no limits

Apply to as many internships as possible. Applications can get monotonous and eventually the routine may get tiring, but students should keep in mind all of the opportunities that are available. There are so many Web sites with internship listings that there is no reason to simply apply for a handful.

While internships during the school year are competitive, they are nothing in comparison to the gauntlet that is summer. Everyone is out and ready to be consumed by their internship, so apply to a minimum of 10 places. You may lose some, but having backups is vital.

2. Amass then diversify

There are so many organizations with internship programs that offer different possibilities. Think big and small. Large, well-known organizations will look great on any resume but are highly competitive. Smaller, more personal options will give students experience and skills through close interactions. Explore them all. This open-mindedness will also help you reach your quota of applications, too.

3. Resumes: More than one page

Even though resumes are short, they are definitely not simple. People should not be fooled by the one-page requirement because that one page is summarizing the skills that separate one student from another. Check for errors multiple times. Employees will immediately throw resumes with errors in the trash. Then make sure it is organized, attractive and stands out so that it is not difficult for people to read. Put your most applicable information first. You only have a few seconds to make an impact as employers scan the resume. Use professors, mentors and career services as resources to guide you in making any resume well-rounded.

4. Sell, sell, sell

The cover letter is the next most important part of any application. This is an opportunity to show personality and unique qualities. Potential interns should not talk about how much they would love to have the experience and how great of an opportunity it is. Employers know that otherwise they would not have an internship program. Students should research the company and explain what they have to offer them. And if possible, they should relate this to their experiences to make the fact that they are "hard-working" more tangible.



5. Be kind

Even if a rejection e-mail comes to the inbox, each interview can be a good learning experience. Making a lasting, positive impact could be beneficial down the road by being offered opportunities or references in the future. Thank them for taking the time for the interview. Especially with smaller organizations, thank you cards have a special impact that can make someone stand out from other applicants.

Religion, percentages and community: The role of spirituality on campus

Alexa Johnson
Senior Reporter

Faith is no stranger at Elon University. In 1889, members of the United Church of Christ founded the university. More than 100 years later, religion is still an important aspect of life and learning at Elon.

In terms of religion, Elon is a homogenous campus. About 63.4 percent of students on Elon's campus believe in some sect of Christianity.

Although only 1.6 percent of students on campus identify with the United Church of Christ, Christian religions are still the majority at Elon, according to the comprehensive biannual report released by the Registrar in February. Identified Catholics make up 23.5 percent of students who reported their religious preferences.

"I am constantly impressed and awed by the strength in the faith of students," said Rev. Gerry Waterman, who joined Elon five years ago as the Catholic Campus Minister.

Elon has been supportive of students religious needs. That strong faith convinced Elon to create secure, 24-hour access to Holt Chapel's Eucharistic chapel three years ago. That same support resulted in the Newman Center last year, located in the former Holland House on South Campus.

Although the building technically belongs to Catholic Campus Ministries, it is shared with other religious organizations and serves as a place to gather and hold dinner events. More groups, such as Hillel, expect to receive their own facilities later. For now, the Newman Center functions in the way religion or spirituality should — by bringing people together.

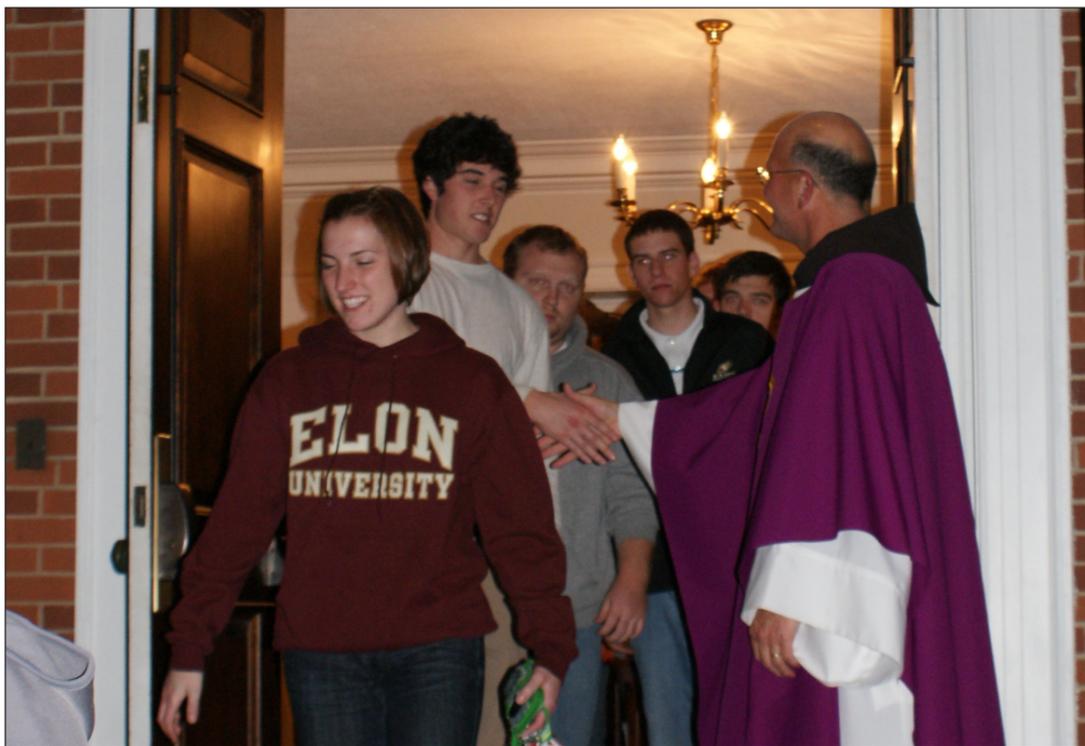
Steven Norris, a junior and Catholic, said religion puts life into perspective and is essential. Norris participates in InterVarsity, a multi-denominational organization on campus, and co-facilitates a small discussion group with fellow junior Angie Hannah. The group meets once a week to tackle and discuss tough questions that aren't answered by the church.

"I think most people on campus, including myself, have a sense of faith," Norris said. "But the majority are searching for the specifics of our faith. I think it has a lot to do with where we are at this time in our life."

