



SNOW DELAYS CLASSES, PAGE 4

A CLOSER LOOK AT
BOTTLED WATER

Are tap water
fears legitimate? PAGE 8



THE PENDULUM

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www.elon.edu/pendulum



ANGIE LOVELACE | Photo Editor

'The Phantom of the Opera' dazzles audiences

Since opening night on Feb. 14, "Phantom" has received rave reviews from members of the Elon community. The performance sold out weeks in advance and profits from tickets sold to the opening show raised nearly \$50,000 in scholarship money. More than 100 students, faculty members and staff members worked on the production. Elon was one of six schools in the nation selected to perform the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical which is currently not available for community, regional or school productions. **For a full review of "The Phantom of The Opera," see page 13.**

Elon student charged with drug possession

Andie Diemer
News Editor

Around midnight on Friday Campus Police arrived at 204 Danieleley A with a search warrant in hand to enter sophomore Charles Martin Muniz's apartment. Muniz was not at the residence. When the police searched the interior of the apartment, they found enough evidence to charge him with five drug-related felonies and two misdemeanors.

According to Chuck Gantos, director of campus safety and police, the felony charges were as follows: equipment and drug paraphernalia, sale of marijuana, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling for sale and distribution of marijuana, possession of marijuana and possession of a schedule II drug. The two misdemeanor charges were for paraphernalia and possession of a weapon on educational property.

Three Danieleley residents said Muniz caught wind of the impending police investigation and didn't return to his apartment that night. At noon on the same day Muniz was still at large, but he later turned himself in to police custody with a lawyer present.

Smith Jackson, dean of student life, said campus administrators had no idea the bust was planned, since law officials are not required to inform them when it's a police-action order.

"The student was charged and is going through the campus judicial system at this point," he said.

Muniz declined to comment.

"Charlie has always been a good friend, he just made a tragic error in judgment," said junior Ryan Stimmel, a friend of Muniz. "I hope that the Elon community will withhold judgment on Charlie and understand that he is devastated by these events and truly considers Elon to be his home."

Two other students were cited for possession of marijuana during the incident. They are currently going through the campus judicial system.

For continuous updates, please visit
www.elon.edu/pendulum.

Contributions by Michelle Longo, Kaitlin Busch and Kaitlin Ugolik.

Town of Elon develops plans for sidewalks, lights

Margeaux Corby
Copy Editor

The town of Elon hosted a public meeting last Monday to discuss the construction of a walkable and bikeable Elon.

In partnership with the university, the town of Elon is working with the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments (PTCOG) in an attempt to have a pedestrian, bicycle and lighting system that will connect major residential areas in Elon. The project focuses on providing safer roads through environmentally-friendly initiatives.

Representatives of Elon University, the Alamance Bicycle Club, local business owners and Elon residents were present at the meeting.

"I just want to know which way this is going and what the general feeling is," said Greg Saldanha, owner of Sandy's Steaks and Subs.

Jesse Day, PTCOG regional planner, presented different sidewalk and lighting options the town could take advantage of and stressed the need for connectivity between walkers and their destinations.

Ideas discussed included increased bicycle parking, efficient street lighting, minimizing road widths and buffers between sidewalks and roadways.

Day also talked about reducing walking distance by connecting



MARGEAUX CORBY | Photographer

Elon community members look over a map of the town during a proposal of where bike paths, sidewalks and lighting posts may be placed.

sidewalks and initiating streetlight and sidewalk improvements at busy intersections such as North Williamson and West Haggard Avenue and the intersection of West Lebanon, West Trollinger and South Williamson Avenue at the train tracks.

"Roads are for people as well as

cars," he said.

Nearly 10 percent of Elon residents walk, and of the 25 miles of sidewalk in Elon, more than 10 miles belong to the university, Day said.

"We are excited about having a master plan to connect all these areas," said Smith Jackson, Dean of Students.

"Our interest is in how students can get where they want safely."

Residents' concerns centered on the lack of lighting on Manning Avenue, the high traffic on Williamson Avenue and the lack of sidewalk down Truitt Street and along West Trollinger Avenue, adjacent to the intramural fields.

"People who are driving tend not to like people bicycling," said Appearance Commission member Sheri James, who bicycles to work. "They get a little antsy."

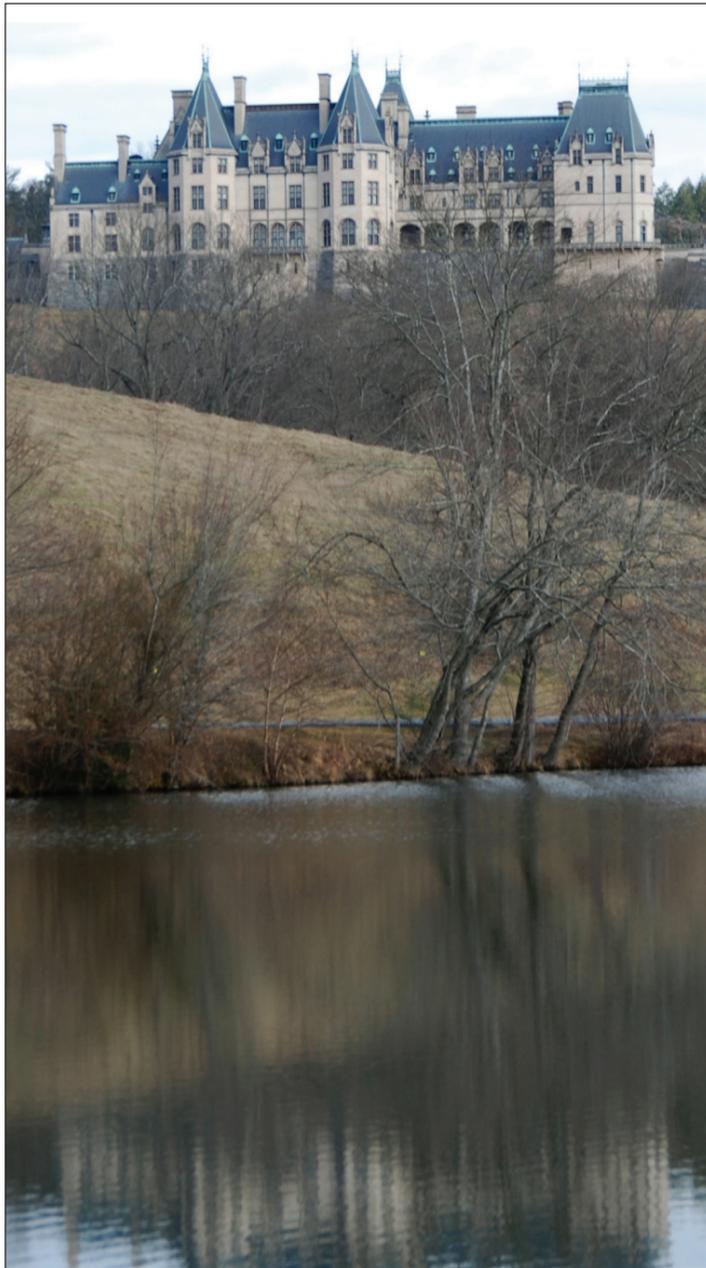
Between 2001 and 2006 there have been seven pedestrian and two bicycle crashes, a third of which occurred on Williamson Avenue.

Board member Davis Montgomery was excited that plans were being opened up to the community and a number of diverse opinions were heard. He stressed the changes would only improve quality of life in Elon.

"It will be a safer more secure and enjoyable place to walk around and get some exercise," he said.

A survey questionnaire has gone out to many Elon residents asking their opinion of future town plans. Focus groups consisting of Elon residents and university students and staff will be formed in March to further develop the bicycle, pedestrian and lighting plans.

"We need to have connections between the places we go," Day said. "We need non-motorized connections."



Biltmore Estate, America's largest privately-owned home, stands on a hill overlooking the lagoon. The house was first opened in 1895.

The sights at *Biltmore Estate*

Photos by Mitch Pittman

On Feb. 16, the Resident Student Association took a trip to Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C. The estate, which took six years to build, still stands as America's largest privately-owned home. The house was officially opened in 1895 by George Vanderbilt and was initially used as a country retreat for the Vanderbilt family. It features four acres of floor space, 250 rooms, 34 bedrooms, 43 bathrooms and 65 fireplaces.

RIGHT: Seventeen Elon students participated in the Saturday trip. Here a group of them reflects after spending two hours walking through the house.
BELOW: Freshman Kirsten Bennett poses with Biltmore Estate. The house is open to public tours daily.



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Story Center resident reports intruder

Propped door to Colclough suite opens opportunity to trespassers

Andie Diemer
News Editor

Around 2 p.m. on Feb. 12 a female student reported to her resident assistant that she witnessed an unidentified male enter her suite in Colclough Hall and stand outside the bathroom.

The suite door had been propped open, but the student said the man didn't enter any other rooms or seem to notice she was in the suite.

"The student's room door was slightly open so she could see he stood in the hallway of the suite for 30 to 45 seconds before departing," a security notice e-mail from Dean of Students Smith Jackson said.

The man, who was described as wearing a dark brown or blue wind breaker, 5-foot-10-inches and around 40 years old, has yet to be identified or questioned.

Campus Police Lieutenant Vickie Moehlman said a plain-clothed officer has been dispatched in a non-marked car to survey campus, but no similar case has been reported.

Freshman Julianne Simpson, a resident of neighboring building

Maynard, said the break-in has made her a little edgy.

"We used to prop our door open all day and now it is never propped," she said.

She was concerned about why she received an e-mail at 10:06 p.m., even though the event happened eight hours earlier.

Moehlman said the incident was delayed since it was first reported to an RA, and then later transferred to campus security due to a "good reason" by the student at the time.

While she said it was a credible excuse, there is never a reason good enough to delay calling security.

Freshman Erik Kendall, also a freshman resident of Story Center, said he was not even aware of the event and does not feel in danger.

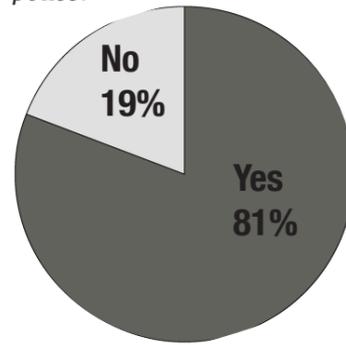
"That kind of stuff happens and it is unfortunate, but it is impossible to monitor everything at all times," he said. "Elon is a very safe-feeling place."

Moehlman said she hopes there will be no future incidents with the intruder, but said no matter the instance and even if a student is not sure, he or she should contact the

police immediately. Doors should also remain locked at all times.

"You know you have that sense of community, but you also have the responsibility to protect your community," Moehlman said.

According to an unscientific voluntary online poll conducted by The Pendulum Feb. 15-18, 100 Elon students were asked: If you saw someone mysterious try to enter a room on campus, would you contact campus police?



