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celebrate bin
Laden's death
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THE PENDULUM

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BIN LADEN ANNOUNCED DEAD



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Elon University students donned American flags to celebrate the demise of Osama bin Laden. A large group of students marched through campus around 12:30 a.m., chanting patriotic slogans. Mark Rehbein (from left to right), Keegan Johnson, Carolyn Koleszar, Elliot Dawes and Earle Pope cheer from the roof of a car and waved American flags to commemorate the United States' retaliation against the mastermind behind the attacks on Sept. 11.

Al-Qaeda's leader dead, Obama addresses nation

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

Osama bin Laden, leader of al-Qaeda and decade-long fugitive on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list, was announced dead by President Barack Obama late Sunday night, following years of domestic and overseas efforts toward his capture.

Obama said the operation had been ongoing since August 2010, when he was briefed about a possible lead to bin Laden indicating he was hiding in a compound deep in the north western part of Pakistan.

"It was far from certain, and it took many months to run this thread to the ground," he said in his speech. "Finally, last week, I determined that we had enough intelligence to take action, and authorized an operation to get Osama bin Laden and bring him to justice."

U.S. forces at his direction launched a targeted operation against bin Laden's

compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan Sunday. Although firefight ensued, killing four people, Obama said no Americans were injured. American forces then took custody of bin Laden's body, which has reportedly been buried at sea.

Jason Kirk, assistant professor of political science, said he first learned of the news when he read it in Monday's newspaper. Americans should not make the mistake of making bin Laden's death only about the United States, he said.

"The most important question right now is what this is going to mean for our relationship with Pakistan," Kirk said. "Pakistan obviously is where bin Laden was killed, not far from the capital at all. Did the U.S. help because of, or in spite of, Pakistan? It's simply not credible that he could have been in a place like that. Someone had to know."

Soon after hearing of bin Laden's

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Student response varies between widespread celebrations, reflection

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

Elon University students expressed contrasting reactions following the announcement late Sunday night of the military strike against Osama bin Laden in Pakistan. Some erupted in celebrations and others quietly paid tribute to those who lost their lives during the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

A large group of students, originating in Danieley Center, made its way across campus starting at 12:30 a.m., chanting patriotic slogans and waving American flags. While the participants said the demonstrations were in celebration of revenge against one of the United States' most wanted former fugitives, others characterized Sunday night's events as an unnecessary celebration of death.

Sophomore Elizabeth Nerich lives in

Manhattan and was there on Sept. 11. When she first heard the news of bin Laden's death, she said her mind went blank and she couldn't fully grasp what had happened.

Nerich said she knew many people who lost family members in the terrorist attacks and, while she will never forget what happened that day, the death of bin Laden brings some closure.

"It doesn't really change a lot, but it's good for our mentality," she said. "And it's nice that someone that caused so much fear is out of the picture."

Nerich, who lives in Danieley Center, chose to partake in the demonstration last night, partly to emphasize to terrorists that citizens of the United

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ELON REACTS TO OSAMA BIN LADEN'S DEATH



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer
(Left to Right) Sophomores Emily Parker and Becky Dwyer attended the late-night rally. Several hundred students marched in the streets Sunday.



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer
Senior Earle Pope was one of many who later jumped in Foneville Fountain.



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer
Freshman Victor Abraham cheers in celebration during the student rally that occurred after students learned of Osama bin Laden's death.

ELON STUDENTS CELEBRATE FALL OF BIN LADEN

Student-led rally began in Danieley Center, traveled across campus for hours

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

As students at Elon University waited for President Barack Obama to address the nation, news of Osama bin Laden's death spread throughout campus in seconds.

Students contacted one another through Facebook, Twitter, phone calls, text messages and shouting to one another in the residence halls. Following Obama's speech about the fall of bin Laden, celebrations originating in Danieley Center turned into a circuitous march with hundreds of supporters.

Students in Danieley Center set off fireworks shortly following Obama's speech and the excitement soon calmed down. But sophomore Elizabeth Floyd said energy remained high and she and her friends got into sophomore Joe Ziemba's car to drive around campus with the windows open, shouting and singing patriotic songs.

"It felt like a burden I didn't realize was on my shoulders was gone," Floyd said. "There was always that loose end after Sept. 11."

When Ziemba and his friends returned to Danieley, he stopped the car in the middle of the road in front of Danieley Commons and they got onto the roof of the car, blasting

Miley Cyrus' "Party in the USA." By the time the song was over, Floyd said hundreds of students had swarmed the car and began to climb on top of other vehicles. Some students then set fire to a pile of newspapers, which was quickly extinguished by Campus Safety and Police Officer Darrell Gantt.

"There are people who think celebrating death in general is not a good idea, and I understand that," said sophomore Andrew Hirsh, who was with Floyd and Ziemba at the start of the demonstration. "But he was an enemy. This was an accomplishment for America."

It is unclear who is responsible for starting the cross-campus march but according to sophomore Elliot Dawes, students soon began running toward main campus via the Danieley tram service road and through the Moseley Center parking lot.

Several students jumped in Foneville Fountain and the crowd ran through the hallways of the Smith and Carolina residence halls before spilling onto East Haggard Avenue toward Danieley Center, continuously gaining support. The crowd dispersed around 3:30 a.m. in front of Danieley Commons.

The occasion brought students together in a way similar to the country's unity immediately following

the Sept. 11 attacks, Ziemba said.

"We're rid of him, and it's very exciting," he said. "He can't kill any more people."

Dawes, who lives just outside New York City in nearby New Jersey, said he and his family could see the smoke from the Sept. 11 attacks for days.

"This moment wasn't celebrating the death of a person, for me at least," Dawes said, "but struggles we've been fighting. It's a symbol of overcoming adversity."

It was not bin Laden's demise that fueled the celebrations, Hirsh said, but instead students' desire to come together.

"At first, it was all about him being dead," he said. "But by the end, we almost forgot Osama died. It was all positive, there was so much patriotism."

But although the excitement has dissipated, Dawes said the announcement of bin Laden's death will be an occasion he will always remember.

"Now it's back to being students," he said. "Everyone will go back to their normal lives. But everyone, really, especially people involved, will have their lives before that night and their lives after. This is something they'll never forget."

MORE ONLINE: NEWS

VIDEO: Hear students' thoughts as they march down East Haggard Avenue reacting to the death of Osama bin Laden.

<http://bit.ly/TPOosama>

ZACHARY HORNER AND JEFF STERN | Executive Multimedia Editors

See more photos of the celebration on The Pendulum website.

<http://bit.ly/TPOelonmarch>



ELON REACTS TO OSAMA BIN LADEN'S DEATH

Contradictions in student reactions

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States will not live in fear.

"There are two places I wish I could have been - Washington, D.C., or Ground Zero," she said. "But Elon got close. We went crazy. It was fun."

Senior Earle Pope was in the library when he received a call from a friend and turned on CBS news on his computer. Pope eventually made his way to main campus and said he found pandemonium and students running across the university.



OSAMA BIN LADEN

He said he joined in immediately and, as students gathered near Alamance, many jumped into Foneville

Fountain, including Pope.

"It was so surreal to me to see how we reacted," he said. "I was so happy to see our campus react the way we did. Everyone is going to remember this day and where they were when they heard the news."

While he wasn't personally affected by the attacks on Sept. 11, he said he has experienced the aftermath, specifically witnessing others experience military deployment.

"Part of me is kind of confused about the celebration of death," he said. "Osama bin Laden is an evil, evil human being but it makes me sad that we live in a world where we have to kill people. Without a doubt, it was justified, it was the right thing to do. But I really wish we could have stopped Sept. 11 in the first place and never made this necessary."

While sophomore Leigh Burgess, originally from New Jersey, also was not personally affected by Sept. 11, she said some of her friends lost family members. When she first heard the news of bin Laden's death while at the gym Sunday night, she said she was not moved toward elation or celebration.

"It's not right to celebrate a killing and, regardless of how you spin it, that's what it was," she said. "People don't remember what a slap in the face it was to see the terrorists dancing and cheering after Sept. 11. We forget what it felt like for them to celebrate our deaths."

If anyone has a reason to celebrate, Burgess said, it's those who were personally affected by loss after Sept. 11. While not entirely erased, bin Laden's death should serve to relieve some of the pain.

"I don't support a country unified



Following the announcement of bin Laden's death, crowd surfing began near Danieleley Center at the end of the night.

over a killing but rather by the memory of those who were lost," she said.

And while Burgess said the death of one of the United States' most wanted fugitives does serve to tie up some of the loose ends created by Sept. 11, this does not mean an end to the fight against terrorism.

"It was power and arrogance that made America a target in the first place," she said. "Now, that same display of hubris is setting us up as a hot spot."

Sunday night, senior Evan Davis drove his truck through campus, carrying about 10 other students. Through word of mouth as well as social media, he heard about a gathering taking place near Danieleley Center.

"When we arrived, Osama bin Laden was being burned in effigy," he said.

Davis said his group of friends continued in celebrations until about 4 a.m.

"It was amazing to see that patriotism and unity on display from all the students," he said. "After years of struggle, loss and debate over the wars fought in the aftermath of 9/11, I think these types of gatherings that occurred at Elon around the country showed the exhilaration of the Americans in the wake of an unequivocal victory."

Sophomore Fiona Alfaro, who chose not to participate, described the celebrations as "animalistic" and said she believes the situation could have been handled differently.

"By avenging a death by killing, you're retaliating and it's not any different, it's creating another sort of terror," she said. "People in the United States are not terrorists. When is the vicious cycle of death going to end? There has to be a point."

Following Sept. 11, Alfaro said the people of the United States were coerced to think in a certain way, including that a sole person, bin Laden, was responsible for the attacks and his death makes everything even.

"This generation has been conditioned to live with anger and hatred and not understanding other cultures," she said. "There is a lack of understanding and compassion; I saw that last night. There was hatred."

For sophomore Kelly Large, the moment marks a significant point in history for the generation of today's college students.

"We were young but still old enough to understand and be affected," she said. "I started crying when I watched New Yorkers on the news this morning dancing in the street spraying champagne singing the national anthem."

The death of bin Laden does bring closure for the United States, Alfaro said, noting she is glad it might have aided in the progression on the war on terror.

"I'm not criticizing the United States, but the reaction of the people and the media could have been different," she said. "There was no diplomacy or professionalism."

For senior Nick Ochsner, the death of bin Laden served as a milestone for the military forces. Ochsner's father was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 after 18 years in the military.

"A lot of people hear so often through the media or in conversation we have been searching for him for 10 years and have not been able to find him," he said. "As a child of a soldier who gave his life looking for men like him, it's a vindication to have our men and women armed services find him and finish the mission."

Long-elusive terrorist killed by U.S. attack

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death, hundreds of Elon University students crowded onto the nearby streets, chanting and shouting patriotic songs. While this sentiment has been echoed across the country, Kirk said Americans should question what and why they are celebrating.

The most important issues will present themselves in the coming days, he said, as other nations begin to respond to the strike.

"The manhunt for bin Laden has been one of, if not the most, important forces driving U.S. political relations with Pakistan," he said. "I don't think there's going to be a simple reaction to this."

Bin Laden's death could not only significantly impact U.S.-Pakistani relations, but also Pakistan's relations with other countries, particularly India, which has already commented that Pakistan is a refuge for terrorists, according to Kirk.

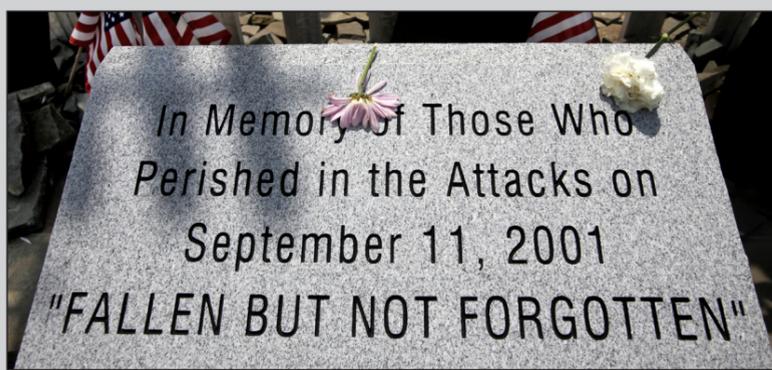
Many students celebrating bin Laden's death voiced feelings of relief that an international terrorist had been neutralized. But Laura Roselle, professor of political science, said she thinks al-Qaeda has already been on the decline for some time.