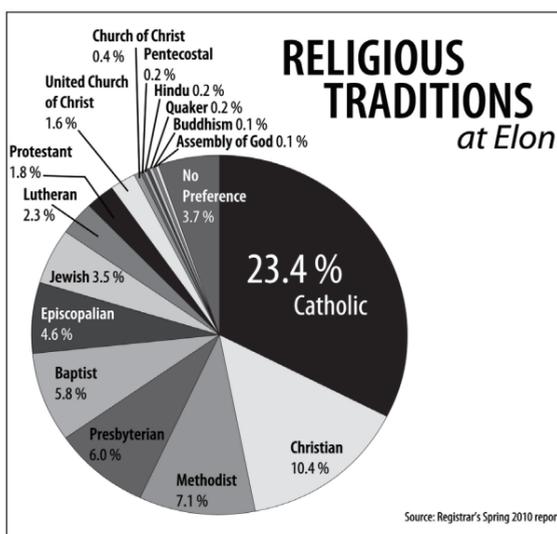
Hannah explained that her involvement with religious organizations on campus has a lot to do with community building and fellowship, not just religion.

"It's about having a community you can go to whenever you need help," Hannah said. "I think too often people focus on how our religions are different instead of focusing on what we have in common. InterVarsity gives us a chance to do just that. It brings people together who have similar beliefs, but don't even know it."

But devotion isn't easy when students are taking 18 or more credits a semester, especially if a student is involved in other groups.



Rev. Gerry Waterman, who ministers to the university's Catholic community, said he is constantly impressed by the strength of Elon students' faith. HEATHER CASSANO | Staff Photographer



Sophomore Charlie Johnson explained that while he considers himself a religious Presbyterian, his religious activity takes a backseat while he is on campus.

"I've been to church three times since I've been

to Elon but I go to church every Sunday when I'm home," Johnson said. "It's difficult to get to church and people don't expect you to go, it's sort of excused."

Although Christian denominations are the majority on campus, a significant amount of students, almost 30 percent, chose not to indicate religious preference. A smaller amount (3.7 percent) indicated no preference.

Freshman Caitlyn Wang Fleisig explained she decided not to release her religious preference when she filed her application to attend Elon.

"I just didn't understand," Wang Fleisig said. "What purpose is there in knowing that? If there is one, I didn't think it would serve me well identifying myself as an atheist in a Christian school."

Junior Cody Greene considers himself "pretty much nothing." But Greene participates in Iron Tree Blooming, the Zen meditation group on society. Although meditation is primarily considered a Buddhist practice, it is also a way for people to concentrate and center themselves in this hectic and hurried modern age. The form allows Greene to clear his head and de-stress.

"It's spiritual but not religious, it's an extension of living with compassion," Greene said. "It's having faith, but not in religion. It's having a sense of purpose."

Chatroulette vs. CampusLIVE: Is the new college-student-gear alternative safer?

Lindsay Kimble
Copy Editor

Bored? Why not video chat with a random stranger? Many people today choose to do exactly that by accessing the increasingly popular Chatroulette.com. Chatroulette, which generates a live webcam connection with you and a stranger, has gained rapid popularity, as well as scrutiny. CampusLIVE, a college-based Web site has recently incorporated a video feature similar to Chatroulette, raising the question whether or not the restricted access for only students will make a difference in safety.

The 3-month-old Web site is free and requires no registration, merely a webcam and a microphone. Chatroulette is the brainchild of 17-year-old Andrey Ternovskiy, who hails from Moscow.

Chatroulette, advertised as a "game," displays a stranger's video box on the left, as well as your own and provides an AIM-like chat box to the right if audio is disabled. The site has thousands of users a day, and at peak times, up to 85,000 people are online available for chatting, according to a CBS News story. While users often can meet strangers with interesting stories to share there is an equally high risk of encountering users engaging in illicit sexual behavior in front of the camera.

So why do people keep pressing "next"? Curiosity. Freshman Alex Lake, who uses the site for entertainment

purposes, has been able to find connections through Chatroulette.

"I met people in Minnesota that knew people I also knew, so that was really cool," Lake said.

Other people use Chatroulette as a way to meet new people.

"I haven't done Chatroulette that many times," freshman Will Brisco said. "But it's interesting to meet people. My friends and I have fun with it."

The Web site has received just as much scrutiny as it has visitors, though. The site states an age limit of 16 years or older, but no authentication is required. Some have referred to the Web site as a "pedophileparadise," as young users are readily available to accidentally stumble upon predators.

"There is a lot of illegal activity on this site that is hard to enforce," said Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, in a CBSNews.com article.

But Lake disagrees and said the site is only detrimental when used incorrectly.

"It's really only dangerous when you are using it in the wrong way. Obviously you shouldn't tell people a lot of personal information," he said.

Users are discouraged from chatting alone in the random roulette and are encouraged to always have their mouse readily available to click "next."

"Just about anything in our culture can be dangerous or just

plain fun," said Carol Nix, School of Communications faculty member.

"Every technological advance brings about the need to examine our collective responsibility, civility and common sense" Nix said. "The exposure to unsavory or illicit material is unquestionably increased due to technology. It is how we respond to the imminent progression of these forms of social media that is critical."

Even some graphic genitalia doesn't seem to deter Elon students. Freshman Lizzy Larson uses Chatroulette with friends and has come across some interesting images, yet she continues to visit the Web site.

"No, I have not stopped using the site," Larson said. "The images just adds to the hilarity. I think it's really funny, but I see how it could be offensive to some."

Nix can see the positive side of Chatroulette as well.

"In a utopian world, a site like Chatroulette could ultimately be an inspiring way to exchange new ideas and mutually educate and entertain its users," Nix said. "It could expose us to entirely new worlds and provide exciting global collaborative opportunities."

In 2007, students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst founded CampusLIVE, coined "The College Homepage." The Web site encompasses university e-mail, athletics and news as well as links to Facebook and Twitter. The Web

site, which released a homepage for Elon students on March 1, has newly incorporated a videochat feature similar to Chatroulette.

"It's based on Chatroulette, but we had the vision of creating a videochat tool that's strictly for college students," said Jess Morgan, director of marketing for CampusLIVE.

