

THE PENDULUM

GOING DANCING

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ALEX SIMON | Sports Director
(From left to right) Shay Burnett (5), Malaya Johnson (44) and Jenifer Rhodes (11) react to winning the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) championship March 11, earning the school's first bid to the NCAA Tournament. Elon faces 6th-seed West Virginia March 17.

HB2, a year later

House Bill 2's effects still felt at Elon University

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At the one-year anniversary of House Bill 2, Elon University has just begun to realize the breadth of the impact of this controversial bill.

Despite the university's choice to distance itself from the legislation, the university has not been able to completely avoid the fallout.

From SGA members, student-athletes, prospective students and students fighting to find their voices, many has been affected in one way or another.

Bit by bit, actions have replaced words. And that, said junior Monique Swirsky, president of Elon's gay-straight alliance SPECTRUM, "that's what's really important."

One year later

In addition to eliminating non-discrimination ordinances protecting members of the LGBTQIA community, HB2 — also known as the "bathroom bill" — requires individuals to use public restrooms and locker rooms coinciding with the gender on their birth certificate.

As a private institution, Elon is not required to comply with the bathroom provision, which only affects restrooms in public, government-owned facilities.

HB2 was approved by the North Carolina state government on March 23, 2016. Two days later, Elon released a statement reading, "Elon remains committed to inclusion and equal protection for all people. ... We wish to provide a safe and welcoming learning environment for every member of our community."

Elon's statement stressed that individuals were welcome to use whichever bathroom they felt most comfortable using: "Elon maintains a list of more than 90 single-occupancy universal bathrooms on campus that protect the privacy of the users," the statement said.

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