"If it makes people less afraid and they can focus more on our democratic values, to me, that would be an interesting way to think about this," she said. "I understand why people are celebrating, but the most important issues are issues that require a thoughtful analysis."

The Arab Spring, the current chain of uprisings erupting in the Middle East, will do more to diminish al-Qaeda than bin Laden's death, Roselle said, as it has been showing there is an alternative to al-Qaeda and terrorism.

"Al-Qaeda's not a very hierarchical, vertically-based organization," she said. "We know that it's more of a horizontal organization, it's more like cells. Almost like a franchise, where you have local groups that have a lot of autonomy, a lot of control over what they're doing. He was no doubt a very important symbolic leader. But that doesn't mean all these other groups are necessarily going to go away."

Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life, and Phil Smith, director of Religious Life, both said conversational events in response to bin Laden's death have not yet been planned, but students will be notified if plans for such events do arise.



The "Fallen But Not Forgotten" Sept. 11 memorial in Lexington, S.C., was adorned with flowers Monday, May 2, after news spread that Osama bin Laden had been killed.

Students share memories from terrorist attacks on Sept. 11



"I was in sixth grade in study hall when the principal walked in and I thought I was in trouble. My mom was outside and she told me. I teared up because my mom was crying, but I didn't really know what was going on. At the time I thought it was called the World Train Center, so I didn't really understand the full extent of what was going on."

- Elliot Dawes, sophomore



"My day was relatively normal until I found out what happened. And even then, its impact didn't have the same effect on me until a few years later when I could really understand what had happened. I knew something bad had happened, I knew my friends' dads had died, but I didn't fully understand what it all meant until later."

- Leigh Burgess, sophomore



"I was sitting in my classroom in fifth grade when my teacher came in and told us. There was a lot of confusion watching the same clips on television and a lot of fear and not knowing what was happening."

- Elizabeth Floyd, sophomore



"I was in Saudi Arabia and my brother and I were driving somewhere when he got a call from one of his friends, saying something was going on in the United States. We met my father and we were all in shock and so sorry."

- Abdullah Al Yahya, freshman



"I was in seventh grade and I went to a religious school. We had just gotten out of prayer for that morning and I remember they called us back into the main room. I remember all the kids, I was the one that understood what was going on, that 'holy crap this means we are going to war.'"

- Earle Pope, senior

Shipping out: early graduation rates at Elon

Sam Parker
Senior Reporter

Elon University has a low fifth-year senior graduate percentage compared to other colleges and universities. When considered alongside UNC Greensboro and Mary Baldwin College, Elon's graduation rate is put into perspective and outside factors affecting all institutions' percentages are recognized.

Elon University

Approximately 78 percent of Elon University students graduate within four years, while approximately 6 percent take an extra year to graduate, according to Rob Springer, director of institutional research.

Springer said graduation rates are calculated by analyzing numbers of a class' original freshman cohort that consists of students who come to Elon in the fall as freshmen.

The Chronicle of Higher Education, a newspaper that reports on statistics, news and information regarding colleges and universities, published a report concerning graduation rates in December, ranking Elon No. 16 out of more than 300 private master's-level colleges and universities.

Registrar Mark Albertson said he believes the three main causes of Elon's successful graduation rates are the university's four-credit system, Winter Term and summer sessions.

"Our general requirements are so clear, and our 132 credit-hour graduation requirement is not hard to achieve with summer classes and Winter Term," he said. "Also, fewer students tend to drop classes on the four-credit system because dropping classes of four credits creates a larger dent in your schedule. So, generally, students complete a more credit-full semester than students at other universities."

Albertson said the institution's summer session attendance has grown every year with the 2010 program serving approximately 1,300 students.

"There were only 500 students who came to summer school when I first started, and most were there because of probation or suspension," he said. "Now, many come to accumulate credits through internships, research projects and online classes. Now, the kids that come to summer school are coming to get even further ahead."

Junior Freda Thompson, an exercise science major, said because she came to Elon with 12 credit hours earned from AP courses in high school, her academic experience at Elon has been flexible. Thompson said she considers four years at Elon to be plenty of time to finish graduation requirements, and because of that she plans to graduate a semester early.

"As a freshman, I mapped out my four-year plan, including all required classes and prerequisite courses that I need for grad school, as well," she said. "I have always taken a course load greater than 16 hours, usually 18 or 19 in fall semesters because of marching band, and I have taken summer classes every summer so far in order to get prerequisites that I need for grad school, like microbiology and organic chemistry I and II."

Thompson said she has not felt limited in her overall experiences at Elon despite her heavy course loads, as she studied abroad in Ireland during a Winter Term session and also took a nursing assistant course at Alamance Community College to get her nursing assistant certification.

UNC Greensboro

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a public institution that houses approximately 14,300 traditional undergraduate students, has approximately 25 to 30 percent of its senior class graduate in four years, while approximately 47 to 50 percent of seniors take an extra year.

Steve Roberson, dean of undergraduate studies, said UNCG's unique undergraduate population is a primary cause for the institution's comparatively lower graduation rate. He said 25 percent of the university's population is not of non-traditional age, which is between the ages of 18 and 22.

"Many students are stopping in and stopping out," he said. "In other words, they will start an education but may need to step out for a year or so because of their family or because they lost a job and are starting another. Life happens for a lot of these folks in ways that doesn't happen for students at a traditional age."

Roberson also said the failing economy is driving students away from the classroom. He said at any given time, there



Unlike students from many other colleges, students at Elon University generally do not take more than four years to earn their degree.

are approximately 900 students on campus who come from families who are at or below the federal poverty level, which now equals an income of \$22,000 for a family of four.

"The economy right now is a friend to no one," he said. "As a relatively inexpensive as UNCG is in comparison to Elon, Duke or Wake Forest, if a family loses a job, being able to afford tuition becomes a problem."

As the economic downturn presses on, Roberson said state universities are also feeling the pressure of losing funds for financial aid. He said if financial aid expenditures are depressed, only nine credit hours will be able to receive aid. Roberson said because approximately one-third of UNCG's population is first-generation college students, meaning the majority of students' parents did not attend a college or university. Many are unsure of how to support themselves financially.

"First-generation students aren't as prepared as non-first-generation students because their parents aren't as aware of what happens and typically can't help them through the rough times, not only financially, but psychologically and emotionally, as well," Roberson said.

UNCG's large population is also a negative factor that influences graduation rates because individuals are not granted enough personal attention that can deter them, he said.

"At private schools, where the

student-faculty ratio is lower, you can expect better success rates," Roberson said. "When you have 300 or more students in a class, you start to feel like a number instead of a student."

Mary Baldwin College

Mary Baldwin College (MBC), a private, women's institution located in Staunton, Va., has an average of 780 undergraduate students. MBC's graduation rate for seniors who graduate within four years is approximately 50 percent each year while the institution's fifth-year senior graduation rate is approximately 48 percent.

Velma Bryant, director of leadership programs at MBC, said reasons for the college's high percentage of fifth-year seniors vary. She said possibilities include the institution's Adult Degree Program (ADP), a plan that offers both men and women at least 21 years old the opportunity to obtain a bachelor's degree, students' personal reasons or the college's Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program, a five-year plan that allows students to earn master's degrees in teaching after five years of study.

"I think that definitely the MAT program is very attractive to students who want to contribute time to get their masters while at Mary Baldwin," Bryant said. "Also, ADP students, though not thought of as typical undergraduate students, are

considered first-year students when they begin taking classes their first semesters. But because they're typically taking courses in conjunction with full-time job schedules and families, they are not angled to graduate in the same amount of time as regular students."

Katherine Hoang, a fifth-year psychology major, said she believes MBC's smaller undergraduate population has made it easier for her to adjust academically after transferring from her hometown community college in California. Hoang said her fifth-year status is a result of untransferrable credit hours.

"Because each student is required to pick an adviser, and because Mary Baldwin is such a small school, I feel like they keep you on track," she said. "Some of the schools that I've been to before didn't guide students, as well, so staying an extra two or three years was common. But being such a small college, I see how MBC can help other students stay on track for the four years."

Hoang said she has changed her major three times while at MBC, starting in biochemistry, then switching to biology and ending in psychology. Hoang said it is difficult to secure courses within the harder sciences because required lab and lecture classes are limited. But she said with the help of MBC's adult degree program, she is on track to graduate this summer.

Elon to welcome professor of Jewish studies in the fall

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

This fall, Elon University will welcome Geoffrey Claussen, the first professor of Jewish studies, an arrival that is part of a larger movement on the academic side of Jewish life, which has expanded in recent years.

The current freshman and incoming classes are, at a minimum, 7 percent Jewish, though probably much larger, said Nancy Luberoff, Hillel director.

"We have done a good job of supporting student life, but the academic end has been slower to respond because, by nature, academic change is much slower and requires new positions, people and curriculum," she said.

Compared to peer and aspirant institutions with similar Jewish populations, Luberoff said Elon is below the norm in terms of Jewish studies classes. She noted examples such as the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston, the Judaic studies minor at George Mason University and Jewish studies course offerings at the UNC Greensboro.

"What we're seeing is the increase in Jewish population has pushed and

energized student life on campus," she said. "And as Jewish life becomes more energized, more Jewish students come."

The department of religious studies first began advertising the position last year, according to Michael Pregill, assistant professor of religious studies and one of the six full-time faculty members in the department who were involved in the hiring process.

When a department attempts to create a new position, it must argue in terms of both numbers, such as who is available to teach courses, as well as the significance. In this case, the importance of a Jewish studies component is the discussion and specialties the department represents.

"The overarching interest in developing Jewish life and a Jewish studies program is in line with the rapidly increasing Jewish population," Pregill said.

After interviews at the meetings of the American Academy of Religion and Association of Jewish Studies last semester, the finalists were narrowed down to three.

Faculty and students were given the chance to meet with candidates, both to evaluate them and answer their questions, Luberoff said.

"That was a hugely reciprocal process because the finalists, in different ways, were also interested to know the kind of Jewish life they'd find on campus and we were in the best position to answer that," she said.

While Pregill said the department has traditionally been dominated by Christian themes, it has increasingly become more diversified, making this transition a natural one for the university.

The two courses Claussen will be teaching in the fall include Jewish Traditions, tracing the history of the Jewish community, and Religion in a Global Context, introducing students to the study of religion, as well as its multifaceted role in the world.

"I have a deep interest in the history of Jewish ethics and especially conceptions of love, compassion and justice," Claussen said. "I'm also very interested in questions of moral development, especially in considering the ways in which Jewish practices may impact moral character."

Coupled with these courses, Elon will also offer a class in modern Hebrew, which already has strong student support, according to Luberoff. There are also discussions about the formation of

a Jewish studies minor or concentration, which could potentially begin this fall, she said.

"This is part of a whole package of making Elon a diverse university and it's not enough just to say that the student population is diverse," she said. "We have to have all of the support services and academic support to go with it."

Claussen is currently working toward a doctorate in Jewish thought at the Jewish Theological Seminary Graduate School in New York. This spring, he taught courses in Jewish ethics and an introduction to Judaism at Oberlin College. In 2007, he was ordained as a rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary Rabbinical School.

MORE ONLINE: NEWS

VIDEO: Find out more about Hillel, Elon University's Jewish community.

<http://bit.ly/TPOhillel>

MARGARET CISSEL | Multimedia Editor



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Festivus is described on the Facebook group as "the embodiment of all that is Party holy." The daytime party includes mud, giant beer bongs, a pig roast, mud, alcohol and more mud. The location of the event changes each year.

Festivus: A muddy tradition

Becca Tynes
Senior Reporter

Mud, alcohol and a roasted pig. All three of these were involved Saturday, April 30 at Festivus, an annual student-organized event that has been held at Elon University for the past five years. Hundreds of students attended the muddy off-campus party, and while they may love it, many faculty and members of the administration think differently.

"I personally believe this event is dangerous to students' well-being," said Evan Heiser, assistant director of Residence Life in North Area. "Besides those who choose to abuse alcohol as part of their participation in the event, those who try and participate safely can be in danger."