Aiming to avoid the same dangers Chatroulette poses, CampusLIVE requires students to use their university e-mail address when registering to use the Web site, to ensure their status as college students.

"Students have the ability to call up and videochat with their Facebook friends who are registered users of CampusLIVE, or to find a random college student from all over the country," Morgan said. "This is also a free alternative to talking to your friends who are abroad. Most importantly, we have eliminated the people that make Chatroulette creepy."

While the site has received less usage than Chatroulette, Morgan says they only began heavily marketing it March 21.

"We have received nothing but positive feedback and some great ideas from the students," Morgan said. "In the future we will be adding filtering options so you can narrow down who you want to come across in the random search. The possibilities are endless, and we will be looking for the students to contribute ideas."

Rip_Chord

Men's a cappella group becomes more complex, plans for second CD

Ashley Barnas
Senior Reporter

Midnight Meals, a generally routine event for Rip_Chord, showcased three new songs, a touching moment for an alumnus and an exciting announcement for Elon's all-male a cappella group: plans are in the works for a second CD.

The group came out with its first CD, "Resisting A_Rest," last spring, but since then the group has continued working toward musical growth.

"I think the group's come a long way in the musical sense," sophomore and Rip_Chord president Chris Kilgore said. "Now we're not just a random group of guys singing 'Stacey's Mom' and 'Hey Juliet.' I think we're a legitimate a cappella group, and a force to be reckoned with."

When sophomore Dave Kerman approached the microphone to sing the first few haunting notes of a new song, "Danny Boy," the usual noisy ambiance of Irazu fell dead as silence stole over the audience.

A music education major, Kerman was in jazz choir in high school. He said "Danny Boy" is the only professionally arranged song the group has right now. Though it's much slower than Rip_Chord's usual song choices, it's a contemporary arrangement. Arrangements have gotten more complex in general.

"All of our arrangements used to be four parts and now it's five or six parts," senior Patrick Lane said. "It seems minor but it's a big difference."

Freshman Connor Stirland added that since there are fewer people singing each part, every individual in the group has to hold his own. Everyone is trying harder because of it, he said. And each member knows multiple parts to one song.

Stirland has been singing his entire life and was in an a cappella group during his junior and senior years of high school. He wanted to be in a band in college, but ended up arranging one a cappella song senior year and loved it. Stirland saw Rip_Chord on a visit to campus during pre-orientation weekend.

"It was somewhere in between 'Chasing Cars' and 'Disney Medley' and I was like, 'I want to be part of this group,'" Stirland said. He talked to some of the

guys who have now graduated and "decided there were some sweet bros in the group."

Stirland is a music technology and business double major. Kilgore is also a business major who plays guitar and said he would love to do something with music for the rest of his life.

Kilgore was in a men's a cappella group as a high school senior but did not sing before then. He heard about Rip_Chord when he came to orientation and met now-senior Chris Beeson, the music director at the time.

"Basically, I wanted to be a part of a group of guys that can have a lot of fun and sing," Kilgore said.

The difference between the group now and the group that founded Rip_Chord three-and-a-half years ago is "a lot of young blood, young talent that hit the ground running," junior Greg Flis said.

The group still goofs around a lot, they said, but that never stops them from getting their job done. At the beginning of this year, they were learning five new songs, three of which debuted at Midnight Meals March 18.

"Chasing Cars" made a comeback as a spur of the moment encore. Tom Boyd, who graduated in 2009, rode in on his motorcycle to see the group's Midnight Meals performance. He had no idea he would be invited on stage for the encore song.

"There's just something in my eyes," he said when he was called up to the microphone. "I'm not crying."

The lyrics "I don't quite know how to say how I feel" could not have been more appropriate for how Boyd was feeling. He said his legs were shaking as he experienced stage fright all over again.

"These days will never change for us at all," Boyd sang.

"Words cannot express," Boyd said after the performance. "I can't even say anything."

With a concert coming up April 10, and the promise of a new CD, Rip_Chord is looking to help the five seniors go out with a bang.

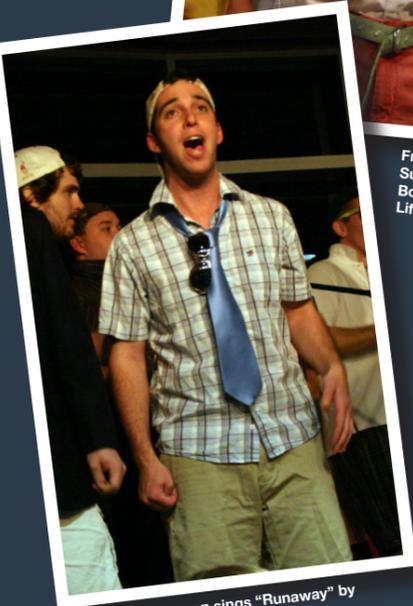
"This is the last of the founding members in the group, so we're really trying to put on a good spring show," Kilgore said. "This whole semester we've been working toward that to kind of honor them."



Senior Dan Rickershauser and junior Greg Flis sing a new version of "Real Men of Genius" involving the railroad tunnel underpass.



Freshman Aaron Summers sings Bon Jovi's "It's My Life."



Senior Chris Beeson sings "Runaway" by Love and Theft as part of a trio.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY BARNAS | Photographer



Congratulations to Elon University's Phi Beta Kappa 2010 Inductees

Phi Beta Kappa Society, founded in 1776, is the nation's oldest & most prestigious academic honor society, and has for more than two centuries fostered the principles of freedom of inquiry & liberty of thought & expression. The letters ΦΒΚ represent the Greek initials of the society's motto, "Love of learning is the guide of life." Elon University is honored to shelter the Eta Chapter, to be established on April 13, 2010.