Competition heats up after Potomac primaries

Derek Kiszely
Commentator

Like a pro-surfer from his home state of Hawaii, Sen. Barack Obama is showing some serious skill as he "hangs ten" and rides atop a wave of momentum with nothing but sunny skies ahead.

The question everyone's asking is: Can this wave carry him all the way to the Democratic National Convention, where he could be awarded the title of "World Surfing Champion" — or "Democratic presidential nominee?"

A competition surfing judge standing on the Democratic side of the beach, looking off into the political horizon might see this wave of Obama's as being unstoppable, like a tsunami that started off slowly but keeps picking up speed, carrying everything in its path.

It certainly seems as though Sen. Hillary Clinton's support is being washed away with the coming tide.

Obama swept the nation last week, winning eight consecutive state contests, most recently Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C., on Feb. 12 in the Potomac primaries.

This past week has been like watching a giant wave overtake an experienced surfer. Like a rip tide out at sea, we can see that Obama's wave of momentum is carrying supporters Clinton counted on as part of her core constituency.

Obama's support has, for the first time, swept with it more of the women's vote than Clinton, whose grip is slipping.

It looks like Clinton supporters, and even her pledged superdelegates, are jumping ship under the impression that the U.S.S. Clinton is sinking fast.

For the first time in the contest, Obama is leading in the delegate count. That kind of success this late in the race normally would be enough for a candidate like Obama to claim front-runner status, but in this case, it only makes Obama a front-runner by inches in what is essentially a tied race.

Even though Obama has won



ANGIE LOVELACE | Photo Editor

Obama has won eight states in a row, giving him valuable momentum in the race.

almost twice as many states as Clinton, the Clinton campaign continues to stress the significance of the states that she has won, saying that California and New York are states that Democrats have to do well in if they want to win the presidency.

So-called "red" states that Obama won on Super Tuesday, like North Dakota and Idaho, would never choose a Democrat in the general election anyway, they say. But is it enough to stop the Obama momentum?

The Obama wave is unlike anything anyone has ever seen. In any other year, against any other candidate, it would have completely crushed the other candidates' chances.

Clinton is no average candidate. The fact that she is still standing and holding her own against Obama says a lot about her and her exceptionally strong candidacy. The Clinton campaign says that she can halt Obama's momentum, as she did after her Iowa loss by winning New

Hampshire.

Clinton has been quick to point out that "there is a big difference between speeches and solutions, between talk and action," and has even altered Obama's signature chant of hope — "Yes we can!" — into one of determination: "Yes we will!"

What will it take to stop, or even slow, Obama's wave of momentum?

An oceanographer might say that only an earthquake could counter a tidal wave's current course — Clinton will need an earthquake of her own.

Before the Democratic party dumps her body out to sea, they should wait to see if the winds shift course.

The fact of the matter is that if Clinton can win in Texas and Ohio on March 4, she may very well take the Democratic nomination.

It would certainly shake things up. But if Obama wins even one of those states, he will most likely be the nominee.

In the end, none of that may matter because it is mathematically impossible for either candidate to win enough delegates from the remaining states to secure the nomination — even if they won 55 percent of the vote and every state left in the race.

It is looking more and more like the Democratic nomination will be decided by the 800 or so superdelegates, which is certain to cause controversy at the convention.

Obama argues that superdelegates should support the most popular candidate, while Clinton says the superdelegates should support the candidate they think will be the best president. The superdelegates may hold the balance of power in determining the nomination.

One thing is certain: This is turning out to be the most exciting battle for the Democratic presidential nomination in a generation. And if there's one thing we learned from this race, it's that momentum can change quickly.

There's certainly a storm cloud or two on the horizon. Eventually all waves, even a tidal wave of momentum, come crashing down on the beach.

Week in Brief

University paid more than \$600,000 to buy Lighthouse

County records show that Elon paid \$625,000 for the land and building of Lighthouse Bar and Tavern.

The bar, which was once used as a hot spot for student night life, was purchased by the university Jan. 17.

There are currently no concrete plans for the area, but open forums where students could voice their opinions on the matter were held at Lighthouse, on Feb. 14, 18 and 19.

New Western Alamance Public Library in the works

Two public meetings will be held to gather input on what the Alamance community wants in its new library.

Sessions will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. this afternoon at the Community Center in Beth Schmidt Park, and from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 21 at the Elon Town Hall.

Building consultant Phillip Barton, members of the library staff and Elon town officials will be present to hear concerns.

New Campus Police newsletter

A new edition of the Campus Police Newsletter, "The Siren," is available online. This issue contains topics regarding crime prevention, how to be a good witness, power and control and kitchen safety.

To view the publication, visit www.elon.edu/safety and click the link at the bottom of the page.

Blu-ray overshadows HD-DVD

By June, 4,000 Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores will sell only Sony's Blu-ray hi-definition movie discs.

This move will phase out Toshiba's HD-DVD formatted discs. Although Wal-Mart said it would continue selling HD-DVD products, there will be a significant shift toward Blu-ray in the next 30 days.

Netflix said earlier this week it would switch support to Blu-ray as well.

Corrections:

"Her Trip to Colombia, a student's perspective," in the Feb. 13 issue of *The Pendulum* incorrectly referred to the Mission in Bocachica, Colombia as Proyecto Libertad de Antioch Community Church. Proyecto is not Libertad and operates completely independently of this church.

"Future of Lighthouse Tavern still uncertain," in the Feb. 13 issue of *The Pendulum* incorrectly stated that Ryan Sweeney's title as personnel director for WSOE. Sweeney is instead the program director for WSOE.

"Winter Term alcohol policy remains unchanged," in the Feb. 13 issue of *The Pendulum* incorrectly stated that the drinking-related incident occurred on the Aboriginal Australia anthropology course. It did not happen on this course but instead another course that was also in Australia at the time.

Please contact pendulum@elon.edu with any questions or concerns about articles.

Illinois shooting stuns country, stuns Elon students



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.DALLASNEWS.COM

The news of a deadly shooting at Northern Illinois University shocked the nation on Feb. 14, 10 months after the Virginia Tech massacre.

Andie Diemer
News Editor

A shooting at Northern Illinois University on Feb. 14 left six people, including the shooter, dead. Senior Kendra Nickel feared for the lives of her friends.

Nickel, an Illinois native, has eight friends that attend the school. Once she found none of them had been injured by gunman Stephen Kazmierczak, 27, she was able to breathe a sigh of relief.

"When I first saw that there was a shooting at an Illinois school, I was in shock," Nickel said. "I tried calling all my friends from high school to see what was going on and nobody had any answers. It was the same way I felt after Virginia Tech. An event like this makes you lose your sense of security."

Nickel said the shooting didn't seem to resonate as much with the Elon student body as it did after the incident at Virginia Tech, mainly because few people at Elon are from Illinois.

According to a New York Times article, Kazmierczak, a graduate student at NIU last spring, allegedly quit taking his medication weeks before he opened fire with two handguns and a shotgun.

Even though he took his own life instead of moving on to another room, the campus was alerted of the issue through a text and voice alert system similar to what Elon has installed.

Lieutenant Vickie Moehlman of Elon Campus Police said as a mother and law enforcer she was shaken by the events, but tried to focus on preparing for safety in every situation.

"It can happen in any type of auditorium," she said, even though Kazmierczak targeted students in a lecture hall. Moehlman said, "The only thing we can do is the best we can."

In light of recent events, security has been increased across Elon's campus. The addition of e-alert text messages, an outdoor warning system, GPS on transportation vehicles, increased security staff, additional security cameras and officials working as a liaison with all Alamance County security agencies are in place.

"I hope that Elon students simply become more aware because of tragedies like this, and learn to recognize the signs of mental illness and the importance of reporting things that seem strange or problematic," Nickel said.

Valentine snow delays classes

Lindsay Fendt
Reporter

Late Wednesday night, snow began to fall quickly and heavily over Elon and the greater Burlington area, leaving the ground and trees covered in a blanket of snow just in time for Valentine's Day.

The 2.5 inches of snow took road crews by surprise and slippery conditions delayed classes by two hours on Feb. 14.

The snow did not stick around long.

Temperatures on Thursday averaged in the mid-50s and by noon all that remained of the snow were a few half-melted snowmen.

Many students from the South had little or no experience with this type of weather.

Freshman Kaitlin Brosnan, who is from Florida, had not seen snow until Wednesday.

"It was really exciting because I had never seen it before," Brosnan said. "I made my first snowman and snow angel, and had my first snowball fight."

It wasn't only the snow rookies who were excited. Everyone seemed to be outside engaging in some sort of winter fun. Each residence area appeared to have its own snowball fight.

At the Oaks, snowballs were flying into open car windows as people drove by, and a few snowmen showed up outside the commons.

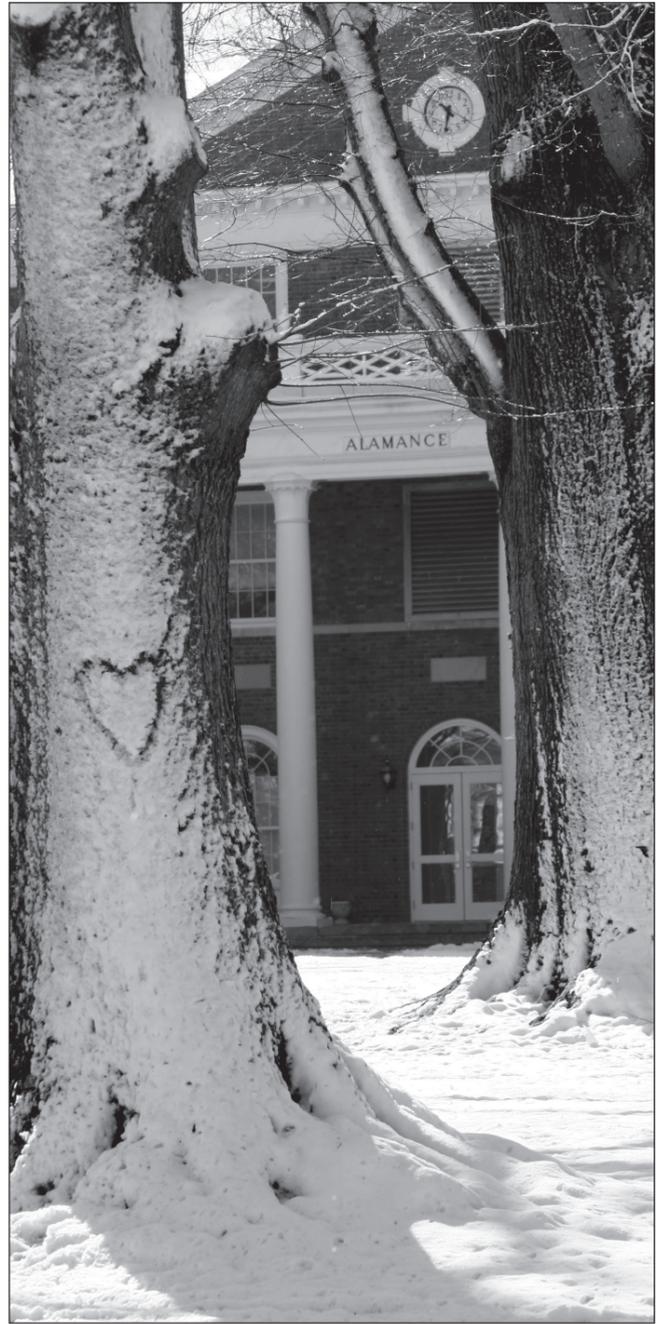
In North Area, a huge snowball fight erupted outside Story Center making it virtually impossible to walk from Chandler to Maynard without being hit.