Elon senior Andy Milne was arrested Saturday for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest, delay and obstruction charges. He was taken into custody after a brief foot chase, according to the incident report from the Elon Town Police.

Reports received from the university and town police indicate there were few problems with this

year's Festivus, according to Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of Student Life.

The university did not receive complaints from community members or reports of any injuries or extreme intoxication, Jackson said.

"For many students, Festivus is fun and represents a time to celebrate the beautiful spring weather and do something different from the typical social activities," he said. "It has some positive aspects as a community tradition, as this event cuts across student affinity groups."

Elon sophomore Jon Cart attended Festivus and said he enjoys it each year because it is an event unique to Elon. Any student, no matter his or her class year or affiliation with clubs or societies, can participate in Festivus and enjoy it, Cart said.

But while students may enjoy playing in the mud all afternoon, resident assistants may not enjoy cleaning up the muddy dorms and bathrooms that form as a result of the event.

"I knew some of my residents wanted to go to Festivus, so I just asked them to be careful and to rinse off before coming home so the hall wouldn't

be muddy," said Laura Hashem, an Elon sophomore and resident assistant in Staley.

Resident assistants are concerned for the well-being of their residents, Heiser said. While not all resident assistants are directed to e-mail their residents regarding cleanliness in the dorms after Festivus, resident assistants who do choose to e-mail their residents typically focus on encouraging them to be safe and not bring mud into the halls.

"I enjoy hearing about events that promote Elon's community spirit and allow students to have fun and enjoy one another's company," said Steven House, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. "We continue to encourage those organizing Festivus to consider the potential consequences and the liability they are incurring by participating in such a event."

While Festivus is often associated with injuries and legal charges, it is an event most students believe will be around for a while.

"I really think it's an awesome Elon tradition and a great way to celebrate the end of the year," Hashem said.

Potential early college high school program challenges students from Alamance County, provides enhanced academic experience

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

Faculty members at Elon University have discussed developing an early college high school, which would enable high school students in the Alamance-Burlington School System to attend classes at Elon University. Such a program would strengthen the county school system, according to Gerry Francis, a member of the exploratory committee and executive vice president at Elon University.

Despite the collaboration with the university, the early college high school program would still be considered part of the public school system.

Although the definition of an early college high school varies by each state, North Carolina defines it as an educational system for first generation college students, who are the first members of their families to attend college.

"It's a pick me up by the bootstraps to help those that don't know what college life is like," Francis said.

Elon's program will neither directly reflect this definition nor be a traditional early college high school, according to Francis.

"This is a partnership between the Alamance-Burlington School System and Elon University," he said.

But not all high school students are early college high school candidates.

"Students that get into this high school will be academically talented and academically committed," said Peter Felten, director of the Center for the

at Elon University and a member of the exploratory committee.

Betty Morgan, associate professor of political science, and Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president for Student Life, are also on the exploratory committee. The committee has been meeting since the fall semester to examine possibilities for an early college high school in Elon.

Although no plans have been finalized, the current initiative would isolate ninth and 10th grade students in a self-contained building, but 11th and 12th graders would attend regular university classes. Each early college high school class would contain approximately 30 students, and all students can receive up to two years of college credit.

"We're talking about giving 120 students opportunities they never would have had," Francis said.

He described the programming as serving the underserved.

"It provides a need for another underrepresented population in the country," Patterson said. "This population would be students who are capable of doing college-level work really early and who need the opportunity to have a higher level of academic challenge."

An early college high school would also be attractive to local businesses, she said.

"When you take the head of the hospital or one of the major corporations in the community and they have difficulty hiring top-flight folks because of the school system, you have to take notice," Francis said. "When hiring top-flight and they don't live in the community, you

Strengthening the school system will translate to an increase in the number of residents employed at reputable local businesses, he said.

"So it's self-serving in some way, but it's a good spirit of self-serving," he said.

Patterson also said she believes enhancing academics at the high school level would consequentially improve education in the lower grades.

"I think the guidance counselors in the middle schools will be able to select students for the early college high school early and it will be neat if those kids have something to work toward," she said. "Once students meet the criteria, there will be a commitment to a balance among the schools in the county."

Although the exploratory committee members expressed confidence regarding the academic component, faculty present at an information meeting Tuesday, April 26 voiced concerns about the social environment.

"Research and experience showed that kids who are really committed to a traditional high school experience, such as wanting to be the quarterback of the high school football team, aren't going to apply," Felten said.

Early college high school students will not be allowed inside residence halls, fraternity and sorority buildings or at party scenes. Although 11th and 12th graders would be integrated into Elon University classes, they would not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.

Instead, they can participate in clubs at their feeder high schools.

ABSS education partnership programs already in place

- **Elon Credit Bank:** Enables high school seniors to take selected college-level courses at Elon University. Students can enroll in one course during the fall and spring semester and receive full academic credit.

- **Elon Academy:** Permits Alamance County high school students who demonstrate strong academic ability to participate in summer residential experiences and year-round Saturday programs.

- **SPLASH program:** A Spanish immersion program at the elementary school level in the Alamance-Burlington School System.

school is considered part of the public educational system, Elon professors are still entitled to the liberties allotted to them as professors at a private institution.

"We will be very clear with students and faculty that faculty have full freedom in their classrooms," Patterson said. "We would not expect faculty to adjust teaching at all to accommodate high school students."

Francis predicts the proposal for the early college high school will be submitted during the summer, in hopes that the program can begin in the fall. The Alamance-Burlington School System appointed Lillie Cox as superintendent. Cox will need to approve the initiative

Initiative behind student pay raise aims to offset increased tuition, book costs

Sam Parker
Senior Reporter

Administrators at Elon University are discussing the possibility of raising student wages even though the North Carolina minimum wage is currently set at \$7.25 per hour.

Gerry Francis, executive vice president, said although a specific wage has yet to be determined, the initiative aims to better help students pay for college expenses while encouraging them to remain on campus for employment opportunities.

"We're tossing around ideas because our final decisions are not yet made," Francis said. "But, our idea is, 'How can we keep our talented students working on campus rather than necessarily having them go into the malls and places like that? How can we at the institution benefit from that?'"

Freshman Danielle White, a Belk Library employee, said she works an average of 13 hours per week, and because she pays for school, she would greatly benefit from the proposed pay raise.

"A pay raise would help me be slightly less dependent on loans and scholarships," White said. "I would use some of it for spending money, but I don't believe a pay raise would change my spending habits."

Aside from initial pay raises, Francis said the administration hopes to open up more employment opportunities for students so they have more financial resources to pay for tuition, housing and books. He said he hopes an increase in on-campus employment will benefit the Elon community, as a whole, in return.

"Once we actually decide on this, what we're going to do is go out into the community and say, 'OK, faculty members, do you have some projects that you've wanted to get done that a good junior or senior-level student might be able to help you get done,'" Francis said.

On-campus departments that employ larger numbers of students, such as Campus Rec and Belk Library, will be asked if they need additional help, Francis said, but employers will have to justify and specify their needs before they are granted.



The current student wage will be raised from \$7.25 to a yet undetermined amount.

"We would go to folks and say, 'Are you staffed up well enough? Do you need some more help? What do you need? Let us know,'" he said.

Peter Tulchinsky, director of Campus Rec, said the department would petition for additional positions if given the opportunity to increase student staff.

"We would like to staff both levels of the new fitness center next year and plan to staff the pool facility at The Station at Mill Point when it becomes operational," he said.

Tulchinsky said as long as departmental budgets equally accompany the hourly wage increase, his employees will only benefit because the pay raise would not impact how many hours Campus Rec employees were scheduled.

Francis said Elon expects to raise departmental budgets to account for the increase in student pay and that a final decision is expected to be made in a month and a half. When finalized, he said the initiative will be put into effect for the fall of 2011.

Students demonstrate support for NC tornado victims

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

Elon students gathered around a tree branch lodged into the ground as a 5-year-old boy looked on, but the scene of the tornado's destruction soon transformed into a moment of honor.

"Everyone was determined to get it out," said sophomore Anthony Pratt, who attended the service trip to Methodist University. "After a long, long time, we finally managed to get it loose enough to pull it out, but we didn't pull it out immediately."

The students reserved the heroic triumph for the boy as he stood among debris from the recent tornadoes.

Although Elon was left relatively untouched when tornadoes ripped through North Carolina, students organized relief efforts to aid victims of the natural disaster.

Elon students left campus and participated in a service trip to Shaw University Saturday, April 30 and to Methodist University April 23. Students removed debris from Shaw's campus and communities near Methodist.

SGA submitted a resolution to Shaw University expressing Elon's solitude and donated \$100 to the Mechanics and Farmers Bank Shaw University Relief Fund, Aerial Hall, director of Elon Volunteers, coordinated the Moseley table fundraiser to

raise money for the local Red Cross chapter and Kappa Delta sorority organized a can drive.

Seeing the destruction validated the disastrous effects of the tornado, according to junior Megan Murray, a student who attended the trip to Methodist.

In the Fayetteville community where the students volunteered, 160 of the 182 apartment units had been condemned. Trees were broken and shingles were scattered around the lawn.

"When we were cleaning up, just seeing how the debris was stuck in the ground and there were branches that were embedded in the dirt made me realize how powerful tornadoes really are," she said.

The tornado impacted 32 counties in North Carolina, provoking North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue to request a disaster declaration for 18 counties.

While traveling to Methodist in Fayetteville, the 12 student volunteers passed the collapsed Lowe's in Samford.

"Literally half the building was caved in," Pratt said. "Just seeing the demolition was eye-opening."

Students were shocked at the amount of damage throughout North Carolina.

"Most of the students perked up when they saw that," said Robert Dunlap, assistant director of student activities. "It showed them how real the devastation was."

Shaw will be closed for the remainder of the semester. The roof of the student center

at the university was completely removed and windows were blown out, said Alex Nickodem, Phonathon coordinator and adviser for the Shaw service trip.

Although the majority of the clean-up required professional assistance, Elon students gathered debris and removed it from the center of campus, Nickodem said.

"It was pretty meaningful to see people from across the state, and with all the weather happening, nationally, locally and internationally, it calmed my nerves to be with people across the state and made me forget about all the doom and gloom that seemed to be happening," Nickodem said.

Nickodem traveled with three Elon students to Shaw and met with other university students at the site.

"I wasn't aware of how bad it was going to be," Nickodem said. "When I got down there, it was crazy being in the middle of the city and just seeing how some areas had not been touched at all and some had not been affected (by the tornado). We really couldn't believe that that had happened on a campus."

The service trip to Methodist represented the community unity, as well, Pratt said.

"It wasn't just people from the university coming to help them out," he said. "There were people from the neighborhood that came to volunteer, there was a mother with her 5-year-old son there and people from the community."

NEWS BRIEFS

West End Apartment land to be rezoned

The area containing West End Apartments will be rezoned, but there will not be any changes to the buildings or surrounding land. The area, originally zoned as a multifamily residential, will be identified as urban residential. Lawson Brown, the owner of Trollering and West End Apartments, chose to rezone the area for tax and financial purposes.

He purchased both the Trollering and West End Apartment complex in 1997, but a 2007 land development ordinance changed the zoning districts.

"We are just changing so the districts are in accordance," Brown said.

There was a tax amendment in 2007 on the area north of the railroad tracks. The rezoning of West End Apartments would make the two properties' districts consistent.

"We are not building anything new," he said. "We are just dealing with what's there."

The rezoning will have no effect on any of the residents there, said Sean Tencer, town planner for the Town of Elon.

Elon honors black students at award ceremony

The Phillips-Perry Black Excellence Awards Banquet was held April 30 in Alumni Gym and more than 100 students were honored. It was the 18th annual award ceremony and the keynote speaker was Frank Haith, class of 1988 and head men's basketball coach at the University of Missouri.

Elon student wins civic fellows award

Elon University junior Amber Mathis is one of 135 students to receive a national award from Campus Compact. Mathis received a Newman Civic Fellows Award. Campus Compact is a national organization that aims to improve community life and to educate college students on civic and social responsibility.

Law, undergraduate students host wrongful convictions forum

Elon's chapter of Phi Alpha Delta and Elon Law's Innocence Project co-sponsored a forum called "Wrongful Convictions and Innocence: Racism and the SBI Audits." Speakers included Daryll Hunt, who was exonerated of rape and murder charges after more than 19 years in prison, and three attorneys who focus on innocence and justice initiatives. It is the first time an Elon Law and undergraduate student organization have worked together.