Carly Erin Altizer
Jennifer Leigh Batchelor
Alexandra Megan Bauernschub
Ryan Matthew Bleam
Amanda Kathryn Brown
Devon Nicole Brown
James Dorsey Burns
Margeaux Rose Corby
Parker Conrad Cramer
Kelsey Christine Davis
Ashley Morrow Day
Lorelle Marie Dennis
Danielle Nicole Dufour
Kimberly Brooke Duggins
Katrina Jane Folsom
Alexandra Laine Ford

Sarah Catherine Foushee
Jordan Leigh Frederick
Melissa Katherine Gaiser
Sabine Martina Gempel
Cynthia Anne Goodson
Benjamin Carey Goodwin
Roberta Jo Hawthorne
Grace Anna Helms
Eva Christine Jorgensen-Graham
Amanda Danielle Kennison
Elisabeth Paige Kensrue
Carolyn Marie Kurtz
Jonathan Smith Mahlandt
Katherine Leigh Meyer
Kelsey Anne Miller
Paul Stephen Mirek

Mariana McLean Rohrbach Poole
Monica Deshay Poteat
Nichole Marie Rawlings
Julia Elinor Roberts
Patricia Michele Serdy
Daniel Marshall Sharpe Jr.
Kristine Elizabeth Silvestri
Joseph Allen Simmons
Martha McNeill Smart
Heather Nicole Smith
Avra Weisberg Stackpole
Amanda Rose Stampis
Jenna Danielle Stout
Hannah Elizabeth Williams
Amanda Brittany Wilson

Foundation Members:
Dr. Leo Lambert
Dr. Steven House

Only 10% of arts & sciences graduates at 10% of US colleges & universities are selected for Phi Beta Kappa. Members exemplify intellectual integrity, tolerance, & a broad range of academic interests and include 17 US Presidents & 38 US Supreme Court Justices.

CD REVIEW

★★★★☆

'Broken Bells' could use a little fixing

Anna Johnson
Managing Editor

Brian Burton, a.k.a. Danger Mouse, was an early follower of trip-hop and rose to the attention of the music world after releasing "The Grey Album", a mixing of Jay Z's "Black Album" and The Beatles' "White Album." James Mercer has helped The Shins stay consistent as the lead singer/songwriter and guitarist, and pushed the band to become one of the leading indie-rock groups of the late '90s.

Burton and Mercer have a few things in common: they are both known for collaboration and side projects, and they are fan of each other's work. And now the two are united under one flag: Broken Bells.

The self-titled debut album of Broken Bells was kept a secret until September 2009, despite the fact the two met and discussed working together as early as 2004 and actual recording of the album began in 2008.

The 10-track album was released March 9. Throughout the album, elements of both artists can be found, whether it's in the ethereal and space-psychedelic sounds of the album's two singles "The High Road" and "Vaporize," or in the overlapping and swelling voices in "Trap Doors."

For the majority of the album, pop-airy melodies with slight overtones of experimental soft beats fill the listener's ear. There is little variation within the album with the exception of the more somber tracks "Mongrel Heart" and "Citizen."

In "Mongrel Heart," the song is interrupted by static played over rising ominous hums and trumpets, creating an eerie western feeling in the middle of the song before jumping back to the chorus.

"Trap Doors" teases the listener with slight raises throughout the verses before reaching the height of the song. And, all the while, the song makes the ear fight between the competing lyrics during the chorus. The lyrics attempt to go beyond the obvious: "And close your



PHOTO COURTESY OF CDUNIVERSE.COM

eyes to us/fight fire/trap doors to endless wisdom/young lad/have we grown too tired/longing to find."

The downside of the album is it lacks real substance and variation. While containing some great tracks, the album lasts a mere 37 minutes and offers little real difference in sound amongst the different tracks. The two artists are currently touring across the nation and it can be expected the songs will change and grow as they continue to play with each other. Both artists are talented and experienced, but it may take a long time for them to settle into their own and put Broken Bells on the music scene map.

TV SHOW REVIEW

★★★★☆



Guy Fieri, Food Network chef and now host of "Minute to Win it," at his new restaurant, Tex Wasabi's in Sacramento, Calif.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS

'Minute to Win It' misses the mark

Rachel Southmayd
Senior Reporter

During the Winter Olympics in February, NBC used copious amounts of commercial time to hype the new game show "Minute to Win It." While in theory the show seems entertaining, it is a waste of sixty minutes, and nobody wins.

The concept of the show is simple and a sort of Cinderella story. Any person can come on, chat with Guy Fieri (most well known for his work on several Food Network shows including "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives") and then play a few games that are each 60 seconds long, using regular household objects to try and score cash.

The idea of minute-long games seemed like a great idea for the attention-challenged. Shorter games should mean more games per show and therefore less banter and filler. No such luck with "Minute."

In the first hour-long segment, the contestant only played five games, repeating two of the same challenges because he failed the first time and lost a life. The rest of the time was filled with mindless

chit-chat between Fieri and the contestant, and annoying NBC.com promos.

Before and after each commercial break, a two-to-three minute promotion for the "Minute to Win It" Web site would play, advertising people playing the games at home. It made the entire show more like one long commercial than an actual game show.

The games themselves run the gamut from amusing to just plain stupid. While stacking washers with only a chopstick definitely requires a great deal of skill and precision, there was nothing compelling about watching the contestant try to empty an entire box of tissues with just one hand. And while the triple ping-pong bounce into a fishbowl was mildly amusing, watching the contestant try to bob his head 135 times in the 60-second period just seemed painful for him and the audience.

The entire episode of "Minute to Win It" was also over-dramatized with a surreal, cool female voice describing each game while a computerized animation was displayed, and then counting down

to the start of each minute. It was very reminiscent of the voice that one might hear as they wait for the start of a ride in Disney World.

Another bizarre feature of the show was the projection screens at the back of the audience that continually changed appearance. While this may not have seemed odd when it was showing a swirl of colors or numbers counting down the minute, it was very strange when it actually projected images of audience members cheering enthusiastically for the contestant. That's right, they created fake people to make the actual studio audience seem larger.

While some game shows can owe a great deal of their success to their host, "Minute to Win It" is not going to be one of them. Fieri is forgettable and odd, and charismatically indistinguishable from contestants, unlike his better work on Food Network.

NBC may have hyped up "Minute to Win It," but viewership will likely drop within a few weeks. It is an interesting concept, but overall the show fails to follow through.

New life for spring trends



Alexandra Johnston
Fashion Columnist

Since the economy still isn't back to what is was, shopping secondhand, vintage and thrift stores is a viable alternative to department stores and expensive retail. Not

only are the prices significantly lower, but it also is much easier to find one-of-a-kind current or vintage pieces.

