



The Pendulum

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With straight enrollment record set

By Frank Isley
News Editor

Despite stricter admissions standards on entering freshmen and transfer students, Elon's enrollment has risen, once again, for the ninth consecutive year. Registrar Mark Albertson said this year's enrollment hit an all-time high of 2,929, an increase of over 100 students more than last year's final total of 2,794.

However, Albertson said the greater number of students enrolled did not cause a bigger hassle at Registration and Drop-Add days.

Instead, quite the opposite was true.

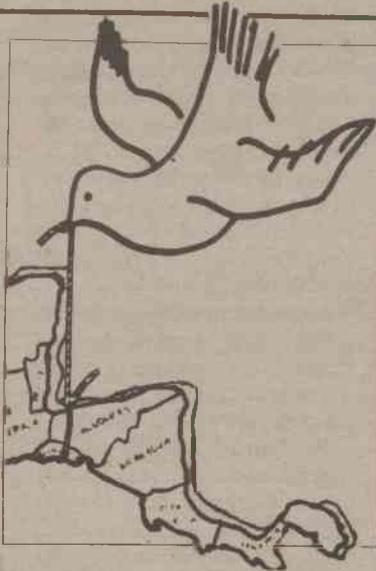
"Registration Day and Drop-Add Day went smoothly," the registrar said. "The only negative thing I could associate with the process was the heat. There weren't even any mechanical problems with the computers."

Albertson attributed the ease and success of registration to the greater number of students who were preregistered and completed their registration by mail and encourages a greater number of students to do the same.

Of the total number of students, 1,785 completed their registration by mail and approximately 1,100 students completed their registration in the gym on Sept. 3.

Although the college's enrollment rose once again over the previous year's enrollment, the increase is not necessarily being attributed to the number of incoming freshmen and transfer students.

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A Peasant of El Salvador

Another Vietnam?

Teach-in to examine Central American conflicts

By Seth B. Pomeroy
Staff Writer

Beginning with next Monday's presentation of *A Peasant of El Salvador* (see preview article on page 7), Elon College will sponsor a three-day Teach-In on troubled Central America.

The program includes a range of speakers which coordinator Richard McBride, the college chaplain, believes will familiarize the community with the culture, problems and subtleties of the region.

The opening-night play will give students and faculty an opportunity to understand the region through the viewpoint of an El Salvadoran farmer.

Tuesday's lineup features five speakers, beginning with a 9:30 chapel talk by Rev. Ann Rogers-Witte of Raleigh, who recently visited the region. Later that day, William Schofield of the U.S. State Department and author Reed Brody, noted for his recent book *Latin America: The Freedom to Write*, will discuss U.S.-backed "freedom fighters" or Contras in Nicaragua as part of American foreign policy in the region.

Wednesday will be another full day of speakers, who will discuss such topics as agrarian reform, economics of the region, and the church's role in the various conflicts.

McBride said that the college embarked on such an in-depth examination of the region because of

what he sees as potential parallels between the United States' initial involvement in Vietnam and this country's presence in Nicaragua, El Salvador and the rest of the region today.

He added, "We must help our government make the right choices about our role in Central America." He said he became particularly interested in the region when he began hearing discrepant reports about conflicts there from the State Department and Christian missionaries who work there.

"I didn't even know the geography of the region before that," McBride said. "I turned away from what I was hearing for too long."

Asked whether the speakers would present all sides of the explosive issues in El Salvador and Nicaragua, McBride said, "It (the Teach-In) will challenge more than defend the U. S. government. We can't allow the government to do our thinking for us about Central America."

The chaplain said he hopes the program will accomplish several goals here. One is to increase students' respect of the cultures of Central America. Another is to investigate whether U. S. policy there is correct. A third is "to bring us to be greater participants in our government's decision-making process when it debates the various moral and ethical questions of the region," McBride said.

Child abuse growing problem

By Loukia Louka
Emphasis Editor

The Elon College community is still reeling from the news that the college's director of security last week received life in prison for having sexually abused two children and for having been engaged in a pornographic movie operation involving children.

The swiftness with which it all happened was shocking enough. Edward Allan Nowell, 36, was arrested last Tuesday night, entered a guilty plea on Friday and was sentenced the same day. During the weekend Nowell also unsuccessfully tried to commit suicide.

To many people, it was also shocking that Nowell received the life sentence from Alamance County Superior Court Judge Robert L. Farmer. The severity of the sentence underscored the growing national concern over child abuse and child pornography in recent years.

"Until about 20 years ago, sexual abuse within the family wasn't a legal matter," said Dr. Thomas Arcaro, assistant professor of sociology at Elon and an authority on deviance. "Children were considered their parents' property—their business—but now we as a society are defining many kinds of mistreatment as abuse."

Arcaro also pointed out that children are abused in upper as

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