Annual Awards Day Ceremony

Juniors and seniors who have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills while maintaining high academic standards were presented awards last Thursday night at the Annual Awards Day Ceremony sponsored by Omicron Delta Kappa. The ceremony is part of Elon's Celebrate Week.

Awards and award recipients: *Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award*: Christina H. Strader, David M. Rogerson & Tom Flood (staff). *Ella Brunk Smith Award*: Sarah M. Knight-McKenna. *Iris Holt McEwen Community Services Award*: Mary Ellen Yost. *John W. Barney Memorial (Top GPA) Award*: Stacey Allison Markham. *Outstanding Academic Service-Learning Student Paper Award*: Lindsey Elliott Yasso. *Student Communications Media Award*: Pamela Richter. *Truitt Center Reconciliation Award*: Zachary L. Jordan. *W.L. Monroe Christian Education and Personality Award*: Katelyn E. O'Dunne & William Ross Brummett. *William Moseley Brown Leadership Award*: Stacey Allison Markham.

Calendar: May 4-10

May 4

- Lia Purpua guest reading at 7:30 p.m. in Yeager Recital Hall
- Free ice cream social courtesy of Elon Town Center noon-1:30 p.m. on the corner of North Williamson Avenue and West College Avenue

May 5

- Phoenix Jazz Quartet benefit performance at Jezebel's Jazz Bistro at 3281 S. Church Street 7 p.m.-9 p.m., proceeds go to Periclean Scholars
- "On that Note: an evening of dance and music" in McCrary Theatre at 7:30 p.m.
- Sweet Sigs at Midnight Meals

May 6

- Cornhole tournament at 3 p.m. in Young Commons
- "On that Note: an evening of dance and music" at 7:30 p.m. in McCrary Theatre
- "It's Only Life" at 7:30 p.m. in Black Box Theatre
- Spring Show 7 p.m.

May 7

- A Fashion Affair: 2011 Spring Fashion Show 7 p.m. in McKinnon Hall, tickets are \$5, proceeds go to American Red Cross Japan Relief Fund
- "On that Note: an evening of dance and music" 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in McCrary Theatre

May 8

- "It's Only Life" at 7:30 p.m. in Black Box Theatre

May 9

- Cinelone Film Festival at 6:30 p.m. at Carousel Cinemas at Alamance Crossing, admission is \$2

May 10

- Elon University Wind Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. in McCrary Theatre
- Spring semester classes end

For more dates and information about campus events, visit the calendar on the Elon website.

Editorial

Bin Laden, the infamous face of an age, is dead

Most current Elon students were in the third through seventh grades when the attacks occurred on Sept. 11, 2001. They were probably at school. Some may have left early, or were picked up by harried parents. Others may not have heard about the attacks until late in the afternoon. Some may not have gone to school at all.

But it is a good bet they all remember exactly where they were. They know how they found out the world they lived in was a drastically different place.

Flash forward nine years, seven months and 20 days and once again, even if just for a moment, that world has changed again.

Osama bin Laden is dead.

Streets around the country, Elon's included, filled with mobs of ecstatic Americans, who were perhaps celebrating unbridled patriotism, or happy for an excuse to drink on a Sunday night. Or maybe it was a little of both.

If they can arrest, they must report to the press

The Pendulum applauds and supports the pending lawsuit against Elon University and N.C. Attorney General Roy Cooper, spurred by an Elon senior. It is the staff's hope that this matter will be quickly resolved and the requested police documents and all future police documents will be released to student media organizations and the public.

Nick Ochsner, a reporter for the student broadcast news organization, Phoenix14 News, filed a lawsuit last month requesting police reports stemming from an incident that occurred last year at Sandy's Subs.

While on the surface getting the arrest report of a student who resisted officers while intoxicated may seem trivial in the scope of campus news, but access to these vital documents allows student media organizations to inform the public of criminal occurrences and provides an important check on police power.

This is not the first time The Pendulum

Bin Laden was a man whose face was part of the American experience since a few days after Sept. 11, when the terrorist group al-Qaeda took responsibility for the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the crash of Flight 93, the fourth plane whose hijacked destination is still unknown.

In many ways, bin Laden's death is a news story that owes its rapid dissemination to the world from which it emerged. It is a world of the 24-hour news network, the informed citizen and a world where journalism isn't a one-way street.

Many people probably didn't get last night's news, at least initially, from Brian Williams or Wolf Blitzer. They saw tweets, Facebook updates and flashing updates at the top of websites. Friends texted, called or simply shouted down the hall.

From there, the information trickled down rapidly. Unless you were asleep or completely ignoring your phone, computer,

television and the ruckus outside, you probably knew bin Laden was killed by midnight, if not earlier.

Most college students can't remember a world without a War on Terror. Bin Laden and the actions he instigated were as much a part of our upbringing as Barney the Dinosaur or The Rugrats.

The challenge now is how to deal with the new world order that has been created in the wake of Sept. 11. Bin Laden and al-Qaeda may have started it all, but there are still wars being fought. We finally killed the person who kicked the dominos down. But they've already fallen and can hardly be picked up again. There is no going back, even if he is dead.

The American people can celebrate now if they'd like. It's their right. But they should remember what our brave men and women are fighting for overseas. And they should remember that the fight is far from over.

or Phoenix14 have been denied records and received redacted information from Campus Safety and Police. The access to some reports is minimal and often inconsistent. This is an embarrassment to Elon University, an institution that prides itself in liberal arts education and houses the Sunshine Center of the North Carolina Open Government Coalition, an organization that fights to protect and see public records laws are obeyed in North Carolina, the very laws Campus Safety and Police are violating.

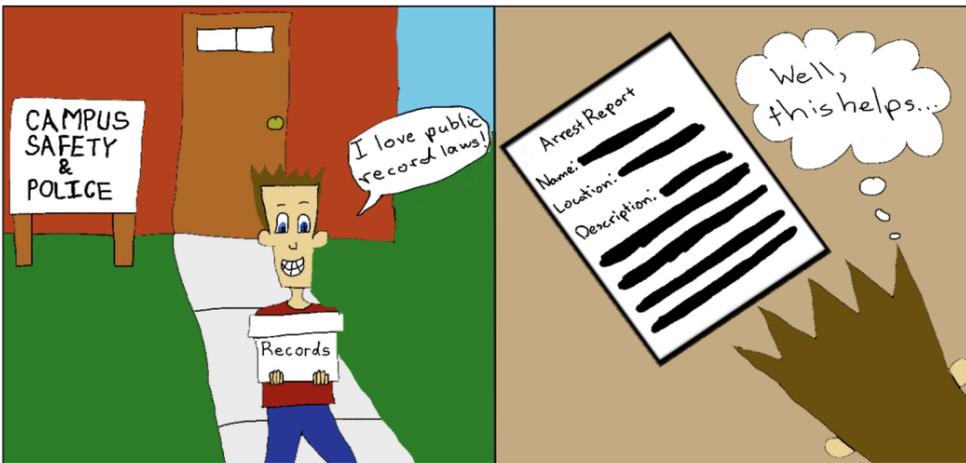
To be fair to Elon, the law can be vague, and spokesperson Dan Anderson said in a written statement the university does not believe it is subject to surrender these records, but has always strived to provide records when requested.

Let us be clear. If a police officer has the power to arrest a student, whether it be the Town of Elon Police Department or the university's Campus Safety and Police, they are subject to open records law under

North Carolina statute. Under these laws, the time, date, location and nature of the violation of law; the name, sex, age, address, employment and alleged violation of the law by a person arrested and charged; and the circumstances surrounding an arrest, among other items, are required to be made public.

It's not out of malice these police agencies are withholding records, but claiming ignorance is not a valid excuse in any court of law or profession. Students and media organizations demand the right to the records concerning criminal activity occurring within and out of Elon's bricked pathways.

The university should release these public police documents, provide thorough training to all Campus Safety and Police and Judicial Affairs personnel on open records and meetings laws and apologize for this breach in our sacred First Amendment rights.



RACHEL SOUTHMAYD | Opinions Editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

This is written in response to the April 20 column "Church's anti-gay message only leads to distrust and fear," by Gabriela Szewcow.

Ms. Szewcow makes an argument which must be commended for its compassion and honesty, yet there are several points which need clarification, further understanding or a counter. This will be conducive to a reasoned debate. This response is more of an attempt to better outline the church's position than to argue one way or the other.

Ms. Szewcow makes the argument that if unfruitful homosexual relations eliminate them from the status of marriage, then so should unfruitful heterosexual relations. While this makes sense on the surface, one has to understand that it is the very natures of homosexuality and heterosexuality that are concerned, not any specific couple or couples.

Homosexuality, by definition, cannot produce offspring, whereas heterosexuality can. The infertility of any couple is unfortunate, but their nature allows for the possibility of offspring,

whereas homosexual couples do not.

Ms. Szewcow then makes the mistake of saying that "(the church) doesn't allow (homosexuals) to be members while living their lives the way they want to." The church accepts all, and it cannot turn away a person who truly wants to be a part of it. But, joining or possessing membership in the church entails a large degree of adherence, and if a person cannot uphold or attempt to live out the message of the church, then they need to re-examine why they are there. Certainly all types of sinners are welcome into the church, if they wish to reform their ways.

This connects to the idea that feelings and actions are two entirely different things. To act sinfully is to sin willfully. The church recognizes that homosexuals are homosexuals by nature, not by choice, and thus cannot help how they feel. They can however, help how they act. The church calls homosexuals to chastity, and if a Catholic homosexual refuses to abide by that, then they are the problem, not the church.

This brings me to my last rebuttal. Szewcow casually suggests that the Catholic church abandon what has been

one of its most consistent policies for nearly two thousand years. Claiming the church's teachings are outdated is as ludicrous as saying the office of the Dalai Lama or the British Monarchy is outdated, simply because they retain some less than contemporary traditions.

In any case, it is not simply a matter of the Church being unwilling to change its position, but rather the matter that it cannot. This view on homosexuality is defined, infallibly, in the dogma and Magisterium of the Catholic church, and no matter the opinions of any Pope, Cardinal or theologian, it cannot change. Even if they would want to, they must recognize the infallibility of the dogma to do so, as that same concept grants them any authority to enforce it. To deny it would be to deny any authority to preach on the matter.

I can only conclude with my well-wishes to the reader and to Ms. Szewcow, as well as the regret that length requirements do not allow me to provide a more in-depth response.

Aureilien Nicot
Class of 2014

MORE ONLINE

See the full story about the lawsuit:
<http://bit.ly/TPOOchsner>

Senior Catie Serex reflects on the emotional conflict over Osama bin Laden's death:
<http://bit.ly/TPObin-Ladenreflection>

THE PENDULUM

Established 1974

The Pendulum is published each Wednesday of the academic year. The advertising and editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. the Friday before publication. Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed and emailed with a telephone number for verification. Submissions are accepted as Word documents. The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned. You can reach The Pendulum by email at pendulum@elon.edu. If you have questions or concerns about an article, contact a section editor. Please do not respond to reporters directly.

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Opinions

Birther controversy detracts from more significant issues



Caitlin O'Donnell
Columnist

In the midst of devastating storms across the southern United States and ongoing violence in the Middle East, there was one headline that dominated news coverage for days: President Barack Obama's birth certificate. Or, more specifically, accusations that he was not born in the United States.

After days of challenges and speculation, led by billionaire and potential Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump,

Obama released an online copy of his long-form birth certificate last Wednesday, showing, once again, that he was indeed born in Honolulu.

The president gave this issue one last kick in the rear at the annual White House Correspondent's Dinner on Saturday night. He said he was releasing his "birth video" and then proceeded to show a clip from the children's movie, "The Lion King." When it finished, he reminded the FOX News table that this was a joke, but they could access the long-form version from Disney.

The following day, April 28, the front pages of the nation's leading newspapers were dominated by the story. Both The New York Times and Los Angeles Times published copies of the birth certificate on their front pages, while numerous other papers ran a related story.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASSOCIATED PRESS
President Obama made fun of the controversy over his birth certificate at the annual White House Correspondents Dinner.