Unexpected Trends: Thrift stores can be a great way to get the season's trends without springing for the designer price tag. One trend this season is high-waisted pleated pants for women, a throw back to 1940s styles, worn around the natural waist with a belt and flowy blouse. At thrift stores, try looking for men's pleated pants. The cut of the pants are smaller at the waist, but curve out in the hips and taper back off significantly near the ankle. If the right fit can be found, these pants create a great silhouette.

Another trend this spring is denim shirts, which are common on the shelves of thrift and secondhand stores. Look for one made of a light-weight denim, it will become softer with every wash and wear. Just beware of tacky holiday embroidered denim shirts.

Buyer Beware: Shopping secondhand is not an easy task and there are challenges that come with it. First, look out for variations in sizing. If buying vintage, or even clothes from 10 years ago, make sure to try them on. In 1940 a size 12 was more similar to the present-day size four or six. Second, be sure to look for holes, stains or snags in the garment, which may render them unwearable. If it seems fixable, be sure to ask for a slight price reduction.

Most secondhand stores will also buy gently used clothing and provide the owner with either cash or store credit. This is a great way to trade some old things for something "new." If the stores won't take the garments, donate them to an organization in need such as Goodwill or The Salvation Army.

Locations: There are several great thrift and secondhand stores in the Burlington area. The Salvation Army Family Store, located just off Church Street in the Davis Street Plaza, is a great store that has men's, women's and children's apparel as well as housewares and accessories. Twice is Nice Vintage and Consignment down the street from Elon on Saint Marks Church Road is another great location. This more boutique style shop has clothes ranging from the '30s and '40s to today. While the prices are a little higher, the quality of the product is also better.

Other thrift stores include Goodwill and Good Samaritan Super Thrift both on North Church Street. Keep in mind that the stock in the stores changes frequently so it is a good idea to check back in every few weeks to see what's new.

Whether shopping for the best new trends at affordable prices, or the perfect costume for the next party, thrift and vintage shopping can be the answer to many shopping needs. Keep in mind these tips and ideas to ensure that each trip is successful.

Softball's win secures second spot in SoCon

Pam Richter
Editor-in-Chief

Sophomore pitcher Erin O'Shea dug her cleat into the rubber as she struck out College of Charleston's outfielder Amanda Lonergan looking to get out of a jam in the fifth inning. The Phoenix went on to win Sunday's game 5-4 and took two games out of three in the weekend series against College of Charleston. Elon will travel to North Carolina A&T University at 2:30 p.m. today in a doubleheader.

With the win on Sunday, the Phoenix earned its seventh Southern Conference victory of the season, which surpassed last season's total as the team went 6-15 in conference. The Phoenix is 20-7 overall and 7-2 in the SoCon this season.

"We're a mentally tough team," head coach Patti Raduenz said. "They believe in each other. That's the big difference in where we were from a year ago to now."

After the Phoenix's first inning in Sunday's game, the Phoenix had a 2-0 lead after O'Shea doubled scored with two runners. The Phoenix added two more runs in the second inning.

O'Shea said it was helpful to pitch with an early lead, but tries not to worry about it that much, telling herself that it is a 0-0 game.

The Cougars responded in the fifth, scoring a run in each inning and chipping into the Phoenix's lead.

The Phoenix ultimately halted the Cougars' comeback in the seventh. Elon freshman pitcher Kari Pervell entered the game and got the final batter to ground out.

"It was definitely a team win and we battled the whole game," O'Shea said. "Defense was there when pitching wasn't."

Both Raduenz and O'Shea said winning two out of three against College of Charleston was important for the team.

"Each conference weekend we play three games," Raduenz said. "We look at each game as a battle but we want to win the war."

The Phoenix is currently in second place in the SoCon behind University of Tennessee Chattanooga. The Mocs stand at 6-0 in the conference and 22-8 overall. The Phoenix will face the Mocs beginning April 17.

Now, at the midpoint in the season, Raduenz said one of the challenges the team faces is to keep up the same excitement that it started within the beginning of the season.

"This is the time of year when you find the character of your team," Raduenz said.

Since N.C. A&T is not in the SoCon, these two games will give the Phoenix the opportunity to work on some things, Raduenz said.

"We got some things that we need to work on from an offensive execution standpoint," she said. "We just need to score runs and put runs across the plate."

The Phoenix resumes conference play 1 p.m. Saturday against UNC Greensboro. The Spartans are in fifth place in the conference with a 3-2 SoCon record and a 13-15 overall record.



ONE ON ONE

Conor O'Neill and Russell Varner
Sports Commentators

March Madness

Cinderella anyone? After 61 games of madness, we're down to four teams left in the NCAA Tournament. Butler University, Duke University, Michigan State University and West Virginia University have officially wrecked everybody's bracket, and now we head to Indianapolis for the Final Four. Who will win Saturday's matchups, and who will be crowned champion on April 5?

Conor O'Neill:

Two weeks ago, when we published our tournament preview story, I was quite confident in my picks of Syracuse University to win the championship and Kansas University to easily make the Final Four. Now that the tournament has shown me yet again that I have no idea what I'm talking about, I'd like to make some more incorrect picks.

For the Butler-Michigan State game, how could you pick against Tom Izzo? This is a team that blew a 15-point halftime lead against the University of Maryland, then killed Cinderella in ousting Northern Iowa University and finally physically dominated a more athletic University of Tennessee team. But I am picking against them because the Butler Bulldogs are a more successful version of Gonzaga University. It starts with head coach Brad Stevens, the 33-year-old who looks closer to being 13-years-old. How scary is it to think what kind of coach he'll be with more experience. And the Bulldogs' best player, sophomore Gordon Hayward, looks like he is nine years old. But he plays with such experience and intelligence, fans must think he is playing 40 years after his time. I look for Butler to beat Izzo's Spartans and continue their "Hoosiers"-like story.

