

The PENDULUM

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Elon College, NC

Train rams truck near south campus

by John Hoyle
Editor

A Norfolk-Southern train en route from Salisbury to Raleigh traveling 35 miles per hour rammed a pick-up truck last Thursday. The 11:40 a.m. accident occurred at the crossing on Antioch and Trollinger avenues.

The driver of the truck, Elon freshman Christopher Stamper,

19, was treated on the scene for cuts to his forehead and scalp area.

Stamper, of 411 Edinburgh Drive, Burlington, was on his way home after his 10:30 calculus class. "I didn't see it coming", said Stamper. "When I was on the tracks I heard the horn. I almost got out of the way, but it got my tail-end", he said, as he

stared and shook his head at his father's 1971 red Chevrolet pick-up.

Elon police officer Don Lloyd reported that Stamper had stopped for the stop sign on Lebanon Avenue and was attempting to make a right turn onto Antioch Avenue when the train hit the truck.

Train conductor L.W. Miller said, "If we had hit him on the other side, there would have been a fatality for sure. I'm just glad he is okay." Miller added, "A lot of times, people try to beat us, but I'm not sure if he even saw us."

Miller also stated that the train's horn was blown four times before entering the intersection.

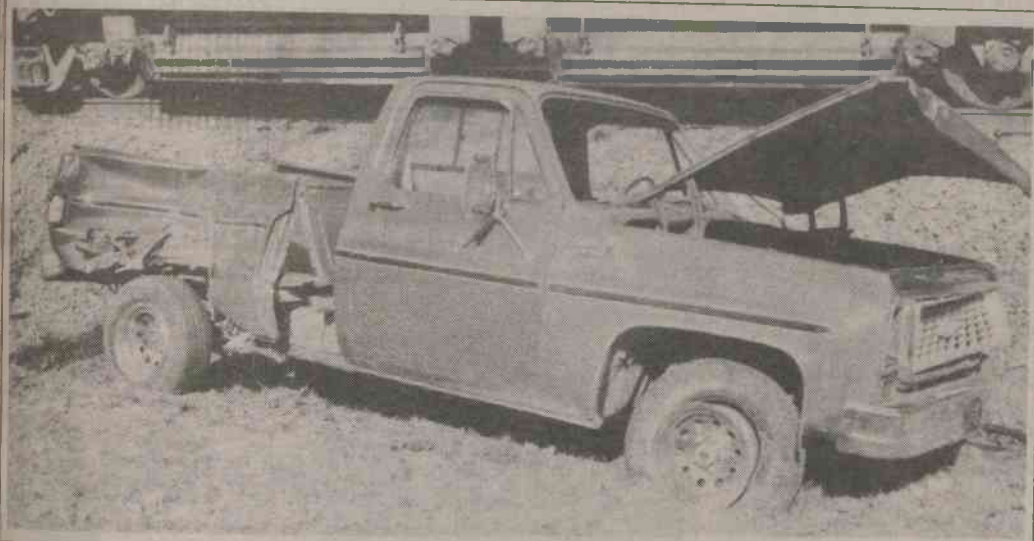
"If he didn't see then he heard us," Miller said.

According to train engineer Larry Carlisle, the 49-car train was put into "emergency."

"It looked like he (Stamper) didn't even see us, and I used all the brakes we had," said Carlisle.

The train was hauling rock and was unable to come to a complete stop until almost half a mile past the intersection of the accident.

Carlisle said, "From up here (in the engine) we didn't feel anything; we just heard a noise. Except for two scratches of red paint on the front, the engine was not damaged," he added. There was, however, \$150 damage to a crossing sign that was clipped by Stamper's truck.



Destroyed: Freshman Christopher Stamper's 1971 red Chevrolet pick-up was totaled when it was hit by a Norfolk-Southern train behind the college.

Photos by Kathy Meadows



Illiteracy: a growing problem

by Kathy Meadows
Managing Editor

This is the first in a series of articles on social problems on the Elon College community.

Each year, more American adults are discovered to be illiterate. According to the New York Times, some researchers have concluded that tens of millions of adult Americans are illiterate or barely able to read. Of those who can read, 23 million read at or below the eighth grade level.

In recent years, many groups and organizations have implemented projects to help solve the illiteracy problems across the U.S. Groups such as Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. (R.I.F.) target children in hopes that they won't end up as adult statistics.

R.I.F. is a national, non-profit organization whose purpose is to help children discover the fun and develop a habit of reading. It also encourages parents to play an active role in developing their children's reading habits.

Newspapers have also taken part in the fight for literacy. In December 1985, the American Newspaper Association (ANPA)

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"If we had hit him on the other side, it would have been a fatality for sure."

Stamper was later charged for "failure to make a moving safety". His father's truck was totaled.

Stamper's wreck was the second last week that a Norfolk-Southern train was involved with.

Tuesday morning of the same week, Joseph Harris, 17, of Burlington escaped injury when his 1979 Toyota was struck in front of Harmon Apartments between Gibsonville and Elon College. The accident occurred on Cook road off of N.C. 100.

The last train-vehicle accident before that was three years ago. A local high school girl was killed when a train struck her car at the intersection of Holt and Trollinger avenues.

ROTC rescues family

by Aleta Sinkfield
Staff Writer

During one of their regular physical training (PT) exercises Thursday morning, Elon College ROTC cadets aided in the rescue of a family from a burning house at 309 O'Kelley St. Inside the house were Mark Bell, his wife Ellen, and their 4-year-old daughter.

Finishing up PT for that morning, ROTC cadets were getting into formation when Tom Heyden, a junior at Elon College, noticed flames coming from the chimney

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