Obama himself noted the "silliness" of the controversy at a press conference the day of the release, saying he decided to publish the birth certificate two weeks prior when more specific issues of national importance took the backseat to this debacle. The release of the 2012 Republican budget and Obama's speech on the United States' debt received far less consideration than the more contentious and provocative "birther" conspiracy theory.

The responsibility for this unnecessary controversy lies just as much with Republicans like Trump as it does with the mainstream media.

Journalists are trained to hunt for stories that

are newsworthy, those that the public needs to know about, those that have serious significance. This was not one of them.

Conjecture about Obama's birthplace has existed for years, long before Trump began calling increased attention to the matter in his own attempt to gain ground for his presidential bid.

It's when well-known talking heads such as Trump gain the widespread notice and subsequent coverage from the media that the problem arises. Rather than properly vetting Trump as they would any other source, the media jumped on the bandwagon of his ill-supported movement and gave him the coverage he was hoping for.

But more than just adding flame to the fire of Trump's controversy, this type of coverage can have even further consequences.

The general public turns to the media for the stories they should be paying attention to and those that will affect them.

When this story, or any number of others like it, are splashed across the front pages and TV screens, focus is taken away from those issues that truly matter. As a result, the media fail to accomplish their main purpose in a democratic society — informing the public with accurate, significant coverage.

Feel free to disagree with the politics of a president. Go ahead, challenge his platform, his policies, his practices. But do so with solid evidence backing your argument. Don't make empty charges based more on petty accusations than real facts. And, above all else, don't harm the understanding of the public by giving such people the attention they crave.

Two sides to the story: Obama's Sunday address

Commander in Chief was stoic, spoke with appropriate gravity



Ashley Jobe
Columnist

Fissures cascaded down the natural angles in his face as his mouth opened. With what seemed like an intentional pause allotted for the gravity of

his announcement, President Barack Obama spoke. Watching from screens around the country and world, the president could be seen displaying the slightest quivers of stress in the deep, hardened set of his jaw.

One would've thought he was charged with informing all of the United States that the world was coming to an end. The intensity was palpable, the importance paramount. Even college students, clad in comfortable clothes, hidden away in apartments and dorm rooms, could understand what a mighty occurrence this was.

The president's face was solemn, serious and he recited the facts of the mission that killed Osama bin Laden, as well as the broad events that led up to it. He also reminded America of who exactly bin Laden was, and why his capture or assassination was so important to the United States.

With just the right dose of severity, and all of the necessary appreciation for the work the troops have done, Obama stood at a lectern in front of the world and made an announcement millions had been longing to hear.

This came after an intriguing phenomenon pervaded the Internet stratosphere. Chaos erupted on major media outlets as students, parents

and bystanders all across the nation expelled what seemed like decades of pent-up feelings after terrorist attacks left our population emotionally crippled.

Footage of patriotic riots like what could be seen at midnight on Elon's campus streamed live. There were people waving flags, shouting professions of patriotism and singing songs of pride.

Amidst all this, and expectedly so, the leader of our valued democracy made a riveting speech with the poise one should expect from the Commander in Chief.

He found time, as he always does, to direct our attention to the future, the steps we must now take. Using every opportunity for education in the public eye, he reinforced the line he's always drawn between religious persecution and the pursuit of justice, saying America's War on Terror is not a war on Islam and that the two have never been linked, a concept lost on many Americans.

"Bin Laden was not a Muslim leader; he was a mass murderer of Muslims," Obama said.

He also reminded the nation of the common patriotism that emerged after September 11, the national unity and the national resolve to protect America's people and allies from the atrocities perpetrated by al-Qaeda.

Around 25 students sat around me in one of my New Jersey public school classrooms Tuesday, September 11, 2001. I remember how I felt: panic coursed through my veins, my heart raced with fear of the unknown. Nothing equips one to be thrust into darkness like that.

Obama, with the calculated words he uttered late last night, took the American people back to that place, but planted them firmly in the here and now.

Finally, nearly a decade later, we've been granted some peace.

President pats himself on the back and aims for "patriotism points"



Robert Wohner
Columnist

For a country with "united" in its name, achieving unity in America is difficult. The sporadic moments of cohesion come with varying effects.

The potential of a unified people cannot be underestimated. But rarely is such a state easily attained. Sustaining it is even harder.

In politics, nothing unifies a nation like having a common villain. For the last 10 years, that villain has been Osama bin Laden. Simply said, May 1, 2011, we got him.

So America celebrated. According to CNN, at the peak of the news conference, Twitter users sent an astounding 4,000 tweets per second. From commending Obama's confidence to repeating Obama's critical line, "Justice has been done," the tweets roared through the Internet.

As if channeling the advice of his former White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, Obama was intent to "never let a serious crisis go to waste." No one seemed more primed to capitalize on this unity than Obama.

As he addressed the country Sunday night to announce the news, Obama transformed himself from a Nobel Prize-winning symbol for peace into a wannabe colonial Minuteman, spouting rhetoric sure to win supporters, and potential 2012 voters, with "These Colors Don't Run" bumper stickers.

"As a country, we will never tolerate our country being threatened, nor stand idly by when our citizens are killed," he said. "We will be true to the values that make us who we are."

If Obama's speech aimed to win major patriot points Sunday, he succeeded.

With no acknowledgement of the public's perpetual lack of focus on

the war in Afghanistan, he reiterated his executive role in authorizing the attack. Unlike his fledgling accountability and lack of leadership on many key issues in recent years, he fully embraced taking credit for this. Avoiding the larger implications of this symbolic event, the president closed with a dramatic reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Truly, it has never sounded better.

Celebrating the death of our enemies might be an emotionally satisfying form of patriotism. But history has shown it to be equally the emptiest. It is empty because it affirms nothing. It inspires no lasting effects. It prompts no desire to establish sustainable peace. It fuels a constant search for more enemies to find, defeat and overcome, for the emotional high it brings.

Consistently, Americans cannot rally and come together to tackle tangible, relevant issues that this country faces domestically and abroad. How we find common ground in the celebration of America's prominence in war recalls a mindset that put thousands of Japanese Americans in internment camps in the 1940s and had us eating "freedom fries" after the attacks on September 11. Once an enemy is identified, the people respond.

For the president to propagate the celebration of bin Laden's death without the renewed commitment to establish a future of stability was irresponsible. The points were earned, and the tweets raged, but what's next?

Is bin Laden's death a significant event? No question. Should the president, our soldiers and intelligence personnel, be congratulated? Sure. Is there solace to be found for the victims' families in his death? Maybe. If there is, so be it.

#Osama will trend on Twitter this week like #RebeccaBlack did a month ago. Without any context or motivation to channel this current fervor into something meaningful, both unifying events will prove to be equally fruitless. Given the stakes, honking cars and wearing an American flag as a cape won't be enough.

Twisting balloons, telling jokes: Elon student works as unconventional artist

Marlena Chertock
Design Editor

The first time she tried to twist and shape balloons, she popped several. She even got several cuts. But a year later, junior Sam Chambers is working as a balloon artist for Balloon Distractions, a national balloon contracting company. She is now regional director in Raleigh.

Chambers was laid off from her job as a hostess at a creamery during winter of her senior year in high school. She found an ad for Balloon Distractions on Craigslist, which is how the company mostly advertises.

When Chambers didn't hear back from them for two months, she said she assumed she didn't get the position. But then she received a call from her future trainer.

"During the interview they ask you to tell jokes, sing songs and be funny," she said. "I really have to be able to think on my feet."

Creating characters with balloons

Chambers, a media arts and entertainment major, was trained to make balloon art over Skype for one week. Then the company sent her to a restaurant for her first event, which she said was terrifying.

"I've done a bar-mitzvah, birthdays, festivals, weddings and proms," she said. "Basically anything and everything, I will do it."

Chambers entertains with balloon animals, art, jokes and riddles for parties. She usually works two events a week at restaurants in the local area and Raleigh.

"It's really good to draw upon life experiences for jokes," she said. "It's better to have more personal jokes, more genuine. It's not as funny when people look up a joke on the Web."

Her usual balloon creations are Disney princesses, Nintendo characters, fairies and motorcycles. She once made a one-foot Justin Bieber sculpture.

When she was asked to make a zombie Indiana Jones, her weirdest request yet, she said, she used a smaller, skinnier pink balloon to make it look like a worm coming out of Jones' head.

Her goal is to make dresses out of balloons, like one balloon artist did in Japan.

Chambers is the lead writer for the show and often makes balloon animals during meetings. She once made Mario, a Nintendo character, for freshman Andrew Riley, the creator and director of "State of Emergency," an Elon Web series.

The show would be lost without Chambers as a writer, Riley said.

"If God forbid the writing career doesn't work out, she can sustain the balloon artist career path," Riley said. "Everyone needs more than one talent, just something fun. Not like serious or professional, something cool."

Before Chambers worked with Balloon Distractions, she was a teacher's aide and loved working with kids.

"When you see a little kid running up to you, asking me to make them a balloon, it melts your heart," she said. "I really love making kids smile."

Balloons aren't confined to one age group, she said. She also enjoys making adults smile.

"Who doesn't love balloons?" she said. "Unless you're allergic to latex, of course."

Training others to make balloon art

Once, Chambers went to a job interview and was going through her bag, trying to find her resume. When she took it out, a balloon was attached.

"They infest everything," she said.

She has a dresser in her room dedicated to the long, skinny balloons she uses for events. The company uses only biodegradable balloons in recycled packaging.

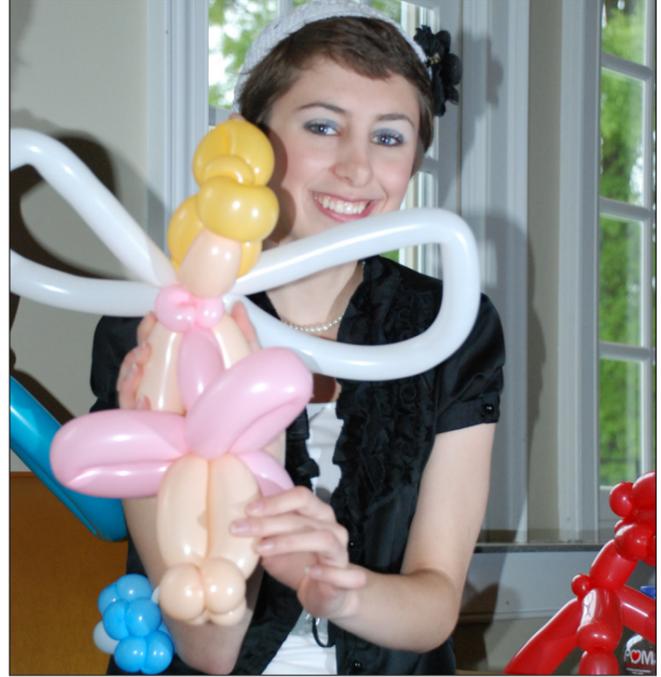
Chambers learned everything by watching other balloon artists on Skype and YouTube.

"After a while, you're able to look at a picture and make it out of balloons," she said.

She will start training balloon artists at Elon next year. Her first trainee is sophomore Eva Yaffe.

If you start off popping a lot of balloons, that's normal, Chambers said. People get better at it.

"I see a lot of people who quit



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer
Junior Sam Chambers works as a balloon artist for Balloon Distractions. Her creations have included fairies and a zombie Indiana Jones, among others.

because, at first, they break a lot of balloons," she said. "It's just a practice thing, like anything else in life. You have to practice to be good."

It can take from 20 seconds to five minutes to make a balloon animal, depending on how big and complicated it is.

But Chambers never shows her trainees the actual speed she makes balloons. It scares them, she said.

"You're always trying to get faster because the faster you are, the more people you can get to and the happier your clients are," she said.

At first, people laugh at her job, she said. But they don't laugh when they find out her salary. The salary can vary, but

the average is \$15 to \$20 an hour.

Other advantages of the job are the flexible hours and creativity involved, she said. She can work and make money wherever she is.

"I can work this job year-round, it doesn't matter where I am," Chambers said. "I can literally do this anywhere."

MORE ONLINE: STYLE

VIDEO: Watch the video of Chambers' unique talent online.