Russell Varner:

I completely agree with you on this game, Conor. How can you go against the most lovable team of this tournament? They are the first team to have "home court advantage" in the Final Four since UCLA in the 1970s. But, I think Tom Izzo is going to be the great equalizer in this. In a game like this, would you rather trust a 33-year-old coach who has never been to the Final Four or a coach who has brought his team to the Final Four four out of the last six years? And yes, Michigan State has lost Kalin Lucas for the tournament, but Raymar Morgan and Korie Lucious have stepped up their play big in his absence. I would love to see Butler's Cinderella story continue (you got to love those mid-majors), but I just can't see them beating Michigan State.

Conor:

Yes, Izzo is a great coach, but I feel like

Butler's defensive intensity will be the difference. Speaking of defensive intensity, how good has Duke looked so far in the tournament? The Blue Devils have held their opponents to 56 points per game, and have proven that they were underrated throughout the season. In their Elite Eight victory over Baylor, Kyle Singler went 0-10 from the field. But because of Nolan Smith and Jon Scheyer, this team kept rolling with a 78-71 win.

West Virginia did beat the most talented team in the tournament in Kentucky, but the Mountaineers will not be able to give up 22 offensive rebounds, (as they did against Kentucky), in their matchup against Duke. I see a Duke-Butler contest in the final, and while it's easy to say the hometown-team will prevail, I don't think the Bulldogs can match the Blue Devils in both defensive intensity and size. Coach K will have brought another championship to Tobacco Road by this time next week.

Russell:

This is true, but at the same time, who have they played? University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, University of California, Berkeley and the weakest three and four seeds in the tournament, Baylor University and a Robbie Hummel-less Purdue University, respectively. This is not to take away from Duke's talent; this is to say they haven't faced a team of West Virginia's caliber. The key to Duke is Brian Zoubek. He is what Duke has not had since Carlos Boozer left — an inside presence. The problem is he is very susceptible to getting in foul trouble, and Duke will need him and his rebounds this game.

I think West Virginia will pull it out in the end, because they will be inspired by the return of Truck Bryant, will get great play from DaSean Butler and will shut down Duke's three-point shooting. They took out University of Kentucky's three-point shots (though some of them UK missed by themselves, not thanks to anything West Virginia did), which was the major key in their victory. It will be a relatively low-scoring chess match between Bob Huggins and Coach K, at least until the end of the game when Jon Scheyer and Butler try to take the games over late. Call it a hunch, but I say West Virginia wins. And why listen to my hunches you ask? Well, last time I had a hunch, it was that West Virginia would beat Kentucky to advance to the Final Four.

ELON ATHLETICS THIS WEEK

MARCH 31 - APRIL 6

Wednesday 3/31

Men's tennis @ UNC Greensboro - 2:30 p.m.
Softball @ North Carolina A&T - 2:30 p.m.
Softball @ North Carolina A&T - 2:30 p.m.
Baseball vs. Wake Forest - 7 p.m.

Friday 4/2

Track & field (Duke Invitational) - All Day
Softball @ UNC Greensboro - 5 p.m.
Baseball @ UNC Greensboro - 7 p.m.

Saturday 4/3

Men's golf (Irish Creek Collegiate) - All Day
Track & field (Duke Invitational) - All Day
Women's tennis vs. Samford - 11 a.m.
Softball @ UNC Greensboro - 1 p.m.
Baseball @ UNC Greensboro - 2 p.m.
Softball @ UNC Greensboro - 3 p.m.

Sunday 4/4

Men's golf (Irish Creek Collegiate) - All Day
Baseball @ UNC Greensboro - 1 p.m.

Monday 4/5

Women's Golf (Mimosa Hills Invitational) - All Day

Tuesday 4/6

Men's tennis vs. Davidson - 3 p.m.
Women's tennis vs. Davidson - 3 p.m.
Women's golf (Mimosa Hills Invitational) - All Day
Baseball vs. North Carolina - 7 p.m.

ATHLETIC RESULTS

MARCH 17 - MARCH 29

Baseball

March 19
Elon 4
The Citadel 9

March 20
Elon 15
The Citadel 20

March 21
Elon 8
The Citadel 11

March 23
Elon 15
Clemson 10

March 24
Elon 4
Clemson 3

March 26

Elon 8
Davidson 3

March 27
Elon 12
Davidson 4

March 27
Elon 4
Davidson 2

Softball

March 17
North Carolina A&T 0
Elon 1

March 20
Appalachian State 5
Elon 2

March 20
Appalachian State 0
Elon 1

March 21
Appalachian State 2
Elon 3

March 23
Elon 13
Coastal Carolina 13

March 23
Elon 0
Coastal Carolina 2

March 27
College of Charleston 0
Elon 8

March 27
College of Charleston 4

Elon 1
March 28
College of Charleston 4
Elon 5

Men's Tennis

March 17
Elon 1
Radford 6

March 22
Elon 3
College of Charleston 4

March 23
Elon 3
The Citadel 4

Women's Tennis

March 17
Appalachian State 0
Elon 7

March 22
Elon 5
Georgia Southern 2

March 24
Elon 2
College of Charleston 5

Baseball approaches important SoCon play

Conor O'Neill
Assistant Sports Editor

Going into this weekend's games against University of North Carolina Greensboro, the Elon University baseball team will attempt to carry the momentum it has established during the past week, head coach Mike Kennedy said.

Following a weekend in which the team was swept by The Citadel, the Phoenix traveled to fifth-ranked Clemson University and won two games last week. The team won its first game 15-10 and took the second contest 4-3 in 10 innings.

Elon then traveled to Davidson College during the weekend and swept the Wildcats, earning 8-3, 12-4 and 4-2 (11 innings) victories.

The series sweep against Davidson ran the team's record to 5-4 in the Southern Conference.

Current standings have the Phoenix tied with the College of Charleston for fourth in the SoCon.

"With the way The Citadel is playing, every weekend is important," Kennedy said. "I told our guys that we have to show up and be ready to play, and we can't give any games away at this point with the way (The Citadel) is playing. All we can control is how we play."

Kennedy said the big difference between the team's performance against The Citadel and Davidson was the pitching.

The improvement in pitching cannot be traced to one player on the team. According to junior pitcher Jared Kernodle, the pitching staff as a whole is starting to come together.

"We're starting to figure out our roles," Kernodle said. "Everybody is doing their part, and we had some freshmen step up big at Clemson for us to get those two wins."