In front of Moseley, students could be seen body sledding in Young Commons. Near the Academic Village, someone constructed a snow heart that was still around the next day.

Although light flurries were expected around the Triad, no one predicted that there would be any accumulation.

A little after midnight on Thursday, roads around campus had yet to be plowed.

"The roads were terrible," freshman Amy Haynes said. "I am used to driving in the



ANGIE LOVELACE | Photo Editor

The oak trees outside of Alamance were dusted with frosty white snow Thursday morning, when 2.5 inches of snow covered Elon's ground.

snow, but my car was slipping all over the place."

Concerns such as these prompted the delay of classes on Thursday.

Classes at 8 a.m. were pushed back to 10 a.m., and all classes were shortened from an hour and 40 minutes to an hour and 15 minutes.

Smith Jackson, vice president for student life

and dean of students, sent an e-mail alert Thursday morning encouraging staff and students to stay home if they were "prevented from traveling safely to campus."

By the time classes started, most of the snow had melted, eliminating any real hazard from bad road conditions.

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Elon graduate elected mayor

Andie Diemer
News Editor

On election day, Elon graduate Elic Senter sat with his opponent, Art Wright, at the polls and knew no matter who won, the future of Franklinton, N.C. would be in good hands.

After graduating from Elon as a science education major in 1999, Senter taught biology and anatomy at West Forsyth and Wakefield High Schools. Following eight years of teaching he began working as an educational consultant for the North Carolina Association of Educators and returned to live in his native home of Franklinton.

After speaking to the Franklinton Board of Commissioners to request a special use permit for a festival, he was approached by several people, including then Mayor Jenny Edwards, about considering running for office.

Even though that would make him a third-generation elected official, he was taken aback by the mere thought.

Senter said the idea to run was "completely out of left field" and he was unsure of his decision to run until he signed his name on the papers that officially thrust him into the candidate pool.

As his campaign continued, the support he received from family, friends and strangers alike gave him confidence.

While Franklinton, which is located about 30 miles from Durham, has 1,200 registered voters, less than 20 percent participated in the last presidential election.

More than 35 percent of voters came out to vote last November for mayor, and 66 percent of the vote was in favor of Senter.

"It wasn't a nasty competition [between Wright and I]," he said. "It was the most incredible feeling to know that most of your town came out



Elon alum Elic Senter was sworn in as mayor of Franklinton, N.C. in December. PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANKLIN TIMES

to vote for you. It has just been this wonderful, wonderful experience."

His father was able to swear him into office as his mother, grandmother and partner stood present and participated in the process.

When the photograph of him being sworn-in with his life partner was printed in the Franklin Times, some people began protesting, saying they had not been informed he was homosexual and had been lied to.

Senter said he never tried to hide his sexuality, and the cries—which are mostly derived from non-Franklinton natives—have not impacted his work or perspective as a leader.

"I am one of the youngest mayors in North Carolina and the first openly gay mayor in Franklin county. I realize there is some history being done here," Senter said. "But I wasn't elected because I'm gay and I wasn't elected because I'm not gay. They saw I could do something for this town, and that's what I'm here for."

A teaching fellow, teaching assistant

and Orientation Leader at Elon, Senter credits the leadership roles he held on campus with preparing him for the work he is doing in the world and his role as mayor.

"I learned to be able to express my ideas and thoughts in non-threatening ways, because there are times when you may have an idea or a thought and that may challenge conventional thinking," Senter said. "I learned at Elon to not be territorial."

And even though he said the gift of a sapling on graduation day may be the "dopiest thing," he has found that the significance of it holds very true.

"Elon works to build you as a person, an individual to go out and lead, an individual to go out and be that change you seek to be in the world," he said. "It's done through the classes you take, the experiences that are offered, the opportunities that are there. They sneak that in; it's not in the brochure, but it is a reason to celebrate what the school gave me."

Org Briefs

2010 Periclean Scholars surpass \$30,000

The 2010 Periclean scholars, who have been working to increase socio-economic development in the Volta Region of Ghana, have surpassed the \$30,000 mark of raising funds.

The scholars were inducted less than a year ago and donate 100 percent of their money to several projects in Ghana including the building of a health care center, which will benefit 10,000 people, and numerous grassroots projects through Heifer International.

Harlem Renaissance event to benefit Burlington Housing Authority

In celebration of Black History Month, the Black Cultural Society, Alpha Phi Alpha and Alpha Kappa Alpha are gathering at 7 p.m. on Feb. 22 in McKinnon Hall.

Performers include the Elon Ballroom Dance Club, Colin Harden, Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta.

The event is free but donations are welcome. Proceeds benefit the Burlington Housing Authority.

Current Television info session

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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.

History of civil rights must be preserved

Greensboro has a responsibility to maintain a connection to its past, yet this responsibility is not being fulfilled, for whatever reason, by city planners. Despite its historic importance, the Woolworth's Building in downtown Greensboro remains undeveloped and unused.

The Woolworth's Building was the target of the Greensboro sit-in on Feb. 1, 1960, and was purchased for an International Civil Rights Center and Museum following the building's closure in 1993.

Many local project advocates question why the project remains unfinished, considering that there is an annual gala held for the Greensboro civil right's museum and the fact that \$150,000 was donated by the Greensboro News & Record.

Plans for the space include installations depicting Jim Crow-era train stations, schools and churches. There seems to be enough money

and support for an intricate Web site featuring historical images, flashy animation, an elaborate timeline and conceptual renderings of the exhibits, but the effort stops there. There appears to be no real barrier to the establishment of this monument, yet there is no concrete progress.

Either the city is simply unable to continue with the project or unwilling to offer enough support to allow this museum to be completed.

The Greensboro Four took seats at a "whites-only" counter in protest to the Jim Crow laws that legalized the persecution of blacks at the state and local level.

These laws were descended from the Plessy vs. Ferguson Supreme Court case, which legalized the separate but equal policies.

The Greensboro protest served as a catalyst for a movement that spread to 54 cities in nine states in just two months following the Greensboro sit-in.

The existence of a museum

"It would be refreshing to see the counter reinstalled in its original building in a fully-realized tribute to the Greensboro Four, Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, David Richmond and Ezell Blair Jr., and the millions of other Americans who fought for equality during the Civil Rights Movement."

in the Woolworth's Building would not only properly identify the building with its historical significance, but would also serve as a specific and tangible monument to the movement as a whole.

The historic lunch counter resides at the Smithsonian Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. It was removed from the Woolworth's Building after it was closed.

It would be refreshing to see the counter reinstalled in its original building in a fully-realized tribute to the Greensboro Four, Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, David Richmond and Ezell Blair Jr., and the millions of other Americans who fought for

equality during the Civil Rights Movement.

To that extent, it would be even more refreshing if the project could come to fruition while the Greensboro Four are still alive. To date, only three of the original four protesters are still living.

The Web site belonging to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum includes a mission statement that reads, "The ICRCM seeks to preserve the legacy and the significance of that event by demonstrating why, in the current context, such inherently evil, institutionalized oppression has no place in the human race."

The museum stands as an important effort to understand racism not only in the historic context of the Civil Rights Movement, but also as a reminder of its relevance in society today.

Unfortunately, Greensboro and its residents do not have a museum to match this lofty mission statement.

Surely no better location exists to memorialize Greensboro's importance in the Civil Rights Movement,

which played an extremely prominent role in sparking the form of protest most traditionally attributed with the movement.

Though civil rights have come a long way in the past 48 years, racism is still a problem today. Those who have no experience with the endemic racism that prompted the Greensboro Four to protest such injustice must be reminded of the bravery involved in the struggle for equal protection of the law.

It is essential that future generations in the area remain mindful and educated about this country's and especially this region's often turbulent past.

If sites like the Woolworth's Building are allowed to disappear, the memories of the events that occurred there will soon follow. This would be a great tragedy, and must never be allowed to happen.

Whatever the barriers that may exist to the completion of this monument are, they must be resolved and overcome.

"Those who have no experience with the endemic racism that prompted the Greensboro Four to protest such injustice must be reminded of the bravery involved in the struggle for equal protection of the law...If sites like the Woolworth's Building are allowed to disappear, the memories of the events that occurred there will soon follow."

Bush is the first president to favor torture

The Senate recently passed legislation to ban the CIA from using waterboarding and other interrogation methods. The bill will not make it very far as President Bush has promised to use his veto power to shoot down any bill that limits CIA interrogation methods.

Some reporters have gone so far as to call President Bush the first president to favor torture. His imminent veto will undoubtedly meet much opposition among the American people, as waterboarding has received a large amount of publicity lately as a questionable form of interrogation that many consider to be full-fledged torture. The method involves having the victim lay on their back as water is poured onto their cloth-covered face. Inhaling the moisture and water from the cloth simulates the sensation of drowning.

The Geneva Convention recognizes waterboarding as torture and so naturally, the United States' publicized use of the method has drawn a large amount of controversy. The bleeding-heart liberals cry out about human rights and morality, while the misanthropic conservatives stick

to their arguments for preserving the American people's safety by any means necessary.

Torture, as defined by the United Nations Convention against Torture, is "any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person." The simulated sensation of drowning would undoubtedly be

"The idea of torture as an interrogation method is questionable to begin with, as you cannot verify if the information gathered is true or if the subject is merely answering questions to escape agony."

placed into this category. The idea of torture as an interrogation method is questionable to begin with, as it is nearly impossible to verify if the information gathered is true or if the subject is merely answering questions to escape agony. As questionable as torture is, the argument that it has the potential to save hundreds of lives

can still be made.

The Bush administration claims waterboarding and other interrogation methods are necessary to maintain the safety of Americans. The information gathered from captured suspects and enemies is vital to safeguard the American people. Do the ends justify the means? Is the possibility of gaining information that may or may not be

true worth subjecting another human being to immense amounts of pain? If it is, would you be able to carry out the torture yourself?

Likely GOP presidential nominee John McCain has received some flak because of this recent bill. While McCain publicly denounces waterboarding and any form of

torture, he voted against the bill in the Senate. This recent vote may seem to be out of line with his regular anti-torture stance, as McCain has authored bills against the use of torture in the past. Naysayers must realize where McCain is coming from. Though McCain has widely advocated anti-torture legislation in the past, this most recent bill also condemns the use of multiple non-coercive interrogation methods; methods not deemed as forms of torture. McCain walks the thin line that lies between the bleeding-hearts and the misanthropes; the line that recognizes the need for questionable interrogation methods but never strays too far into the realm of violating human rights.