<http://bit.ly/iZovBB>

MARLENA CHERTOCK | Design Editor



House for Sale

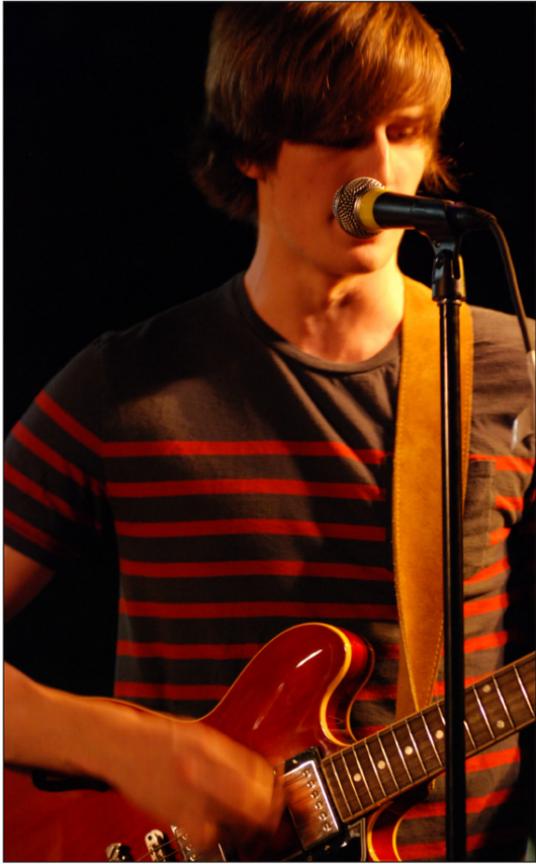


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Limelight Records, SUB host first 'Rock The Lawn' music festival



ALL PHOTOS BY BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer
 Sophomore Connor Stirland (above left) plays guitar while fellow sophomore Bert Brokaw (bottom right) sings in the band San Luis.
 Above Right: Elon student band Phoenix Highway performs at SUB's Rock the Lawn. Senior Frank Hurd is the band's lead singer.
 Bottom Left: Senior Josh Bonney performs his first single, "Gimme The Beat," in which he samples, remixes and raps all on the same track.

Lauren Ramsdell
 Arts and Entertainment Editor

The sunlight faded across West Lawn on Elon University's campus as the first Rock the Lawn concert began. Rock the Lawn was hosted by the student record label Limelight Records and SUB.

"We'd heard of things that Limelight had done in the past and thought it was a cool idea because they support student performers so much," said SUB president My

Nguyen, "so this is something we want to turn into something annual."

The event featured Limelight recording artists Phoenix Highway, Gavin Billings, True Foundation, San Luis, My Brother, Black and Blue, Tyler Johnson, Josh Bonney and Torrance Winder. The groups are all comprised of students at Elon.

Rock the Lawn was also used as a final push to sell tickets for the upcoming SUB

Spring Show, which will be Friday, May 6. The Spring Show artists are Neon Trees, Wale and Super Mash Bros.

"In the future, I think we'd like to see these bands perform covers of whatever Spring Show artist we'll have," Nguyen said. "Because this was the first time, we're just trying it out and thought the artists would be more comfortable performing their own music."

A free barbecue dinner for attendees

was provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. A few dozen students were stretched out on blankets or lounging in the grass as they listened to the student performers play a mixture of original songs and classic covers. Members of the hula-hooping club also showed up to twirl to the music.

"It's just SUB reaching out, Limelight reaching out, producing fun, free music and food for people," Nguyen said.



Neon Trees excited for Elon's spring show, its first performance in NC

The Pendulum: How did you come up with the name Neon Trees?

Tyler Glenn (keyboardist and lead vocalist of Neon Trees): I hung out with a group of friends at a restaurant called In-N-Out Burger down in southern California where we went to high school. It kind of started there. This particular one has neon palm tree lights and so my friends were being stupid and we called our group of friends The Neon Palm Trees. It was kind of like this dark period in the late '90s. We were depressed and thought rock music was dead. So we listened to a lot of the old '80s bands and new '80s bands and hung out and that sort of name came from it. And when the band formed, we made it the name, Neon Trees. We had it.

Q: How would you

guys describe your own music?

A: We're inspired by a lot of different kinds of music. I don't think any of us listen to all of the same kind of music. It's kind of mixed together. We are aware that we write catchy music that is appealing, and actually at a show last night, someone gave me a really cool compliment. A fan said, "Thanks for making pop music that matters." And I thought that was cool. Sometimes I think the word "pop," especially in America, a lot of people take it as a negative thing or think it's kind of empty or stale or just for fun. While we want to have fun, we still take it seriously.

Q: What is it like traveling the country?

A: It's a dream. We're in Boston today (Friday,



Neon Trees will be the headlining act for this year's Spring Show on May 6. Other artists are rapper Wale and mash up artist Super Mash Bros.
 PHOTO COURTESY OF BUZZWORTHY.MTV.COM

April 29) and we got in around 10 a.m. The hotel we were staying at rents out bikes so me and Elaine (Bradley, drummer and vocalist) rented bikes out to see the city and got lunch. I think we get a chance to not only see a lot of cities and areas that we normally wouldn't, but we also get to meet a lot of new people. We've done America now a couple of times on tours, and so we get to go back to the places that we love and see the people we enjoy. It's also interesting - the crowds are different

everywhere you go. We're usually playing the same songs every night, and sometimes what makes it fresh is playing for different people. Because everywhere is different, so it's cool.

Q: You guys have made a few music videos. What is that experience like?

A: It's cool. Michael Jackson is one of my biggest inspirations and he is known for his music videos. I think for us, I don't know if we have

made a video that we're completely 100 percent blown away by, but I think we've been able to have fun with the music videos and I think they'll get better and better. I think that's the whole point, just getting a visual out there. I know it's harder now because anyone can make a music video, because most of them are just online. But at the same time, you can be more creative because you don't necessarily have the limits that maybe having it on TV does. I think it's really fun.

Q: What can Elon University expect from you guys at the performance?

A: We're finally going to be able to play in North Carolina and that makes me very excited just because we had a couple shows booked in North Carolina and they have fallen through every time. It's going to be an extra special night because we want to make up for last time.

Compiled by Stephanie Butzer, reporter

SURF Day: Not just for science majors

Students bring an artsy side to their research

Julia Sayers
Staff Photographer

When students think of SURF Day, Elon's spring undergraduate research forum, they often regard it as unrelatable scientific research. But most students conduct research on topics important and pertinent to students across campus.



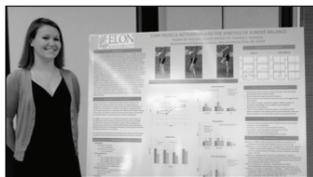
Name: Elizabeth Cooper

Presentation Title: The Effect of Supplemental Support via E-Mail and Text Messages on Perceptions of Body Image, Self-Esteem and Social Support in 4th and 5th Grade Participants in Alamance Girls in Motion

Research Summary: Alamance Girls in Motion is a face-to-face mentoring program that pairs young girls in Alamance County with girls from Elon University. Cooper added an e-mentoring program to see if it would cause a difference, since face-to-face mentoring for a year doesn't always maintain a difference later. An experimental group was put in the e-mentoring program, but Cooper found that there wasn't a significant difference in perceived social support.

Inspiration for topic: "I was a mentor for Alamance Girls in Motion and wanted to come up with a way to help," Cooper said.

What's next: "I'm going to continue to help out with Alamance Girls in Motion after the year, probably throughout the summer," Cooper said.



Name: Krysten Malcolm

Presentation Title: Kinetics and Kinematics of Passé Relevé Balance in Dancers

Research Summary: Malcolm tried to find the pattern of core activity in one-leg balance while trying to pinpoint the muscle activity and body position involved in stability. She compared core muscle activity of trained ballet dancers and untrained counterparts by looking at the kinematic and kinetic measures of core stability. She found dancers balanced longer in the positions and contracted their obliques on the opposite side of the fall direction while non-dancers tended to sway more and contracted on the same side of the fall direction. She also found that individuals engage different contraction patterns, depending on external disturbance.

Inspiration for topic: "I've been dancing for 19 years and wanted to research the methods of dance, specifically ballet," Malcolm said.

What's next: "I'm graduating and going to physical therapy school at George Washington University," Malcolm said.

Name: Lauren Kolodrubetz

Presentation Title: Cold War Cultural Influences: A Content Analysis Study of Time Advertisements

Research Summary: Kolodrubetz looked at advertisements in Time magazine during the time of the Cold War to see how they were influenced by the war. She compared ads during times of high tension and low tension. Her hypothesis was that there would be more ads during the times of high tension. But this was found to be untrue. The content actually decreased steadily throughout the war, but there was a consistency of pro-American ads.

Inspiration for topic: "I'm an Honors Fellow and I took a class called 'Cold War and the Media' where we had to conduct original research," Kolodrubetz said. "There was little to no research on this topic, so I chose to do it."

What's next: "For my honors thesis, I'm using this information and also conducting a three magazine study for the years 1952-1953 on ads involving safety and security," Kolodrubetz said.



Name: Amy Kenney

Presentation Title: French and American Perceptions Regarding the Role of Social Media in their Undergraduate Study Abroad Experience

Research Summary: Kenney looked at how students studying abroad and international students use Facebook: how much they use it, why they use it, what purposes it has and how it affects their experiences. She found American students abroad used it to keep in touch with family and friends, whereas international students used it when they visited America to connect with students at their universities. American students used it much more than international students and felt it really affected their experiences, since they wouldn't be able to stay in touch as easily without it. International students felt it didn't really make a difference and their experience would have been the same with or without it.

Inspiration for topic: "I'm going abroad to France in the fall and my adviser (Sophie Adamson) helped me come up with the topic," Kenney said. "Facebook is everywhere, so I thought this would make an interesting connection."

What's next: "I'm going to study this more while I'm abroad, kind of make it a case study of myself and see how I use Facebook and how important it is for me," Kenney said.



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PLAY REVIEW

★★★★☆

'Closer' illustrates hardships of intimacy

Kit Arbuckle
Reviewer

Many couples would say honesty is one of the keys to a healthy, loving relationship. Patrick Marber's play "Closer," performed April 28-30 in the Black Box Theatre, challenged that convention with compact language and brutal sexual imagery.

It's the story of Alice the stripper, Dan the writer, Anna the photographer and Larry the dermatologist. The first act is dedicated to the beginnings of their relationships with one another, and the second act to all the endings. They strive for total honesty, but it's honesty that tears their relationships apart. The play included some violence, lots of cursing and visceral sexual language.

The Elon chapter of Alpha Psi Omega, the National Theatre Honors Society, sponsored the play, directed by senior theatre studies major Ella Rinaldo. The four-person cast, crew and design team were all comprised of students.

Claire Manship's sound design was realistic, tasteful and edgy. Kristina Loeffke's scenic design was sparse and versatile, an appropriate backdrop for the verbal and emotional excess of the play. In that visual void, the costume design by Sarah Nutt played a big role in shaping the scenes.

Barrett Weed's performance as Anna and Kabby Borders' as Alice were exceptional, although the pole-dancing scene might have been more evocative if Borders had put as much enthusiasm into it as her character, a four-year veteran of the stripping

circuit, would have. Brandon Curry shined in his comedic moments, and Sean Ronayne delivered the character of self-proclaimed "caveman" Larry with surprising likeability.

On the other hand, Curry's effortless comedic timing revealed how underdeveloped his dramatic skills were by comparison. While his overall performance exceeded expectations, it was clear he had more experience as a comedic actor. Ronayne ran the risk of starching up Larry's working class collar at the beginning, but by the second act, he was fully immersed in the skin of his character.

Chad West's lighting design, while outstanding during the action onstage, suffered a little during scene transitions when, trying to find the balance between darkness and enough light to change the scene by. The stage crew seemed to be wearing street clothes instead of the customary all-black outfits. Perhaps it was a creative choice on behalf of Rinaldo or stage manager Jennifer Roberts, but it was a distracting one.

Despite these caveats, "Closer" lived up to the high Elon standard. Weed, Borders, Curry and Ronayne managed to breathe life into characters defined by scenes of compressed physicality and emotion, illustrating complex relationships by a few encounters over the course of four years.

They wrestled with truth and walked the fine lines between human and animal, love and lust. Rinaldo, the crew and the design team helped them on their journey as best they knew how, and doubtlessly learned new skills from the experience.