The bullpen put up an efficient



FILE PHOTO
Senior catcher Mike Melillo gets set at the plate March 16 against UNC Wilmington. Against Davidson College, Melillo scored two runs, batting a combined .333.

showing in the second game of the trip to Clemson. Freshman Jim Stokes, juniors Mitch Conner and Thomas Girdwood and senior Ryan Adams combined for two hits allowed and five strikeouts in 6.2 innings pitched in the Phoenix 4-3 victory.

Kernodle has also done his part in the Phoenix pitching staff. A reliever for his first two years at Elon, he is 2-0 in five starts for the Phoenix this season, with an ERA of 3.72.

When asked how he was able to transition from the bullpen to the rotation, Kernodle was quick to point to assistant coach Nick Brannon.

"I give a lot of credit to coach Brannon," Kernodle said. "He and I have gotten more work in to get my

endurance up. He's also worked with me to be more of a pitcher than a thrower."

Kernodle has surrendered just four walks compared to 24 strikeouts in 29 innings pitched.

Another player who has had a larger impact for the team this season than last has been Adams. The senior first baseman, who also pitches, has belted eight home runs so far this year. Last year, he hit just two.

"I'm just seeing the ball well right now," Adams said. "I worked hard in the offseason, got in the best shape I could be in, and I've been hitting a lot with (associate head coach Greg Starbuck)."

Last season, when the Phoenix won the regular season conference crown, the team began SoCon play with a 3-3 mark. Its final conference record was 23-4.

Kennedy said for the team to make a similar run this season, the offense must manufacture more runs.

"Offensively, we have to continue to get better," Kennedy said. "We've struggled at times, and I think we need to work on getting on base more than hits. We just have to get on base and produce runs."

As Adams is one of the hitters leading the Phoenix offense, he said he sees the team as being very capable of stringing together many SoCon victories.

"We're a very different team this year," Adams said. "But I can easily see us doing the same exact thing we did last year. We got on a roll already so if we just keep going we can roll wins off and not look back."

The team will take the field at 7 p.m. tonight at home, looking to improve when it plays Wake Forest University, an ACC team that offers more top-level competition for the Phoenix as the team moves into the heart of conference action.

SPORTS BRIEF

Baseball players receive honors

Elon University junior pitcher Jimmy Reyes garnered national attention Monday when Collegiate Baseball named him one of the "Louisville Slugger's" National Players of the Week.

Also on Monday, senior first basemen Ryan Adams became the Southern Conference Player of the Week. Both awards came after sweeps against No. 5 Clemson University and Davidson College.

Women's golf earns fourth place at the UNCW Lady Seahawk Classic

After shooting 933 as a team in the tournament, the Elon University women's golf team finished fourth in UNC Wilmington's tournament March 22 and 23.

Senior Tara McFadden finished third individually, securing her second SoCon Player of the Week award of the season.

Women's tennis sits in second place in the SoCon

The Elon University women's tennis team played two conference matches during Spring Break, resulting in a win and a loss to bring the overall record to 13-4 and the SoCon record to 3-1.

March 21, the team defeated Georgia Southern 5-2 in Statesboro, Ga., before falling to the College of Charleston 2-5. This brings the team to second in the SoCon, behind College of Charleston.

Men's golf finished 16th in Furman-hosted tournament

At the Furman Invitational March 19 through 21, the Elon University men's golf team finished 16th in a field of 24 with a score of 917 (308-303-306).

Clemson University won the event, posting a 865 (289-294-282).

Mellow Mushroom

April Showers Bring...

LIVE MUSIC to Mellow!
bands start at 9 pm

April 1st	Me and My Monkey (Blues/Rock)
April 8th	To Be Determined
April 15th	Hitmen (Contemporary Rock)
April 22nd	The Ends (Rock/Funk)
April 29th	Selah Dubb (Reggae)

LADIES' NIGHT EVERY THURSDAY
1/2 price wine, \$3 rum and cokes, \$5 Appletinis,
1/2 price appetizers after 9pm

Mon., April 5th

MELLOW MAYHEM

Come out and cheer for the NCAA Championship

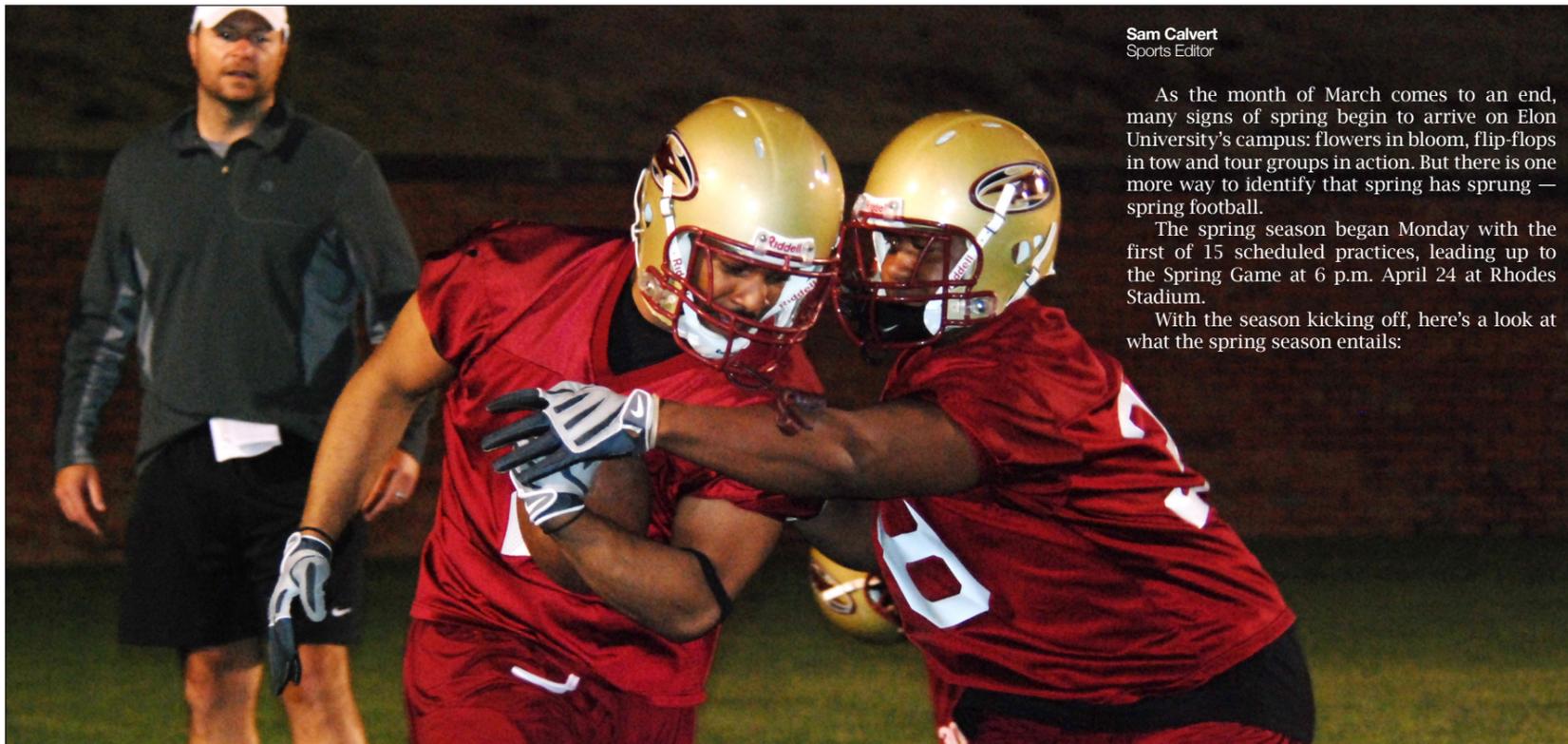
Test your basketball smarts with NCAA trivia and win prizes!

