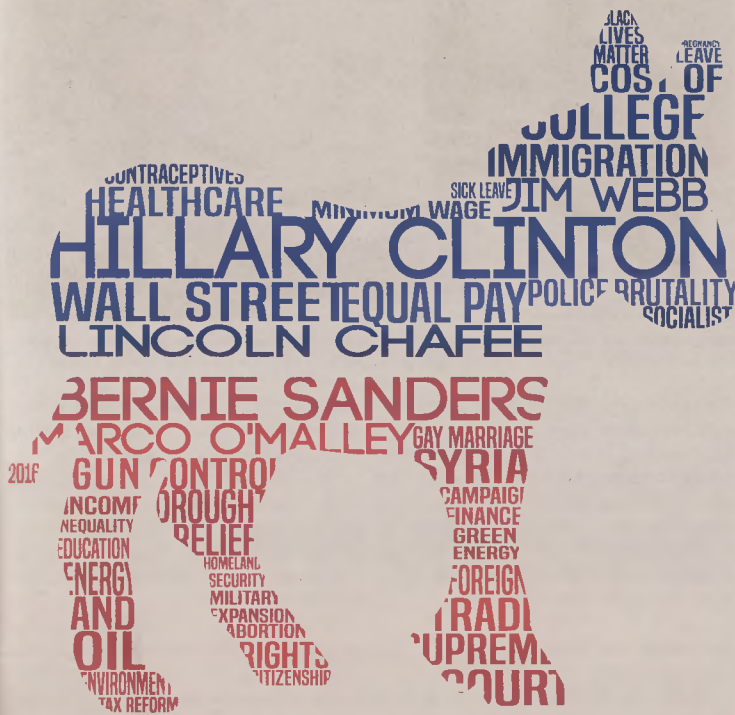


THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 • VOLUME 41 EDITION 20

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With elections, political interest pops *Though a year away, students are eager now*



HALEY LONGBOTTOM | Design Editor

Black Student Union rebrands organization *Meant to serve as 'umbrella organization' for similar groups*

Leena Dahal
Senior Reporter

During the height of the civil rights movement 55 years ago, two students at the University of San Francisco made a historic bet. The bet — that it was possible to build a black student movement on a predominantly white campus — manifested into the creation of the first recorded Black Student Union (BSU).

The name “Black Student Union” became a movement. Operating under the same title, black students in institutions across the nation have united to keep the bet and the solidarity it fostered alive for decades.

After years of acts of racial discrimination and bias across campus and the nation, the title has traveled to Elon University.

The organization serving as a community for black students at Elon, formerly known as the Black Cultural Society has rebranded itself and its initiatives this year with the name Black Student Union.

A necessary change

Senior Alexandre Bohannon, BSU president, recalled a time a freshman student walked up to him and said, “I want to make a change on Elon’s campus, but I just think my voice doesn’t matter.”

To Bohannon, the moment was just one of several in which he has encountered the effects of racial discrimination at Elon.

These sentiments culminated with national events surrounding race and acts of

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Caroline Fernandez and Michael Bodley
News Editor and Editor-in-Chief

Ever since the first presidential candidates announced their runs earlier this year, a slow but steady buzz has been building at Elon University around the direction the country could take, depending on who wins the White House.

As debate season swings into high-gear, a storm of media coverage has propelled campus conversation, with groups of liberals and conservatives divided down party lines opponents each call radical.

Increased interest around election year

Many students attribute the increasing number of active political voices at Elon to the upcoming presidential elections.

“I feel like the political attitudes at Elon are more energized in election times,” said senior Maggie Bailey. “There’s a lot more activity with getting people registered to vote

and more opportunity for students to engage in political discourse.”

The uptake is obvious through numbers.

Elon College Democrats saw an increase in active members from about 10 to more than 40 from the 2014-2015 school year to the fall 2015 semester, according to treasurer Sophia Kane.

Interest in Elon College Republicans also increased, though not as dramatically. According to Vice President Georgios Tarasidis, the number of active members has “steadily increased” in recent years, growing from about 20 to more than 30 active members in one academic year.

Support for Sanders builds

Elon students’ interest showed Sunday evening when they piled into cars and caravanned to Greensboro for a rally in support of presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT).

Kane said more than 40 Elon students

went with Elon College Democrats, a number that doesn’t include students who went on their own.

“To see that more than 40 people signed up to drive to Greensboro on a Sunday night shows a lot,” she said. “We had about five people who went to Hillary Clinton in Charlotte [in 2014].”

Young peoples’ admiration of Sanders and his attention to their needs isn’t confined to North Carolina.

During the rally, Sanders called his candidacy a “political revolution,” specifically for its ability to capture the attention and votes of a group some say has lost interest in the political system because of dysfunction: millennials and other young people.

“Sanders sends a clear message that people, especially youth, want to back up,” Kane said.

One of Sanders’ major messages resonates

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Mynt Boutique becomes more college-friendly *In an effort to cater to students, shop’s prices drop*

Lea Silverman
Senior Reporter

When sophomore Alexa Trost first entered Mynt Boutique, a chic women’s clothing store, last year, she was drawn in by the cute clothes filling the racks. But after seeing the high prices, she left and didn’t bother to go back, knowing she couldn’t afford the clothing.

Many Elon University students on a budget head to downtown Elon, treat themselves to one of the locally owned restaurants in the

small strip and will still often overlooking Mynt for fear of bursting the bank.

But Mynt, owned by Whitney Sandor, has been open for 12 years, is trying to fit into the college student lifestyle and wallet by lowering its prices after opening a second location in Durham.

“We are refocusing this store to be more college oriented,” said manager Amber Meadows.

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RACHEL INGERSOLL | Staff Photographer

Mynt offers a small but diverse collection of boutique clothing items from brand names like Free People and Tory Burch.