This middle ground the senator treads on is the area where our legislation should be aiming. The unsupervised carrying out of tortuous interrogations is something a civilized government like the United States should not tolerate or condone. McCain follows the true path, a balancing act that is situated between two polarized extremities.

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

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Opinions

The deal with Barack Obama

Last week, a Virginia mother asked her son a strange question.

"Why does your generation like Barack Obama so much?"

Senator and presidential hopeful Barack Obama, or at least his computer, had called the student's home the previous morning to remind him to vote in the Virginia primaries. Obama had no idea that the student was actually a Republican or that he was attending school in North Carolina, and thus would not be considering the senator for the Democratic nomination in any shape or form. The senator also had no idea that the student's mother would ask him the aforementioned question. Following is the student's answer.



Bryan Ray
Columnist

Obama is far from a perfect candidate. He has little experience, having served a single term as a United States senator. His plan for universal healthcare is idealistic at best and naïve at worst. Universal healthcare works well in Western Europe, where populations are small and taxes are high, but a federal healthcare plan is doomed to failure in the United States. The senator also seems to rely on two words for his campaign: "hope" and "change." Perhaps this is why our generation likes him so much.

Obama is receiving strong support from our generation but the question as to why still needs

answering. Nothing about the senator's policies or positions seem remarkable for a Democratic candidate; he is a populist with a socialist streak. What is remarkable is that he is the first candidate to not just expect the "young vote" but he is the first candidate to actively cultivate it. Previous Democratic candidates such as Sen. John Kerry or Sen. Hillary Clinton have simply expected it. Republican candidates neglect us, as we are

"...he is the first candidate to not just expect the 'young vote' but he is the first candidate to actively cultivate it."

expected to vote liberally anyway. There have been token gestures made by candidates, such as "Rock the Vote" or other inappropriately named youth rallies, but Obama is the first candidate to truly garner the support of young voters. Some may ask why this is so important, and why our generation buy into his message so heavily.

He is offering change and hope for a generation that is fighting two wars across the planet that no one seems to care about anymore. The media rarely covers Iraq anymore, and Afghanistan is in the running with Korea for "The Forgotten War."

Those who are being killed and having limbs blown off are usually in their early 20s or younger. Our peers are fighting and dying half a world away and no one seems to care about it for anything other than political fodder. We are facing global warming and the burden of paying taxes for Social Security benefits we are never going to get. Our parents' generation seems content in continuing along the same path and sticking us with the bill.

Whether intentionally or not, Obama has tapped into this sentiment and is using it to cultivate support for his presidency. His platform at least offers us hope that the future is not as dystopian as many of us are apt to believe. His message of change encourages us to believe we can fix the negative things that are happening in this country and his message of hope reminds us things can get better. In a presidential race where his competitors are filling the airwaves with apocalyptic visions of our country, Obama encourages a hopeful view of the next few years.

Now to answer the initial question: "Why do we like Barack Obama so much?"

We like Obama because we view him as our candidate. He is the first presidential hopeful to run with our issues and tell us that our issues will be served by a government that has been neglectful in the past. While there are very real limitations to Obama's platform, one cannot help but admire the fact that he has targeted our generation and cultivated our support.

Partisanship in American politics

With John McCain all but confirmed as the Republican nominee for president, the far right conservative media have been scrambling for their retorts. He's too moderate, they say, Republican in name only. He goes against everything that Ronald Reagan believed in. Two of the biggest personalities from the right, Rush Limbaugh and Ann Coulter, have offered the most interesting responses, though both are hypocritical and misinformed.

Coulter has gone as far as to say that she would sooner vote for Hillary Clinton than McCain because Clinton is "more conservative." Coulter is certainly free to endorse and vote for whomever she wants to in the election, but the idea of voting for Clinton, who is pro-choice, in favor of socialized medicine and wants a quick withdrawal from Iraq, because she is "more conservative" is crazy. What Coulter fails to realize is that a president's greatest power is to appoint justices to the Supreme Court, and the likely conservative judges McCain would pick would be much more beneficial to the values of the Republican Party than the liberal ideas of Clinton's judges.



Kevin Clang
Columnist

Coulter also does not think comments such as hers actually damage the GOP. Due to President Bush's poor approval ratings, the party faces an uphill battle against the Democrats anyways. The best hope Republicans have for victory is to unite around a single candidate while the Democrats are deadlocked. Republican citizens all around the country have voted and the overwhelming choice has been McCain. If they really wanted to do what was best for their party, conservative leaders would support the party candidate, even if they disagreed with his views.

Limbaugh has been particularly critical of McCain on several issues, the most prevalent being the senator's plans to reach out to and compromise with Democrats and moderates.

"This one escapes me," Limbaugh said on his February 6 radio broadcast. "Why is it so hard to understand that what we want is to defeat those people?"

Limbaugh makes politics sound like some kind of bizarre, winner-take-all game. This is exactly the kind of partisan thinking the country has been stuck in for years. We need to move away from it, and the proverbial extension of an olive branch between parties is a great way to start.

Liberals are not the enemies of conservatives anymore than apples are the enemies of oranges. Both need to realize that their differences can spark intelligent debate. Through these debates we can come to a consensus about what is best for the United States. George Washington gave a warning against partisanship in his farewell address.

"The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism."

Washington's words ring truer today than ever before, and he would almost certainly be disappointed with the evolution of partisan politics.

Stop wasteful religious spending

I walked into Target escaping the cold and blustery November night, desperately needing a men's room because of my unhealthy yet calorie-free addiction to Diet Coke. I felt the soothing energy of consumerism emanating from each bright red dot, but I had no time to bask in the wealth of the merchants at the moment. I was on a mission. When I went into the men's room and looked down at the urinal, I noticed a small green booklet sitting on top of it. "Holy Joe" it said. How nice, I thought, that someone took the time to leave me a little something to read while I waste the next 30 seconds of my life standing here.

Upon opening it, I discovered the little comic book was about a military character referred to as a "Holy Joe," a devout Christian who is a soldier in the U.S. military. Apparently, his peers and superiors were giving him a hard time about his religious dedication. There was one quite violent scene where they throw shoes at him, but Holy Joe, being the swell guy that he is, polishes them for all of his "friends" and has them ready the next morning.

"Wow," I said as I flushed the urinal and tossed the booklet into the trash can. While I washed my hands (cleanliness is next to godliness), I thought about what I had just seen. I realized what I had just touched: a strange booklet on top of a urinal in a public men's room. I scrubbed harder, and turned up the heat on the water. That little book was obviously designed to convert people, otherwise why would anyone take the time to put them on top of the urinals in the bathroom. As I exited I noticed that there had been one on the other urinal at some point, but it had actually been thrown into the water and urinated on by someone who was



Caleb Tabor
Contributing
Columnist

obviously more offended than I. That little book intrigued me and I decided to do more research on it when I got home. This booklet, and many others like it, is made by a man named John Chick and he sells them on his Web site for \$2.25 each. The comics are anti-Muslim and anti-Catholic (something that I am sure hits close to home for quite a few Elon students, faculty members and staff members). I also got a better look at Holy Joe and saw that he was spreading the word of God to the other soldiers. As a religious studies major I noticed that the comics featured a certain fundamentalist theology, and employed a tactic humorously called "verse jerking" by Dr. Jeff Pugh, the learned chair of our religious studies department here at Elon.

The tactic involves taking a sentence or verse from the Bible and using it out of context to make a point. Not quite lying, but not telling the whole truth. As one who respects other human lives, a big question I ask myself is why isn't Holy Joe trying to talk his compatriots out of war making and into peace building? As a member and regular attendee of Grace United Church of Christ and an aspiring minister, I would like to think that I don't just criticize the work of others, but maybe offer some alternatives for living a Christ-like lifestyle (or doing your best at least). So here it goes.

If someone wanted to really spread the good news of Christianity, he or she could go and help out the good folks on an American Indian reservation. We do have all

these nice things because our government decided taking the land for ourselves and having an institutionalized genocide against the indigenous inhabitants was a part of our destiny.

Or, a well-meaning group of Christians could, instead of buying these booklets and leaving them in bathrooms, sponsor a child in Central or South America. After all, our government did do more than its fair share to destabilize the region during the Cold War by sponsoring military overthrows of Socialist governments. How do we justify this? We hide behind the mask of the Red Death, and say that Communism was leaking into those countries. Now that we have slain the great Red Leviathan, perhaps it is time that we gave our South American brothers and sisters a helping hand instead of a boot out the door and a nice custom-built wall behind it.

Not happy with those two options? Well, perhaps people could send a child to school for a few years in India, help feed a family in Africa, work at a homeless shelter or put a kid through school here in the United States. They could put their time and effort into working with the poor, oppressed and marginalized to get them equal rights and respect both inside the church and in secular society. All these could be done instead of ignoring the poor, demonizing other religions and their practitioners, and hating people with different lifestyles.

What would Jesus do? Would he feed the poor? Would he clothe the naked? Would he heal the sick? Would he embrace those shunned by society? Or, would he anonymously leave booklets in restrooms, restaurants, bowling alleys and public parks? I guess only God knows the answer to that one.

THE disposable water bottle FAD

Obsessed with the words “organic” and “purified,” millions of Americans watch their dollars trickle down the drain, just as that Fiji water does into your body. But at what cost? Just because it says it’s “healthy” or uses “30 percent less plastic” doesn’t entirely mean it’s true.

Story by Shelley Russell
Special Projects Editor

Whether it’s from the heart of the Alps, a natural spring in Arkansas or a remote aquifer in Fiji, Americans have an obsession with bottled water. We drink multiple bottles every day when water fountains are nearby, and we buy cases from the grocery store when we have tap water just a faucet-turn away. But how much are we willing to risk for ourselves and the environment, just for a bottle of one of the world’s most abundant resources?

Apparently, a lot. Last year, Americans spent \$15 billion on bottled water, recycling just 23 percent of the 50 billion bottles consumed, according to an article from Fast Company Magazine. So where did the 38 billion un-recycled bottles end up? In landfills. If a recycling receptacle is not available, people toss the bottle in the trash, never to be seen again. America’s landfills are rapidly running out of space and shutting down.

A survey by the Environmental Protection Agency revealed that there were 3,581 municipal solid waste landfills in the country in 1995, down from 7,683 in 1986. At this rate, America will be desperate for more space very soon.

Dasani Water and Brita filtration systems

The Coca-Cola Company, which manufactures Dasani water, is aiming to use more recycled material to reduce the weight of their bottles by 30 percent. Dasani’s Web site boasts a completely recyclable bottle, cap and all, with the motto: “Change the bottle. Keep the taste. Help the earth.” At Elon University, Dasani water is readily available with a meal-plan combo.

“I like using water bottles because they are more convenient,” senior Tawina Clarke said. “I feel that water fountains are dirty, and it is easier to just buy water from Octagon.”

But what students are really paying for is nothing more than filtered water.