\$2 Bud Lights \$3 Shock Tops
all domestic bottles \$2.25

Join us on the Mellow patio!
the best place to dine and drink on a spring weekend.

Sports

THE PHOENIX SPRING FOOTBALL HEATING UP: STARTS NEW SEASON



Sam Calvert
Sports Editor

As the month of March comes to an end, many signs of spring begin to arrive on Elon University's campus: flowers in bloom, flip-flops in tow and tour groups in action. But there is one more way to identify that spring has sprung — spring football.

The spring season began Monday with the first of 15 scheduled practices, leading up to the Spring Game at 6 p.m. April 24 at Rhodes Stadium.

With the season kicking off, here's a look at what the spring season entails:

MOLLEY CAREY | Staff Photographer

Junior running back Brandon Newsome attempts to rush past redshirt freshman Thonda Taylor in drills on the first day of spring practice Monday. The players practiced in just helmets in its first of 15 practices of the spring season.

Q&A WITH HEAD COACH PETE LEMBO:

Q: What is the team looking to do entering the spring season as a new cohesive group?

A: "Well, I think it's important that you build upon the confidence that they've built in previous years, while at the same time acknowledge that it is a new year, and it is a new team, and each year presents its own unique set of challenges.

One of the things that we emphasize and value the most is competition, and when it comes to spring practice, the focus is on internal competition. There's a lot of playing time that is now up for grabs due to the graduation of some of our seniors. A lot of guys that have been playing roles for us over the last year or two are now in a position where they can vie for some serious playing time in the fall."

Q: How does the internal competition during spring practices help prepare for the regular season?

A: "We're so multiple in everything we do on offense, defense and special teams that a lot of what our players see from the opposite side of the ball is similar to what

they will see from various teams on the schedule."

Q: With the loss of the seniors, how will the team fill the holes that remain after their departures?

A: "You do it every year through recruiting. The best programs have depth and have players who are anxious to get their opportunity, and so as we enter the fifth year of our tenure here, this will be a really good test of the quality of our recruiting."

Q: What is the main goal for the team this spring season?

A: "We have a number of goals in all three phases of the game that we talk about on a daily basis, but the biggest, most general goal is to develop an identity. Every team has got its own identity. Every team leaves a certain legacy.

We want our players to understand that every practice that we get under our belt puts us one step further to establishing that identity and leaving that legacy."

FILLING IN THE GAPS

At the end of the 2009 season, the Elon University football team bid farewell to 13 seniors. Those 13 players averaged playing time in almost 11.5 games, with nine of them playing in all 12 games of the season.

Head coach Pete Lembo said the hole left by these players will be felt by the team as it begins its new year with the spring season.

"Any time you lose high profile players like Terrell Hudgins or Eric Ludwig or Andre Campbell, ultimately several guys need to step up and replace great players like that," Lembo said.

Five of those seniors could be found working out a week ago for NFL scouts from teams such as the Carolina Panthers, Denver Broncos and New York Giants.

The team will work this season to try and replace these professional-caliber players this spring as the players compete for 22 starting roles come next September.

Lembo said he hopes multiple players in each position rise to the occasion to become main players and leaders on the team.

"Take, for example, our receiver core," he said. "We have some talented young guys, and hopefully it isn't just one player who steps up this spring but three or four that earn the confidence of the coaching staff and the quarterbacks and so forth."

Each team is a new team, Lembo said, and he said he hopes this team can come out of spring practice with an idea of who the 2010 Elon football team is — not who it's missing.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Although the team took the field in Rhodes Stadium for its inaugural practice of the season, most sessions will take place on Hunt and Tucker field.

"The practices themselves are very similar to preseason camp in August," head coach Pete Lembo said. "We start off just in helmets, later in the week we'll go in uppers (shoulder pads) and as we get closer to the middle of the spring practices, they'll be several small scrimmages that lead us up to the Spring Game."

2010 SPRING PRACTICE SCHEDULE

- Today – 4 p.m.
- Friday – 4 p.m.
- Saturday – 9:45 a.m.
- Monday – 7 p.m.
- April 7 – 4 p.m.
- April 9 – 4 p.m.
- April 10 – 9:45 a.m.
- April 12 – 7 p.m.
- April 14 – 4 p.m.
- April 16 – 4 p.m.
- April 17 – 9:45 a.m.
- April 19 – 7 p.m.
- April 21 – 4 p.m.
- April 24 – 6 p.m. Spring Game (Rhodes Stadium)



MOLLEY CAREY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Elon junior quarterback Scott Riddle gears up for his senior season.