

THE PENDULUM



SEEKING AN **ABORTION** IN THE BIBLE BELT

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Leslie Gydos terminated her first pregnancy over 21 years ago in what she recalls as “a trip through a war zone.” Now, after decades of soul-searching, Gydos lives in Burlington, North Carolina, with her husband and twins, who, for her, represent that God has forgiven her for “murdering” her first child.

The Burlington native spent two years studying at Elon University before transferring to the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she received a degree in Psychology. She never viewed herself as religious person until she found herself begging God for the will to live after getting an abortion in 1996.

Over the past few weeks, women's rights activists have voiced their concerns about Donald Trump's nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to fill the Supreme Court seat. Pro-choice activists are worried that Kavanaugh's nomination could lead to an overturning of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion nationwide.

Throughout his hearing last week, Kavanaugh did

not make his position on Roe v. Wade clear but did make headlines with his reference to birth control as an abortion-inducing drug when discussing the 2015 Priests for Life vs. Department of Health and Human Services case. The case involved the pro-life organization and its opposition to the Obamacare mandate that said employers needed to provide health insurance for their employees that included options for birth control.

In 2016, according to The North Carolina State Center for Health statistics, 6,943 females ages 20-24 received abortions — 78 of whom were from Alamance County. Alamance County does not have an abortion clinic within its parameters, forcing women such as Gydos to travel to Greensboro where the closest clinic is located.

From seeking abortion to pro-life

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IN THE LONG RUN — IN THE WOMAN'S MIND — IT'S NOT THE EASY WAY OUT.

LESLIE GYDOS
PRO-LIFE ADVOCATE

Gydos' partner during her first pregnancy showed little interest in starting a family and settling down.

“I felt that I was going to be trapping him in a way, into something that he didn't want,” Gydos said. “With my lack of conviction that this baby was a life, I was open to the concept of abortion at the time.”

It was around 12 weeks into the pregnancy that she made the decision to go to the clinic.

Until the day of her procedure, Gydos said she did not consider what was inside her to be a baby. That day, she screamed through the entire procedure.

A 2015 study conducted by The University of California San Francisco School of Medicine

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Elon football downs Furman in home opener

Elon dominates on both sides of ball to get largest win in Division I era

Emmanuel Morgan
Executive Director | @emmanuelmorgan

Senior defensive back Greg Liggs Jr. started his 21st birthday early, scooping rice into packages with his fellow Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. brothers Saturday morning for Rise Against Hunger, a hunger relief organization, as part of a community service project.

A few hours later, he continued scooping — this time it was on the football field, igniting his Elon University teammates who were starving to beat a familiar opponent.

And they did so handily, beating No. 21 Furman University (0-2) 45-7 in front of a packed crowd in Rhodes Stadium.

To date, it's the largest margin of victory in No. 15 Elon's NCAA Division I era against a ranked opponent.

On just the second play of the game, defensive back McAllister Ingram strip-sacked Furman quarterback Darren Grainger, forcing the ball to bounce on the left side of the field. Liggs immediately recovered the fumble and darted to the end zone for an 18-yard touchdown. It was a frustrating start for the Paladins, who only produced 262 total yards of offense.

“We did a lot of re-



Elon Defensive back Greg Liggs Jr. and linebacker Devonte Chandler attempt to strip the ball from Furman wide receiver Dejuan Bell Sept. 8.

ally good things today, and I think that showed on the scoreboard, but the biggest thing is that we took a big step forward as a team in getting that decisive win,” said sophomore quarterback Davis Cheek, the 2017 Colonial Athletic Association Rookie of the Year. “We're going to go back and assess it, fix what we can and then move on to the next opponent.”

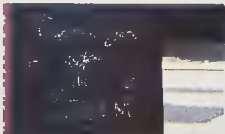
Producing a blowout is uncharted territory for Elon (1-1), especially considering last season. Senior running back Malcolm Summers even admitted it, chuckling when he said it “felt good to be up by a lot of points.”

Elon's largest margin of victory in 2017 was eight points — a 25-17 win against the College of William and Mary. Its remaining six victories were decided by six points or less — five of them were

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