Dasani, after initial controversy over a misleading marketing campaign, now produces bottles that say “purified water.” The company begins with a local public water supply and filters the water through what they call a “state-of-the-art” process of reverse osmosis. In other words, the water is passed through a porous membrane to remove excess salt and minerals.

Brita filters, although not through reverse osmosis, produce very similar results.

“Brita removes impurities by passing the water through a carbon filter that is designed to remove certain impurities,” Brita representative Patti

Copper said. “The Brita will not filter sodium, however, it will not add additional sodium to the water.”

In an online survey, the majority of Elon students said that when given the choice, they prefer to drink filtered water. Many students have water filters in their dorms and apartments. So why then, do most Elon students continue to purchase water bottles?

“Water bottles are more portable and I can save the water for later,” sophomore Tyler Diamond said. “I can drink more in larger quantities from a water bottle.”

Health-risks

Water bottles may be convenient, but are they really as clean and pure as we think?

Eighty percent of Elon students polled were unaware of the possible dangers of drinking from water bottles. Some students expressed concerns about the plastic material used in water bottles, as well as the dangers of refilling the bottles.

The majority of water bottles are made from the chemical polyethylene terephthalate (PET). This material can be easily recycled and is valuable worldwide— especially in China. But those who think they are being sustainable by refilling their water bottle may be harming themselves.

PET bottles are safe for their intended one-time use, but they break down over time— releasing the toxin diethylhydroxylamine (DEHA). DEHA has been cited as a possible carcinogen, but is more infamous for causing liver problems and reproductive complications. Leaving water bottles in heat or placing them in freezers releases the dioxin into the water, which ultimately ends up in our bodies.

Aside from the potentially harmful exterior of water bottles, the so-called pure and fresh water they contain may also have impurities. In a four-year review of the bottled water industry conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council, they found that the Food and Drug Administration’s restrictions on bottled water were weaker than the EPA’s tap water regulations.

For starters, the FDA does not consider products that say “seltzer water,” “filtered water,” “tonic water,” “soda water” or “carbonated water” to be bottled water, and these products are therefore exempt from the FDA’s contamination standards. But the FDA considers Dasani to be a bottled water product, so students are somewhat safe inside the Elon bubble.

But what *are* the testing standards? The EPA conducts more than 100 tests each month for city

water supplies, whereas the FDA only requires that bottled water industries test their product once a week. The EPA does not allow any traces of E. coli bacteria, whereas the FDA sets a maximum number of total bacteria allowed in the water. Maybe water fountains aren’t as dirty as we think.

Recycling – do it right

While Dasani has made their water bottles 100 percent recyclable, most caps on plastic bottle products cannot be recycled. Elon sends its plastic, glass and aluminum bottles to the recycling sorting facility in Greensboro. A representative from the facility confirmed that the facility policy does not differentiate over the brand of bottle, and no caps are recycled at the facility. The bottles are separated from the caps, and the caps are thrown in the trash.

If consumers separate the caps from the bottles, this allows the recycling facilities to be more efficient (less time spent removing bottle cap, means more time spent recycling).

Elon’s continued efforts

Elon began participating in the RecycleMania program last year— producing 47 tons of recycled material, according to David Worden, manager of Environmental Services at Elon University. Of the 47 tons, aluminum, plastic and glass accounted for 32.04 tons. Worden says the majority of bottle recycling is seen in plastic products.

“RecycleMania really helped jumpstart a movement at the university,” Worden said. “It took our recycling to another level. With this year’s contest, we have already started out with higher weight volume than we did last year.”

In 2007, Elon was rated first in North Carolina for overall weight captured in its targeted materials category. Worden said that about 315 recycling receptacles have been placed both indoors and outdoors (including those for paper recycling). The university is hoping to add more outdoor receptacles to further encourage recycling.

Laura Thompson, food service director for Elon’s dining services, said that dining services is working to decrease the amount of water bottles consumed on campus. Thompson said dining services representatives want to place filtration systems in dining locations such as Octagon, as well as give re-usable water bottles to students living in residence halls on campus next year. These actions are in direct conjunction with Elon’s sustainability movement.

Types of drinking water

Natural Mineral Water	This is underground water protected against pollution hazards and characterized by a constant level of minerals and trace elements. This water cannot be treated, nor added minerals or any exogenous elements, such as flavours or additives.
Spring Water	Bottled water derived from an underground formation from which water flows naturally to the surface of the earth. Spring water must be collected only at the spring or through a bore hole tapping the underground formation finding the spring. Water from different springs can be sold under the same brand name.
Purified Water	Surface or underground water that has been treated in order to be suitable for human consumption. It differs from tap water only through the way it is distributed (in bottles rather than through pipes) and its price. Artesian Water Water from a well that taps an aquifer in which the water level is higher than the top of the aquifer.
Well Water	Water from a hole drilled in the ground which taps the water in an aquifer.
Sparkling Water	After treatment and possible replacement with carbon dioxide, contains the same amount of carbon dioxide it had at the source (not to be confused with soda water, seltzer water or tonic water).

INFORMATION COURTESY OF <http://www.wateryear2003.org>



Do Elon students recycle bottle caps?



ANGIE LOVELACE | Photo Editor

BY THE NUMBERS

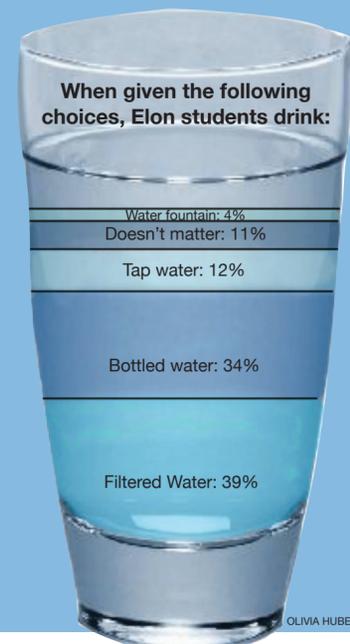
50 billion water bottles consumed in the United States in 2006

38 billion plastic water bottles in landfills each year

\$16 billion spent on water in America in 2007

1.5 million barrels of oil used to manufacture bottled water each year (enough to fuel 100,000 cars)

700 years before plastic bottles begin to decompose in landfills



OLIVIA HUBERT-ALLEN | Editor-in-Chief

INFORMATION COURTESY OF <http://earth11.org>

Features

Finding her home

Junior Fjolla Berisha shares her unique story of escaping Kosovo during the Serbian regime

Laura Smith
Reporter

Most Elon students would agree that their most memorable moment of being 12-years-old was getting braces or being asked to a middle school dance. For junior Fjolla Berisha, the event

she remembers most is very different compared to other students' pasts.

At the age of 12, Berisha and her family were evacuated from her native homeland of Kosovo (then a part of Serbia) to escape the dangerous Serbian regime of Slobodan Milosevic, the



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Berisha, her parents and brothers, Ilir (Elon '06) and Shpetim, had a normal family life in Kosovo prior to the Serbian regime.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Junior Fjolla Berisha and her family lived for two months in a refugee camp in Macedonia.

former president of Serbia and Yugoslavia.

Berisha, her parents and two older brothers tried to flee to Macedonia, a country two hours away from Kosovo, but were faced with miles of cars and people at the border who were also trying to escape.

"It was very dangerous," Berisha said. "Especially for males, because the Serbians would pull them out and kill them. The women were raped and, as a 12-year-old girl, it was scary to think that could have been me."

After much debate, Berisha's family decided to return home.

"It was a very difficult decision," Berisha said. "We were the only people in the whole neighborhood."

Trying to stay hidden was very difficult for Berisha's family. They encountered two mafia groups who came to their house and threatened to take everything the family had left. Berisha's family then moved in with another family nearby. After two weeks, they decided to try once again to escape to Macedonia.

After successfully crossing into Macedonia on a bus, Berisha woke up in a refugee camp. Here, the United Nations had built shelters and supplied water and food packages for the refugee families.

"We basically learned to

live that lifestyle," she said. "We learned to live with what we had."

After two months of living in the camp, Berisha's family found out they were one of the 30,000 families that had been accepted as refugees in the United States.

"Last minute, my parents made the decision to come here [to the U.S.]," Berisha said. "It was very challenging, but we knew we always had a choice to come back."

Berisha's parents wanted their children to get the best education possible and they believed the United States had the most to offer.

With the help from an organization called World Relief, which works with the U.N., and a sponsor from a church formerly known as Christ Church in Graham, Berisha's family settled down in Alamance County. Two local families helped Berisha's parents find jobs and taught the family to speak English.

Berisha's family started from the ground up. Her mother now works at Alamance Regional Hospital and her father owns a local gas station.

Her oldest brother, Shpetim, graduated from North Carolina State University and her other brother, Ilir, graduated from Elon in 2006. Ilir influenced Berisha's choice to come to

Elon, and with the help of the Leon and Lorraine Watson North Carolina Scholarship, an award given to 10 North Carolina students who can bring diversity to Elon's campus, Berisha has been able to excel as a broadcast journalism major.

Berisha has returned to Kosovo every summer for the past five years and has even done two internships there. She hopes to graduate this December and eventually work for a production company. This summer, Berisha is returning to Kosovo to produce a documentary about the struggles of women in Kosovo.

"I want to help women see they can have the same opportunity I do," she said. "Most of them don't think they have the same option, but they do."

On Sunday, Feb. 17, Kosovo gained its independence.

"This means so much to the Albanian people," Berisha said. "They struggled to get here and paid with their own blood."

Looking back on her experiences, Berisha said she takes nothing for granted and is incredibly grateful for her education.

"I wouldn't be the same person I am now," she said. "This experience has made me much stronger, I appreciate every experience I have now."

Alamance's surprising Civil War stance

Local history reports reveal the past: Did the county side with the North or South?

Brian Mackey
Reporter

When Americans look back at the Civil War, many think about the North pitted against the South, the Union fighting the Confederacy and Ulysses S. Grant battling Robert E. Lee. Students learn from history textbooks that after the Civil War southern states were known as the "solid South" because they united to resist reconstruction efforts.

But according to history professor Charles Irons, the real story is more complicated than textbooks reveal.

For the past year, Irons and a group of Elon students have collaborated with the North Carolina State Archives, the Alamance County Historical Museum and other public history practitioners to compile a database that includes thousands of searchable records about Alamance County during and after the Civil War. The final product is called "Other Souths: Alamance County in the Civil War and Reconstruction."

The purpose of the project, which was sponsored by the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, is to provide instant access to primary source material related to Alamance County during the time of the Civil War. Students can utilize the

information on the Web site for primary source research, and community members can learn about ancestors who lived in Alamance during that time.

The project was designed to follow a document-based and data-rich approach so that users can generate their own conclusions. It includes reliable sources for users to test questionable historical statements and theories.

"I wanted a pot of information where people could go and evaluate these claims themselves," Irons said.

Within the Web site, Irons has included Confederate service records, population censuses and slave records, but said the site is still a work in progress. He plans to add another major population census, a list of racial violence after the war and additional letters and manuscripts to the site.