From left to right, professors Jeffrey Pugh, Steve DeLoach, Paul Miller and Tom Tiemann have carpoled together for 13 years. Each said the relationships forged during the commute are the best part of the arrangement. LAUREN RAMSDELL | Arts and Entertainment Editor

Four friends, 13 years on the road

Professors from varying disciplines commute in long-standing car pool

Lauren Ramsdell
Arts and Entertainment Editor

For more than a decade, four Elon University professors have been riding to and from work together in an effort to make their 40-plus minute drive more interesting. Only 18.3 percent of Americans, on average, carpool to work daily, according to Associated Content, citing 2005 statistics. But Elon professors Paul Miller, Jeffrey Pugh, Steve DeLoach and Tom Tiemann have met for years in Carrboro or Chapel Hill to make the trek to work every day.

History of the car pool

"I've been carpooling with somebody since I came to Elon, which was 27 or 28 years ago," said Tiemann, an economics professor. "It's been a long time."

Next to join was fellow economics professor DeLoach, who said he appreciated the offer from a senior faculty member for a mentoring opportunity.

"We're in the same department, so it made sense," DeLoach said. "From my point of view, I didn't think that much about, 'Hey this will save me money.' It was more, 'Here's the senior guy in my department, I'm a new hire, here's a

chance to network with someone who's going to have an influence in my career.' It's social capital, loosely defined."

Tiemann and DeLoach estimate they carpoled together for roughly a year before Pugh joined them. Pugh, a religious studies professor, had recently moved to the Chapel Hill area.

The final member, Miller, joined two weeks into his second year as an Elon professor. He was looking for a ride into Elon when he looked up DeLoach's contact information. DeLoach said there was a longstanding carpool, and asked Miller.

"I'm the latest comer into the carpool, I'm the rookie," Miller said. "But by only a few weeks."

The car pool of four, as it stands, has been relatively unchanged for 13 years.

"One of the things that makes it work is we don't get too hung up on everyone being in the car pool every day," Tiemann said. He also said economics professor Mark Kurt occasionally fills in for a

member when someone can't make it.

Each professor trades off driving nearly every day so no one has to do the bulk of the driving. But, scheduling sometimes rearranges the dynamic.

"The best is when we trade off every day, but it doesn't always work out that way, so you have to be flexible," Pugh said.

Miller agreed.

"But, that's pretty uncommon," he said. "Most of the time it works out really well. At the end of the year, it's more common, though."

Social capital

Both economics professors, Tiemann and DeLoach spoke about the career and social advancement aspects of the car pool.

"There's a lot of what economists call social capital," Tiemann said. "We're not only good friends, but we're better at our jobs because we do this. We learn about other parts of the university and what other people are doing."

Pugh said he will discuss book ideas with the car pool and a few of the professors have collaborated on research. But ultimately, they say they are foremost friends that make the

-STEVE DELOACH,
ECONOMICS PROFESSOR

sometimes two-hour round-trip ride go faster.

"Sometimes, when I'm in the car pool, it's the best two hours of my day," Miller said, laughing.

Pugh is known in the carpool for saying, "It saves me \$100 a week in therapy."

Miller has spoken a few times at Elon's Turning 21 dinners and to other professors and students about the importance of the social aspect of carpooling.

"I would hate the thought of not having that interaction every day," Miller said. "You see a movie and you want to tell your friends and have a laugh about it. Or a discussion about a serious topic, especially people that you value, and you value their opinions and you respect them. It's a really powerful relationship. It would really negatively impact my life if I didn't have the carpool."

"Aw, I'm getting verklempt," Pugh said.

"Sometimes life can be isolating. You go home, you go to work, you go home - that's it. The car pool is for us a way to not be isolated from human community," he continued.

Miller agreed, as well.

"The best times are, well, it's been a long time now, but when DeLoach and Miller got tenure," Tiemann said. "But that was a good thing, we're all really happy for them. I knew they were going to get it because I was on the promotion and tenure committee, so I couldn't say anything. It was like: 'Finally.'"

The environmental aspect

Three of the four professors drive Prii, which stretches their carpooling dollar even further.

"I think you feel good that you're making a positive impact," said Miller, who has two Prii, "But that's not the driving force behind it."

Tiemann, though he is the professor without a Prius, said he appreciates the weight off of his wallet.

"We're glad we're saving gas for sure, both for our own pockets and the environment," he said.

DeLoach said partially thanks to the car pool he and his wife were able to live with one car for 12 years before buying another. He bought his Prius in 2005.

"If you think about carpooling, regardless of what you drive, when you've got four guys in a car pool and you drive every fourth day, it quadruples your gas mileage in real terms," he said. "Instead of getting 45 miles to the gallon, you get four times that. I fill up once, maybe every two or three weeks."

Friends outside of moving vehicles

Miller, Pugh, DeLoach and Tiemann have all become good friends outside of work and travel thanks to the car pool.

"In the summer or over vacations, once a week we'll go get a beer or something," Tiemann said. "We'll have lunch in Mill Town in Chapel Hill or sit on the Weaver Street lawn."

The weekly hours of "Seinfeld-esque" banter that DeLoach speaks of has translated into valued friendships for the professors.

"When you make those connections it redefines your definition of family," Miller said. "Sometimes we throw around too loosely and other times I don't think we care about it enough. It's not necessarily an accident of genetics that brings us together and adds a deep, meaningful value to those relationships."



Steve DeLoach
Economics professor



Tom Tiemann
Economics professor



Paul Miller
Exercise science professor



Jeffrey Pugh
Religious studies
professor



Shaking it Up:

BRAIN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Students participate in 'Frosty Frolic,' benefiting Dave's Foundation

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

Freshman Jimmy Stevenson and sophomore Gavin Billings walked onto the field as friends but competition would soon take over.

"I was leading for the first lap and I turned and saw an orange-shirted flame coming toward me," Billings said. "But it was an honor to lose to a man such as Jimmy."

Stevenson and Billings joined about 30 other Elon University students Thursday, April 28 on the practice football fields to participate in Frosty Frolic, an event benefiting Dave's Foundation that works to provide foster homes for children.

After eating a small Frosty, competitors ran two laps around the field, the equivalent of .8 miles, before eating a second Frosty and running another .8 miles. It was Stevenson who took the grand prize for male participants, winning a basket with a baseball cap and gift cards for Wendy's Subs, Red Bowl and Buffalo Wild Wings.

Frosty Frolic originated in associate professor Hal Walker's sport and event management class, which was divided into two groups. Each group was charged with planning and orchestrating a philanthropic event.

The group was split into three teams, sponsorship, logistics and marketing, each with a specific set of goals ranging from gathering donations from local businesses to getting approval to use the athletic fields for the afternoon, according to senior Amy Rajacich.

While the number of participants was lower than expected, Rajacich said the timing of the

event toward the end of the semester made it hard to recruit students.

The original idea was a "milkshake run," a spin-off of the commonly used student phrase of going on a "Cook-Out run," junior and group member Nick Maiorano said. Wendy's agreed to donate free Frostys if all benefits supported Dave's Foundation. The day of the event, they brought a Frostys machine, meaning unlimited ice cream treats were available for participants who were required to pay \$5 to race, Rajacich said.

Sophomore Nathan Edge and juniors Brianna Bailey and Emily Buehler took their time enjoying their first Frostys, unlike some who chugged the dessert before sprinting around the field.

"I can't do it, I'm not that competitive," Bailey said. "But it's a great day for the event. What else are you going to do on a Friday?"

Stevenson, a seasoned runner, said the hardest part for him was getting the Frosty down after running more than half a mile.

"Despite the race, what matters is our friendship, win or lose," Stevenson said. "I feel that I don't have to, but I'd love to take him to Buffalo Wild Wings to split my six free wings."

MORE ONLINE: STYLE

VIDEO: Find out how D.E.E.P. is looking to create awareness about oppression throughout the world in this video-only story.

<http://bit.ly/TPOtunnels>

ZACHARY HORNER | Multimedia Editor



BRAIN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

Sophomore Kelsey Evans eats a Frosty after her first lap for the Frosty Frolic fundraiser.

Top 6 songs for your summer playlist

It's almost time to pump up the summertime jams



David Turkel
Reporter

1. Summer Girls (LFO)- LFO never achieved the same success as other 90s boy band contemporaries like 'N Sync or the Backstreet Boys, but they did come up with one of the more memorable summer songs with "Summer Girls." The song stands out for having lyrics largely made up of non sequiturs, as exemplified in the chorus: "New Kids On The Block had a bunch of hits/Chinese food makes me sick/And I think it's fly when the girls stop by for the summer, for the summer." The irreverence of the lyrics, combined with an undeniably catchy beat, makes this a great tune to blast on the way to the beach. And if you feel slightly guilty about listening to music from a long-defunct boy band, take comfort in the idea you're probably not the only one listening; the song spent 17 weeks on the Billboard Hot 100 chart at one point.

2. Summertime Blues (Eddie Cochran)- Released in 1958, what is perhaps rock 'n' roll pioneer's best-known song still has plenty of relevancy more than 50 years later. The lyrics of the song strike a major contrast with the music, which

is energetic and fast, as Cochran complains about having to work all summer instead of being able to hang out with his girlfriend or do anything else fun in his free time. Students planning on working less-than-glamorous jobs this summer will surely be able to relate.

3. Summer of '69 (Bryan Adams)- Adams' 1985 hit touches on all of the cliched sentiments that give many people positive memories of summer, like the freedom of playing in a band or the excitement of a three-month fling. Combined with the nostalgia of Adams reminiscing about what he calls "the best days of his life," almost everyone should be able to relate to this song. Listening to it during the summer will help you remember to enjoy the time while it lasts.

4. Cruel Summer (Bananarama)- With all the great things that come with summer, such as generally nice weather and more free time, there can be some negative connotations attached to it, as Bananarama explores in its 1983 song. Over a slow, somewhat haunting beat, the British pop trio sings about a darker side of summer, when the weather is too hot and "my friends are away and I'm on my own."

This is the perfect song to listen to when your air conditioning breaks and you're bored out of your mind.

5. Summer Nights (John Travolta and Olivia Newton John)- This song from the 1971 musical, which later turned into a 1978 movie, "Grease" has been sung by many pairs, but the most well-known version comes from the John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John combination. Like "Summer of '69," "Summer Nights" touches on fleeting summer romances, but with the enthusiasm of two people who recently experienced it rather than someone looking back at someone else with nostalgia. The upbeat music, and the large portions of the song that are "spoke-sung," makes this an excellent choice for a karaoke duet at any kind of summer gathering.

6. Hot Fun In The Summertime (Sly & the Family Stone)- This 1969 hit is a fantastic summer song because it's simple. No bemoaning lost relationships or time that's been lost. Over a slow, relaxing beat, Sly & the Family Stone merely reflects on and rejoices in the reality of school being out and summer finally coming.

Softball sweeps Radford series, prepares for SoCon tournament

Jack Rodenfels
Sports Editor

For the second time in as many weekends, the Phoenix softball team displayed last-inning magic in beating its opponent.

After defeating the Radford University Highlanders in its first game 5-1, Saturday April 30, the Phoenix trailed the Highlanders 10-7 going into the final inning of the second game of the doubleheader.

Three hits, two errors and a walk later, the Phoenix left East Field with an 11-10 victory and its seventh straight win at home.

"We just kept on hitting, knowing all day that Radford's pitchers weren't going to beat us," said senior first baseman and pitcher Pam DelPizzo. "I was just happy that I was able to get something done for the team and get it done right away."

DelPizzo went 2-for-4 with two runs batted in, drove in the winning run for the Phoenix and got the victory pitching.

With the two victories, the Phoenix improved to 26-22 overall and 9-12 in the Southern Conference.

After last year's 38-21 season and the team's first-ever SoCon title, the Elon softball program had big expectations heading into the 2011 season.

"We've definitely had an up and down season," DelPizzo said. "We haven't played as well as we would have liked in the conference and that has hurt us in some ways."

The Phoenix seems to be turning the momentum around, as the squad has won six of its last eight games.

"In the conference tournament, I think people will

underestimate us because the season isn't exactly what we initially hoped for," DelPizzo said. "If we play like we did against Radford, there's no doubt that we can take the conference."

The doubleheader against Radford has been one of the defining moments of the season, head coach Patti Raduenz said.