Although the site does not claim to have a historical bias, the data supports some interesting conclusions.

According to the Other Souths Web site, Alamance County residents were far less supportive of the Confederacy than many in North Carolina. In fact, they voted against seceding from the Union on two occasions before the state ultimately seceded in 1861. According to Irons, some members of the county even organized a secret society called the "Red Strings," to hinder the Confederate war effort.

Alamance County also split from the "solid South" after the Civil War. While most Southern states were fighting reconstruction efforts, Alamance County gave biracial democracy a chance to succeed under the leadership of a former slave.

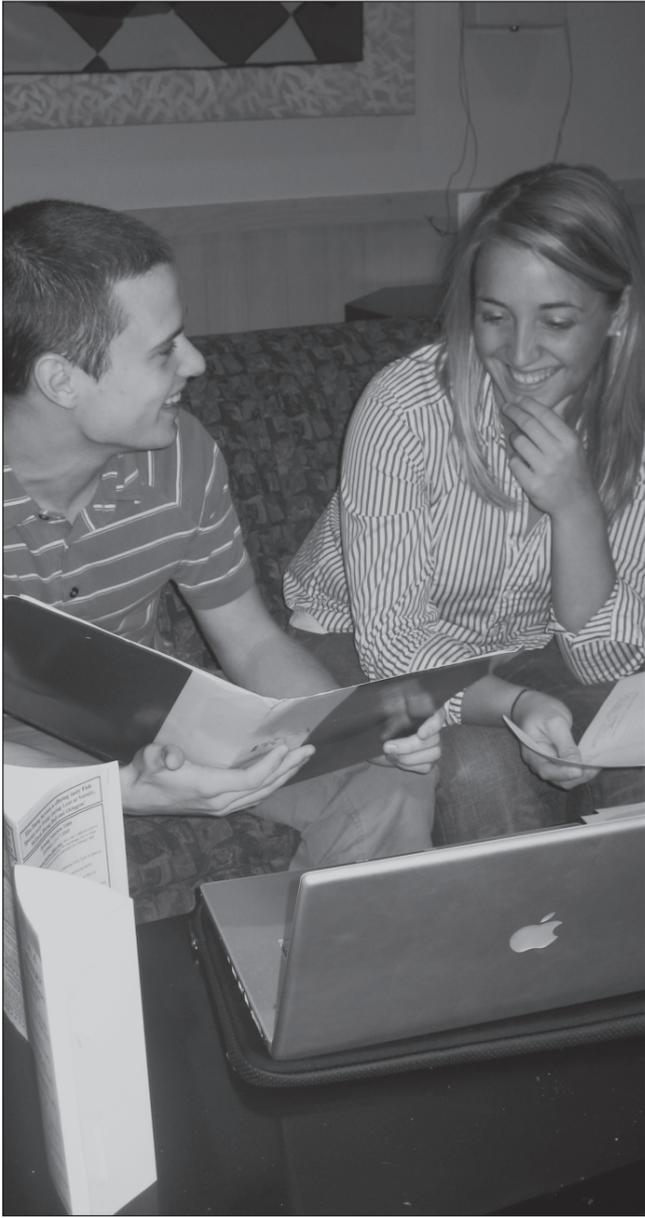
As Irons and his students expand the depth of information on the Web site over the next year, he emphasizes the importance of community participation. The group encourages users to explore the site for technical problems and wants to reach out to the Alamance community for more primary source data.

"If community members are willing to share family materials related to Alamance County during the Civil War era, this would greatly expand the types of resources available on the site," said Zack Usher, a junior who worked extensively with Irons on the database.

The Other Souths Web site went live on Feb. 9 and was accompanied by panel discussions among history professors from Elon, the College of William and Mary and the University of Richmond.

"The Other Souths database is a great place to explore the ways in which the experience of Alamance [County] was different," Usher said.

The database can be found online at elon.edu/othersouths.



CAROLINE MATTHEWS | Photographer

Senior Katherine Dodson, Elon PRSSA national liaison, and junior Bobby Hoppey, PRSSA president, work during a planning session for their 2008 Regional Activity titled "The PR Amazing Race."

Learn to think globally

Public relations society provides event for students of all majors about international communications

Nicole Lonero
Reporter

For students who are interested in international communications, living or working abroad, learning the etiquette of various cultures, networking with skilled professionals or simply enjoying a plate of Chinese food, "The PR Amazing Race" kicks off March 1.

The event, hosted by Elon University Public Relations Student Society of America, is one of only 14 regional activities in the nation.

A group of PRSSA members have worked all year to make this event an invaluable experience to all Elon students who attend. The theme of the day is international communications, a topic chosen by PRSSA National Liaison, senior Katherine Dodson.

"We decided on the international topic because Elon is so internationally

inclined, as evidenced by our study abroad program," Dodson said. "We thought that this would not only be something fun for Elon students, but also a helpful resource of international knowledge and insight. We have such an impressive lineup of speakers, which makes for excellent networking opportunities."

The speaker series will consist of both Elon professors as well as skilled communications professionals, including Angela Robbins, assistant news director of Fox 8 Charlotte, who will be speaking about her experiences in Japan and the Middle East. Mark Hect-Kessell, director of global PR for the Australian-based company Exinda, will be speaking on the challenges of communicating globally and locally.

Students will have the opportunity to network with

professionals to possibly gain internship experience. They can also learn from a panel of other Elon students who will share their experiences interning abroad.

"The PR Amazing Race" was designed to expose students to international challenges, customs and etiquette. The topics of the day include: "Dealing with a Global Press at the 1996 Olympics," "Building a Brand Practice in Europe" and "International News and How it's Received Worldwide."

Guests will also be speaking about their experiences in five different countries.

Students will be able to partake in activities, such as a race simulation where participants will travel through Britain, Russia, India and China, and a mock case study of an imaginary country that lacks traditional means of media delivery.

Finally, an etiquette lunch, conducted by visiting international faculty Yuedong Wang, will teach students the culture and what is or isn't acceptable in China.

"Our goal is to make this conference as engaging and fun as possible," Dodson said. "We've worked so hard to make this a success, and cannot wait to have students from all majors and backgrounds attend."

"The PR Amazing Race" will take place from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 1. The registration fee is \$25 before Feb. 22 and \$35 for late registration.

For more information about "The PR Amazing Race" or to register for the event, contact Katherine Dodson at kdodson@elon.edu.

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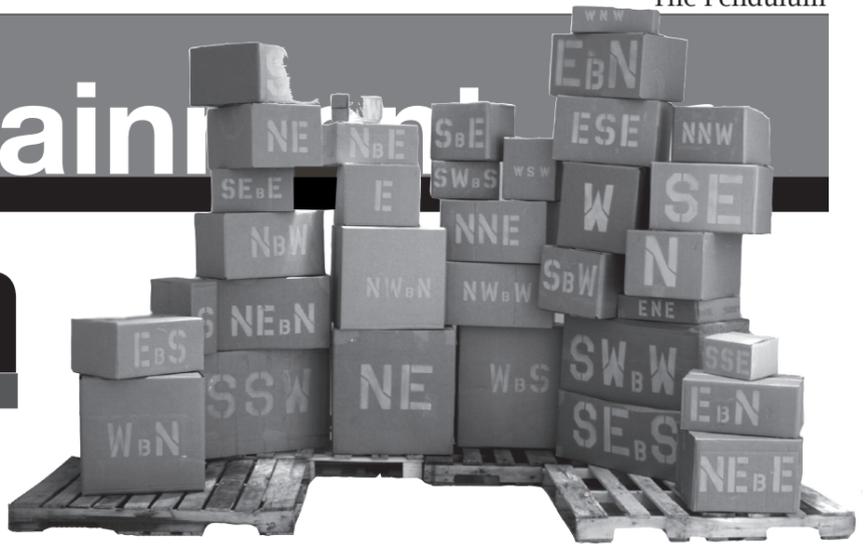
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Arts & Entertainment

Perri Lynch ART EXHIBIT



ANGIE LOVELACE | Photo Editor

Nichole Rawlings
Reporter

The opening reception of Perri Lynch's "Repeater" drew an interested crowd of students and faculty to Elon West on Feb. 11. Visiting artist Lynch gave an inspired talk about her work in the gallery and also spoke in Yeager Recital Hall.

The faculty of Elon West brings visiting artists to Elon throughout the year who install works in the gallery and speak to students about their work, inspirations and experiences in the art world. Artists are proposed by faculty members and chosen based on their availability and willingness to collaborate and cooperate with Elon staff and students.

Professor Samantha DiRosa, who specializes in digital and video art, saw Lynch speak several years ago and called her talk "inspiring and passionate." When DiRosa was given the opportunity to propose a visiting artist, she said Lynch came to mind immediately. The suggestion was supported by the rest of the art faculty. Lynch was contacted and accepted the offer, and the Elon West staff all contributed to the installation of "Repeater."

The exhibit, as described by Lynch, attempts to "raise sensitivity of how we move through the world and derive direction." Containing four separate works, the installation uses image, sculpture and sound to engage the viewer in a literal, personal and figurative journey. Walking into the gallery, one is bombarded with a plethora of sounds, including ocean waves, voices, pings and chirps, which manage to work together to create a fascinating experience.

"Boxing the Compass" is one work within the installation that explores the artist's own personal growth and the people in her life that give her direction. The piece is composed of brown cardboard boxes carefully arranged together and adorned with painted orange cardinal directions. It features the voices of 16 important people in Lynch's life reciting the cardinal directions amid ambient noises.

Lynch describes herself as an interdisciplinary artist, working with many different and unique media to create her works. During her Feb. 11 lecture, Lynch spoke of her interest in exploring how the "inner landscape converges with the outside world." She questions the relationship between

human beings and the earth.

In accordance with her fascination of the natural world, Lynch practices sustainability in her work and tries to always use materials that have been recycled or can be recycled. It is especially interesting to see how Lynch uses the sounds of nature in her work. Terrestrial sounds collected with a geophone, as well as oceanic sounds captured from a microphone, add a naturalistic element to her images and sculptures.

Aside from creating tangible works, Lynch also creates unique sound performances with recordings she has accumulated over the years. On Feb. 12 Lynch gave one such performance in Yeager, using only her computer, two iPods and a sound board to give a fascinating 30 minute set of sound art. Lynch sat alone on the stage at a small table, deep in concentration, and mixed, faded, synthesized and amplified sound recordings. The performance was completely improvised and explored the differences between natural and fabricated sounds.

Weather newscasts were superimposed over and under terrestrial and oceanic sounds, which were then faded into traffic noise and

the sound of writing on a chalkboard. Lynch explained that she improvises her performances because the "sense of risk heightens her concentration" and allows her to truly focus on the sound art she is creating.

"Repeater" will be in place at the gallery in Elon West until March 6.

Perri Lynch QUICK FACTS

She is based in Seattle.

Lynch has three permanent works, including one in Tamil Nadu, India.

Her influences include: navigation, intuition and physical proximity.

She is currently a lecturer at the University of Washington.

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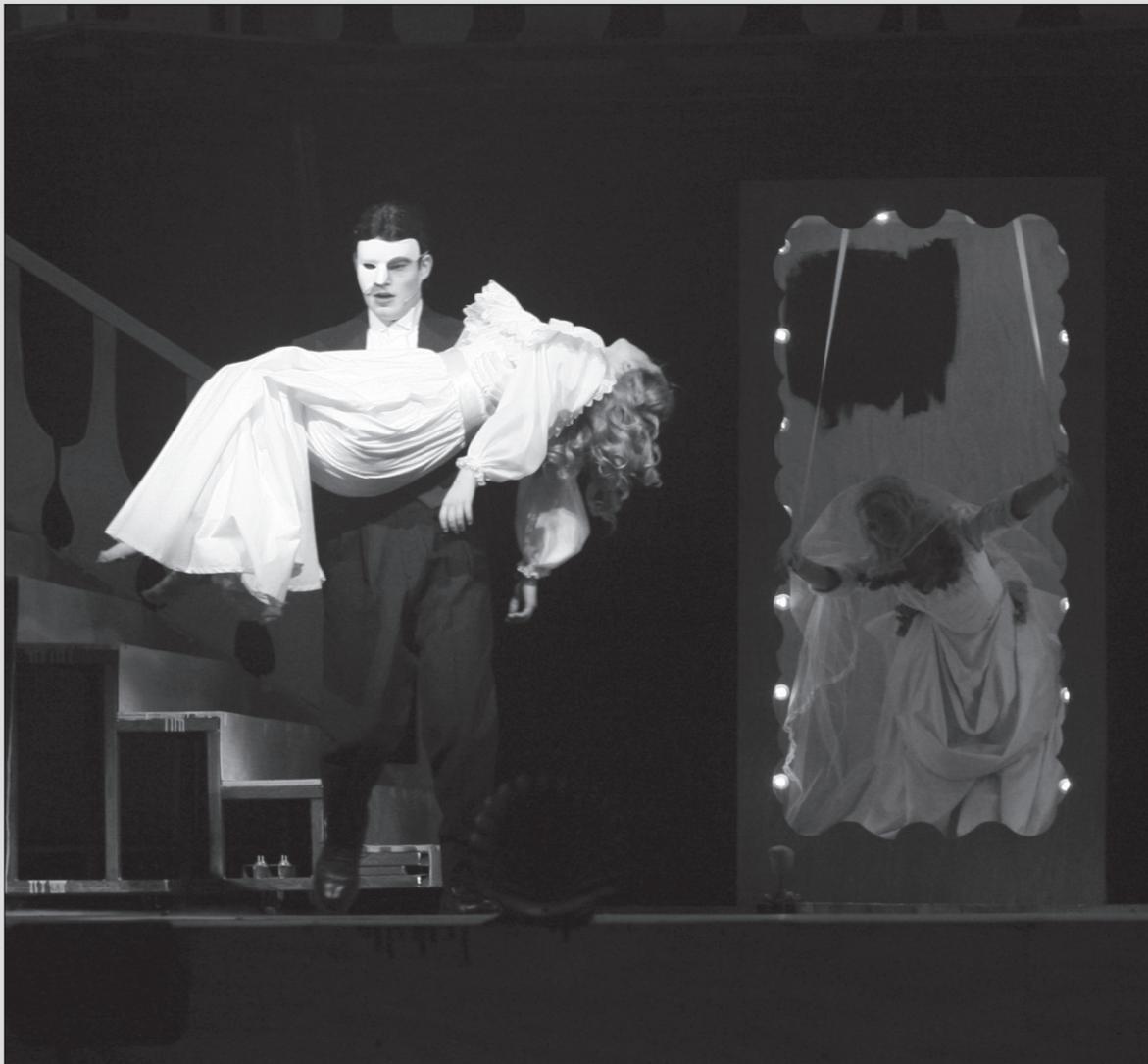
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PLAY REVIEW ★★★★★

'Phantom' is FLAWLESS!



ANGIE LOVELACE | Photo Editor

The Phantom, played by senior Matt Shingledecker, holds the lifeless body of Christine, played by junior Katie Emerson.

Amanda Kennison
Reporter

Months of planning, rehearsing and stressing over every detail—from buttons sewn on costumes, to the infamous chandelier—finally culminated as the first curtain call came and went on Feb. 14.

"Phantom of the Opera," one of the most highly anticipated performances at Elon, opened to a full house. Proceeds from opening night ticket sales went to the Performing Arts Scholarship fund, raising just under \$50,000.

Chosen as one of six schools across the country to receive the rights to perform "Phantom," the performing arts department lived up to its ever-growing reputation of excellence and professionalism. Elon's interpretation of the renowned production, although distinctly unique from the original, would have made Andrew Lloyd Webber proud.

The musical tale of the young chorus girl, Christine, and the masked phantom who is obsessed with her and guiding her singing career, has effected countless people since its London opening in 1986. He terrorizes the Paris Opera House, requiring payment and frightening the new owners of the theater before murdering their workers. It is his theater and he takes drastic action when his demands are not met. The Phantom's feelings for his talented protégée deepen and turn into fury as Christine rekindles her love with childhood sweetheart Raoul.

For her own part, Christine just wants to perform and live happily ever after, but her "Angel of Music's" frightful admiration pushes her down an uncertain path. This thought-provoking love triangle plays out amid a colorful, vibrant cast of characters including the disbelieving new opera owners Monsieurs Firmin and Andre, the prima donna Carlotta Giudicelli and the secretive Madame Giry.

As opening night proved, the cast selections for "Phantom" were well chosen. The chemistry and camaraderie between the actors made the performance all the more believable and enjoyable to watch. The talented actors, the set and costume designers, the lighting and sound teams all confirm Elon's high quality performing arts program.

Throughout the production, the audience was wowed by more than just the performance aspect of "Phantom." From the audience's collective gasp at the unveiling of the chandelier to the disappearing act of the Phantom at the show's end, the visual expression of the play was amazing. The intricate costumes, versatile sets and props and impressive mixture of lighting and sound provided a great highlight to the actors well delivered adaptation.

All the hard work and talent was evident during the masquerade scene. Everyone appeared in perfect harmony. The flow of color, music and movement was a whirlwind of high energy thrills. The vibrant costumes complimented the intricate choreography.

For an opening night performance—for any performance really—"Phantom" seemed flawless. The minor mistakes one would expect didn't happen. After a standing ovation, audience members left the production, with the infectious melodies of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Charles Hart's lyrics lingering in their heads. More than one person undoubtedly left in awe that such a big voice could come out of Christine's, junior Katie Emerson's, tiny body.

All the time spent waiting in line and scrambling for tickets seemed inconsequential. The finished product made the struggles beforehand, for audience and performers alike, well worth it.



ANGIE LOVELACE | Photo Editor

The Phantom is obsessed with Christine while she is only blinded by his spell.

2008 Oscar predictions

Andrew Prince
Reporter

Evil is the common trait between "No Country for Old Men's" Anton Chigurh (Javier Bardem) and "There Will Be Blood's" Daniel Plainview (Daniel Day-Lewis). Bardem and Day-Lewis are locked in to win their respective Oscars for Best Actor on Feb. 24. But there is a critical difference between the two characters and the performances: Plainview is evil by choice, Chigurh by nature.

Plainview is a more nuanced character than many critics give him credit for. He hates all men and has devoted his life to satisfying his own greed. He has genuine affection for children because of their innocence, but this affection disappears once they have been corrupted by the adult world. He also lets his hatred for the men he deals with build up inside him until he cannot hold it in anymore, which explains why the film ends in such madness.

Chigurh, on the other hand, cannot have affection or hatred for anyone. He is completely apathetic. Like the character Death in "The Seventh Seal," his purpose is to exist and carry out fate without mercy. Sometimes he decides a character's fate on the outcome of a coin toss.

Now, on to the other nominees:

Best Picture

Will Win: "No Country for Old Men"— This film has been described as "perfect" several times. The Academy will atone for not giving the Coens their Oscar for "Fargo" by awarding them here.

Should Win: "Atonement"— The most lucid and stimulating movie among the best picture nominees. This movie communicates its themes of guilt and the consequences of words with clarity and emotion. It contains unforgettable moments, such as the scene at Dunkirk and the devastating ending.

Best Actress

Will and Should Win: Ellen Page for "Juno."— Who's seen the other nominated performances? Who can name them? Heard of "La Môme?" It wouldn't matter anyway.

Best Supporting Actress

This is the toss-up category. "American Gangster's" Ruby Dee is the sentimental favorite. Cate Blanchett is said to be the best of the Bob Dylans in "I'm Not There." Amy Ryan has gotten a lot of hype for her role in "Gone Baby Gone." Saoirse Ronan is great in "Atonement," as is Tilda Swinton in "Michael Clayton." Mr. Chigurh, bring out your coin.

Best Director

Will Win: The Coen Brothers— Again, the Academy atoning for past sins. At least it won't be like when Scorsese won for "The Departed," a lesser work for him. The Coens' work here deserves to be compared with "Fargo."

Should Win: Tony Gilroy— "Michael Clayton" was the most surprising best picture nominee. Gilroy deserves as much credit as possible.

Best Original Screenplay

Will Win: Diablo Cody for "Juno"— The Academy probably likes the story of a stripper turning into a successful screenwriter, plus the dialogue is perfect for the movie's tone and characters.

Should Win: Brad Bird for "Ratatouille"— Bird's genius is under-recognized. This and "Finding Nemo" are the two very best Disney-Pixar films.

Conference to help students locate sports careers

Students from neighboring universities will also attend daylong event

Justin Hite
Reporter

This time of year, graduating seniors are beginning their efforts to look for jobs and find a niche in the world after college.

For the third consecutive year, the Leisure and Sports Management Society will hold its Sport Business Conference on Feb. 23 at 9 a.m. If history means anything, the conference presents a real possibility for students to find a potential career.

"There has been one student who officially landed her job by attending this conference," said Tonya Albert,

treasurer of the Leisure and Sport Management Society. "She now works for GMR Marketing, a firm who works a lot with NASCAR. There have been four or five interviews and internships that our faculty sponsor can officially track."

Speakers will be coming from up and down the East Coast and will give students the opportunity to learn from well-known professionals in the field.

"Everyone speaking is a pretty big name in their field or area of expertise," Albert said.

The wide range of experts on hand include: Michael Beale, the assistant director of marketing for UNC-Chapel Hill, Stoke Caldwell, a NASCAR

legal adviser and Larry Perkins, the assistant general manager of the RBC Center. Along with those presenters, Dave Cagianello, Jan LeMahieu and Doreen Lumpkin will also be making appearances.

Cagianello is the vice president of GMR Works, Lumpkin is the manager of guest services of the Greensboro Coliseum and LeMahieu is the president of the Parade Company.

"All the companies that will be represented are very well known," Albert said. "All the speakers coming have some sort of connection to Elon, therefore they are really excited to be coming to campus."