After winning the SoCon championship last season, Elon lost in the NCAA softball tournament to Radford 8-0. The revenge was sweet, Raduenz said, as the team looks to hit its stride heading into the conference tournament.

"After losing the first game, we knew that they would come out aggressive in the second game," she said. "Coming back was a testament to what we've been trying to work on - not getting down on ourselves."

May 7-8, the Phoenix hosts the UNC-Greensboro Spartans, who sit directly ahead of Elon in the conference with a 10-11 record.

The weekend series will mark the last time six Elon seniors will play at East Field. Outfielders Hannah Shelton and Emerald Graham, infielders Jackie Gonzalez, Caitlin McGowan, DelPizzo and pitcher Lauren Taylor will don the maroon and

gold for the final time.

In their four years, the Phoenix has already amassed 64 wins and a conference title. The Phoenix is looking to send its seniors out with a strong final push in the SoCon tournament.

"All of the seniors want it so bad," Raduenz said. "They all want to be the one that makes the difference."

The Phoenix will begin that pursuit Saturday May 7 with a 1 p.m. start from East Field.

Looking ahead:

Saturday 1 p.m. vs. UNC Greensboro (Doubleheader)

Sunday 1 p.m. vs. UNCG



PHOENIX SOFTBALL IN THE LATE INNINGS

LEADING AFTER 4 INNINGS 21-2

LEADING AFTER 5 INNINGS 20-2

LEADING AFTER 6 INNINGS 14-0

LUKE LOVETT | Graphics Editor

One on One Sports models live draft coverage after NFL

Melissa Kansky
Assistant News Editor

A live broadcast is a journalist's marathon, and One on One Sports rose to the challenge.

"Preparing the pre-production, training and going live for five hours is that marathon," said Erik Kendall, producer of One on One Sports. "And then when it's over, you just have this feeling of accomplishment that we covered it."

One on One produced a live broadcast of the NFL draft Thursday, April 28. The show mimicked ESPN's coverage of the draft and contained analysis, graphics and pre-produced packages by Elon students.

"The night exceeded all my expectations," said Joey Accordino, on-air personality for One on One. "When I came up with the idea two months ago, I never expected the final product would be as successful as I feel it was."

During the two months of preparation, the crew created more than 200 videos, organized an ad campaign and evaluated the players so the talent was fluent in the topics at hand.

The number of Microsoft Word documents containing notes on the players and teams equaled approximately 1,000 pages.

"We essentially read 'War and Peace' to prepare for the show," Accordino said.

The level of preparation for the live show exceeded what is necessary for the traditional episodes, he said.

"We've been practicing and telling these students how to run certain positions and what sort of pace it needs to go in so it runs as smooth as it does on TV when you watch it," Kendall said. "You mess up here and the mess up goes out live."

Although Kendall and Accordino had prior experience with live broadcast, the rest of the crew

had only been involved with pre-produced shows prior to the NFL draft coverage.

"To get that sort of experience under their belts and to show them all the pre-production stuff that has to go into a live production almost made it worth it for that," Kendall said.

In addition to the live element, the show consisted of a lot of firsts for both the crew and the One on One program.

"The motivation was to try something new and give everyone who's been a part of the show a chance to do things that we don't do in our regular routine," said Lindsay Humbert, production coordinator.

Students reported from Charlotte the night of the draft and used Skype to incorporate live coverage of the Carolina Panthers' pick into the show.

"I think using Skype and going to remote locations represented a big leap for the organization," Accordino said.

The NFL draft show challenged the team in terms of the length of the production and the dynamic of a live show. Students continually created graphics throughout the five-hour show.

"A couple of people did roles that they never thought they could do," Kendall said.

One on One crew members and Phoenix14 reporter Steve Roth attended University of North Carolina's pro day, interviewing players and NFL coaches.

"ESPN was cutting the exact same package," Kendall said. "Kelly Naqi of ESPN was at UNC cutting the exact same package."

Although Kendall acknowledged the quality of the One on One production did not match that of ESPN, the format and information included in the show did not pale in comparison.

"The motivation was to try something new and give everyone who's been a part of the show a chance to do things that we don't do in our regular routine."

-LINDSAY HUMBERT
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's track participates in historic Penn Relays

Six members of the Elon track and field team competed in the Penn Relays April 28, known as one of the largest track and field meets in the world. Senior Veronica Day finished fourth with a mark of 40'9".

Irwin signs professional soccer contract with Capital City FC

Senior goalie Clint Irwin who tallied a school-record 22 shutouts in his career at Elon signed a professional contract with The Capital City Football Club of Ottawa.

Irwin was a finalist for the 2010 Lowe's Senior Class Award, which honors men's soccer's top senior in the areas of community, classroom, character and competition.

Naming the Phoenix announcement delayed

After 14,000 votes cast in an effort to name the Phoenix mascot, Elon University's Athletic Department stated that the results were too close to call. With more than 300 different names suggested, Elon will delay the campaign until the fall semester.



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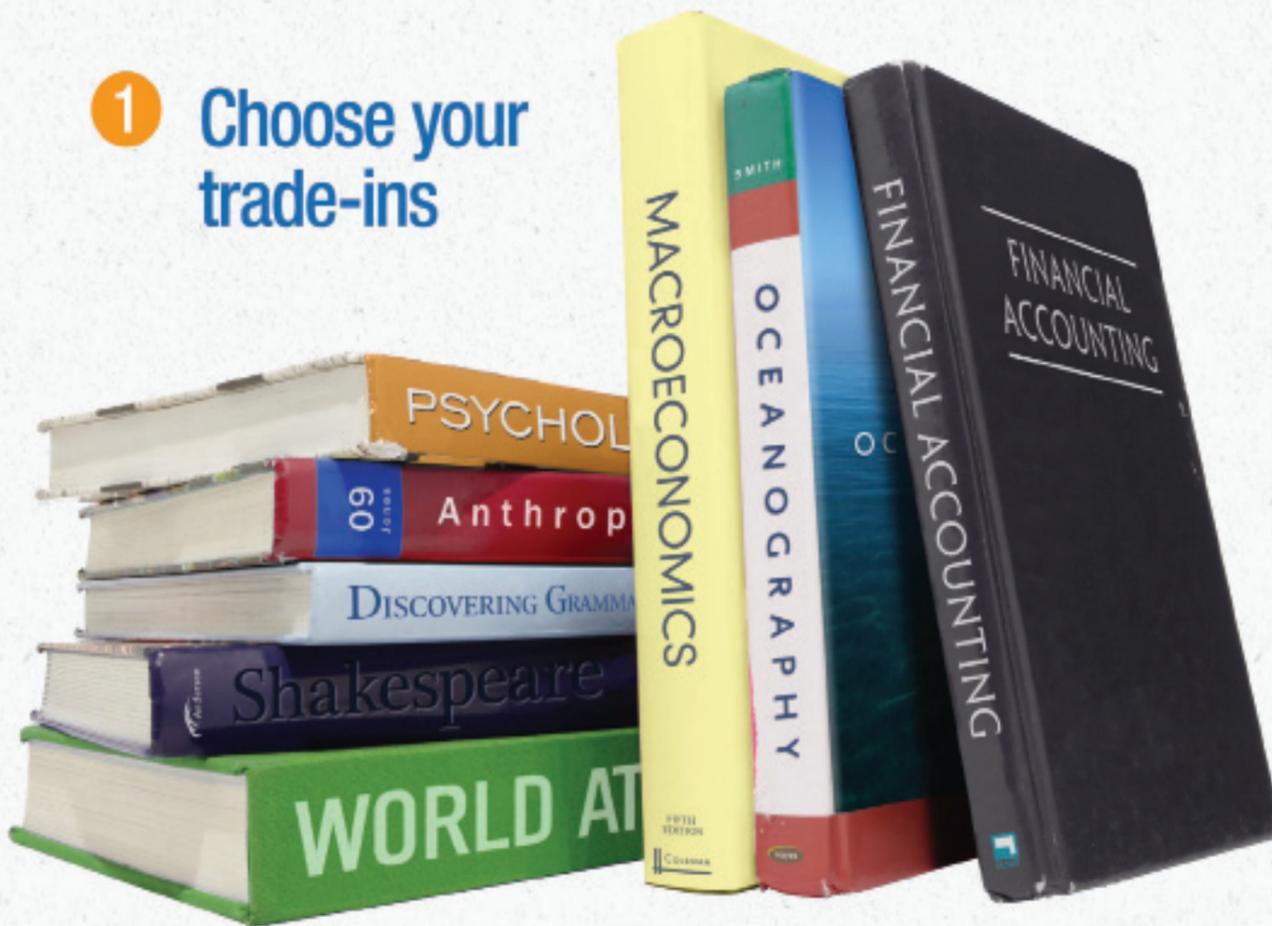
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Sports



Sophomore Niko Fraser slides home in a play at the plate against Davidson College. Initially called out, Fraser was called safe after the umpires reviewed the play, putting the Phoenix up 3-1. HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

Phoenix bats awaken as team captures top spot in conference

Conor O'Neill
Senior Reporter

For one weekend at least, everything came together for Elon University's baseball team in a three-game sweep against Davidson College. The Phoenix cruised to wins by scores of 10-0, 8-2 and 8-3 April 29-May 1 to improve to 30-17 overall and 18-6 in the Southern Conference.

During the successful weekend, coupled with a UNC Greensboro sweep of former first place team Georgia Southern University, Elon regained the top spot in the SoCon standings and now holds a 2.5 game lead over UNCG and College of Charleston.

The team won in an impressive fashion, combining to outscore the Wildcats by a 26-5 margin. While Phoenix pitching has been successful this season, head coach Mike Kennedy was pleased with the consistent offensive production during the weekend.

"I thought for the first time in a long time we actually had a three game series where we were pretty good offensively," Kennedy said. "We've had a few where we got what we want, but we really haven't put three together."

It was a team effort during the weekend, as eight players combined to drive in runs. Leading the way in Sunday's series finale was junior infielder Garrett Koster with a two-run double in the second inning and a two-run home run in the fourth inning.

Koster's round trip shot was launched not only over the center field wall, but over the batter's eye that stands behind the fence.

"That might be one of the best balls I have hit in my entire life," Koster said. "I knew (Davidson pitcher Ryan Overcash) on the mound too, so it's always good to hit one off of your friends."

While the offense was strong for Elon, the pitching was also on cue. The Phoenix is third in the conference with an even 4.00 ERA and has limited opposing batters to a .253 average.

But according to sophomore pitcher Dylan Clark,

who pitched seven innings and allowed just two runs Sunday, it makes a big difference to take the mound with a comfortable lead.

"You don't understand how much it makes everything easier when you're pitching and it's 8-1," Clark said. "When you're pushing runs across like this, you can afford to make mistakes on the mound because they are going to happen."

Clark's effort was preceded by senior pitcher Thomas Girdwood's eight inning, 10 strikeout game Saturday night. Fellow senior Ken Ferrer was the Friday night starter, pitching seven shutout innings and allowing just four hits.

For Clark, he wanted to keep the trend going for the pitching staff.

"The pitching staff has been doing great," Clark said. "It feels great to go out there and just match what they have been doing. We have all been sticking together this year as a pitching staff this year and just trying to feed off of what the other guys are doing."

The Phoenix now controls its destiny for the regular season championship, with a road trip to The Citadel Bulldogs this weekend.

A key for the team, according to Kennedy, is for the Phoenix to score early to take pressure off both pitchers and hitters.

"Certainly it provides a spark (to score early), but more than anything, they are able to relax a little bit and trust their ability more," Kennedy said of the team's hitters.

Going back to an April 27 5-0 win against Wake Forest University, the Phoenix offense has scored 31 runs in four games.

Sophomore outfielder Niko Fraser, who recorded six hits in 12 at-bats and scored five times during the weekend, said it only takes a few hits for the team to come together and get hot at the plate.

"Hitting is really contagious," Fraser said. "When everyone is not hitting, it's kind of hard to get out of it because it can snowball either way. But when you start hitting, it's the same thing, so hopefully we'll keep this snowball going."



Sophomore Dylan Clark won his second straight outing, allowing two runs on five hits in seven innings. Clark struck out five. HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

The Phoenix will attempt to keep the offensive snowball rolling Friday against the Bulldogs on the way to a regular season SoCon championship.