The conference will include two sessions with speaker presentations

as well as individual opportunities to meet the presenters.

"The way the conference is organized, there are 'break-out' sessions in which it is a very relaxed and open atmosphere to ask in-depth questions of the individual speakers," Albert said. "This would be a prime opportunity to really see the potential of setting something up with that speaker to talk or interview for later."

Elon students, as well as students from North Carolina State University, Winthrop University, High Point University, Wingate University, North Carolina Central University and Methodist University are planning to attend.

Sports in Brief

Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team ended their season-high three-game winning streak Saturday as the Georgia Southern Eagles took the SoCon win 59-44.

The loss dropped the team to 10-16 overall and 8-10 in conference play.

Latham Park renovations completed

Although there have been no games played at Latham this season, there has still been action at the park. Latham Park, Elon's baseball stadium, has been going through extensive renovations to prepare for the 2008 season.

These renovations include the addition of 545 maroon seats behind home plate and a fenced enclosure surrounding the entire facility.

Preseason baseball honors

Elon juniors Steven Hensley and Pat Irvine were honored Wednesday by the Southern Conference coaches with preseason all-league accolades.

Hensley earned a spot on the first team as a starting pitcher while Irvine claimed a spot on the second team as an outfielder.

Women's Indoor Track

Two Elon University women's indoor track records were broken Saturday at the Tiger Invitational at Clemson University.

Sophomore Jennine Strange broke the 800-meter record with a time of 2:17.80.

Strange placed fourth out of 71 fellow competitors and now ranks third in the SoCon in the 800-meter run.

Freshman Krystal Paszkeicz broke the weight throw record, throwing for 11.63 meters.

Elon competes next at the University of North Carolina Relays before preparing for the SoCon Championship Tournament Feb. 29 - March 1.

Phoenix offensive coordinator resigns

Warren Ruggiero, the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach of the Phoenix since December 2005, resigned from his position Thursday after accepting a similar position at Kansas State University.

Four out of five of the colleges that Ruggiero served as offensive coordinator for have finished among the country's top 10 teams.

"Although I did not actively seek this position, I could not pass up the opportunity to fulfill a life-long career goal to coach for a BCS school," Ruggiero said. "My time at Elon has been incredibly rewarding and fulfilling."

Athlete of the Week: Brian Waters

Michelle Longo
Sports Editor

Senior guard Brian Waters has exploded in his last few games as a Phoenix basketball star.

In a recent game against Wofford University, Waters hit a 3-pointer with less than 20 seconds remaining in regulation to send the game into overtime, which the Phoenix then dominated for the 70-67 win.

"I knew I at least had to get a shot off because of time remaining," Waters said. "I just pushed the ball and shot the best shot possible."

Waters ended the night with nine points and a well-fought win.

In last week's SoCon action, Waters tallied 10 points, six boards and four assists to propel the men to another conference win.

Only three days later, Waters tallied a season-high 15 points and career-high eight rebounds to lead the Phoenix to its third straight conference win. He also went a perfect 10-for-10 from the foul line, another career best. He is now sitting on a 20-for-21 mark from the free throw line, including netting the last 16 in a row.

With only three regular season games remaining, Waters' time at Elon is quickly running out, but said he wouldn't change a thing.

"When I first came [to Elon] I did a lot of scoring," Waters said. "Over the years, I went from point guard to shooting guard. Now, I emphasize defense and being a good leader."

The last three games will be no different for Waters than all the others have been. He will still listen to his hip-hop mix before the game and he will habitually put his left shoe on before his right. Then he will proceed to Alumni Gym, his home for the past four years. As he has been so many times before, Waters will be fired up, ready to go and looking for that big win, even if it is for the last time.

"As much as I hate to see it go there is a time where it has to," Waters said. "I need to start a new chapter of my life."

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Spring club sports season kicks off

Sam Rinderman
Reporter

As varsity spring sports have started up this semester, another group of athletes also begins to take the field. Elon's club sports teams are ready to begin a spring season to remember.

The club equestrian team has already begun its season. It has participated in two Intercollegiate Horse Show Association events at St. Andrew's and Virginia Intermont.

They are currently ranked fifth out of 14 teams in the North Carolina and Virginia region.

The team's next show is Feb. 23 in Chatham, Va., and is hosted by UNC-Charlotte.

Their final regular season show on March 1 will include Wake Forest University and UNC-G.

"Two of our riders have pointed out of their divisions this year and will be going to Regionals on April 4," said Whyte Carter, equestrian club president.

He attributed the team's success this year to their new coach and 10 new members.

The women's club basketball team, has already started practicing for the spring season. Its first game is March 16 at the University of Virginia.

According to club president Rachel Dailey, the goals for this semester are to improve with the new girls they've acquired this spring. The team also hopes to host a tournament at home court in Jordan Gym.

"Our biggest strength is



DAVID WELLS | Assistant Photo Editor

Elon's Club Ultimate Frisbee team began its spring season with two weekend tournaments in February. The team's next tournament will take place March 1-2 in Greenville, N.C.

that we have a lot of depth and experience among our players, but the obstacle that we must overcome is to put that all together in a team effort," Dailey said.

The club golf team is looking forward to a good spring season after a mediocre fall.

Freshman Chris Markwood said the fall season was quite disappointing, as the team finished second to last and withdrew from two separate tournaments they were scheduled to participate in.

"For the spring we decided

to focus ourselves and get better prepared for the first tournament at UNC March 1 and 2," he said.

In order to prepare for the spring season the team held qualifying rounds at Indian Valley Municipal Course.

President Will Taylor is

excited and optimistic for the season to get underway.

The club sports program at Elon continues to be an important feature of Campus Rec, as well as the high percentage of athletes who take advantage of the opportunity.

Elon club sports

- Aiki-Bujitsu
- Baseball
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Field Hockey
- Golf
- Men's Lacrosse
- Men's Rugby
- Men's Soccer
- Roller Hockey
- Softball
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Triathlon
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Volleyball
- Women's Basketball
- Women's Lacrosse
- Women's Rugby
- Women's Soccer



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Sports

Women's tennis wins two more



Sophomore Deanna Bailey sinks low to return a hit from a difficult angle.

STEFANIE MEYERS | Photographer

Pam Richter
Reporter

The Elon women's tennis team won two decisive victories over Barton College and North Carolina A&T Saturday at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center.

The Phoenix won all 18 matches played, tallying 7-0 against both opponents. Elon improved to a 5-3 record this season.

Despite these convincing wins against two non-conference opponents, Phoenix head coach Elizabeth Anderson said she believes there are still some things her team needs to work on before conference play begins on March 1 against UT-Chattanooga.

"With every match, you see something that you want to work on," Anderson said. "We've been working a lot on our doubles to make it a strong asset of our team. I saw a lot of improvement in that today."

The Phoenix capitalized on all that doubles practicing, winning two decisive victories against the Aggies.

In the No. 1 match, Deanna Bailey and Anna Milian won 8-2. Hayley Wahl and Jenn Tucci won 8-1 in the No. 2 match for the Phoenix. In the No. 3 match, Laura Graybill and Jessica Margolis swept their opponents 8-0.

In singles play, the Phoenix fought hard to win its matches. Sophomore Paige Kensrue battled in the No. 2 match versus the Aggies' Tina Ruffin. Kensrue won the first set 6-2 before battling hard to win the second set 7-5.

"I just knew I wanted to win and I knew that I wanted it more than she did," Kensrue said. "So it was just a matter of me making it happen."

Elon will travel to East Carolina University on Thursday for its next match.

With only three matches left before conference play begins, players say they hope they can use the remaining non-conference schedule to gain some momentum before going into SoCon play.

"A victory is always nice and it will give us a lot of confidence before our next match," Kensrue said. "We'll work on a few things before our next match and we will be ready to go."

With six returning players from last season, the team has the experience to perform well within the conference.

"We've got some great players on our team," Anderson said. "We rely on every single player. It's sometimes considered an individual sport but it's not. At the end of the day, only one team wins and we want it to be us."



The Elon women's tennis team players Deanna Bailey (second from right) and Anna Milian (far right) shake hands with opposing players at a match.

STEFANIE MEYERS | Photographer

Phoenix prepares for first baseball game of the season

Michelle Longo
Sports Editor

It's that time of year again. The sky is blue and the grass is green. The clanking sound of a hard ball hitting a metal bat at 70 mph can be heard across campus. The oh's and ah's from the crowd quickly follow. The thunderous clapping and screaming soon tells you Elon has just scored and it owns the diamond yet again.

Yes, it's that time of year: Baseball season is finally here.

The Elon Phoenix will kick off its 2008 campaign Friday at the newly renovated Latham Park against the LaSalle Explorers at 3 p.m. It is the first game of a four-game weekend series with LaSalle.

By this time last year, the Phoenix had played eight games already. The opening day push-back was a decision made by the NCAA for a first-ever uniform start date.

The rule was implemented to help

cold-weather schools in the North that have complained of competitive disadvantages.

The push-back seems to have the Phoenix even more excited and eager to showcase its abilities.

"We are excited and ready to go," catcher Mike Melillo said.

In a roster dominated by freshmen, the team hopes to wipe away any scars that may remain after last season's disappointing finish, and get back to the glory days of 2006 when it boasted a SoCon championship.

The schedule this season will feature 56 games, including 31 home contests. Sixteen of those games will be against opponents who competed in NCAA post-season play just a year ago, including two-time national runner-up North Carolina.

Southern Conference play will begin with a three-game home series against The Citadel, March 14 at 4 p.m.

Elon's first conference road test comes at defending SoCon tournament

champion Wofford on March 21 at 1 p.m. The Phoenix is currently spotted to finish fourth in the 10-team Southern Conference.

"We're young with question marks, but once we get going, we can make a run for the SoCon championship," Melillo said. "I'd rather be the underdog anyway. I think it's a better position for us."

The Phoenix is optimistic about its strong offense and pitching this season. Offense was an area of concern for Elon last year, as it finished second to last in the league for team batting.

Junior Chris Dove is looking to have a repeat of his superb offensive run from last year. Dove finished the season tied for first in the Southern Conference with eight triples. He also owns the most stolen bases for the 2006-2007 campaign, with 31 of 40 attempts.

"We've got a lot of talent with our mix of old and new [players]," head coach Mike Kennedy said.

Junior pitcher Steven Hensley also had a successful season last year. He finished second in the league with 107 strikeouts, including 16 in one game.

Hensley's 107 strikeouts were ranked as the third-highest single-season total in Elon baseball history, while his 100.2 innings were ranked as the fifth-highest season total in program history.

He is most likely to hold a spot on weekend rotation. The Phoenix has also seen the addition of eight freshman pitchers.

Kennedy said they are going to have to rely on freshmen Ken Ferrer and Tom Girdwood excessively during the season. It is a lot of pressure on the freshmen but they are in high demand if Elon has a shot at improving this season.

"We have a lot of blue collar athletes who are willing to work hard," Melillo said. "We are a lot more disciplined and structured than in the past. It has already paid off."