

The Pendulum

Serving the Elon College community

Volume XIV, No. 24

Thursday, April 14, 1988

Elon College, NC

300 to participate in Special Olympics

by Angela Meadows
Staff Writer

The 1988 Special Olympics, held by Burlington and Alamance County, needs volunteers to help on Friday, May 6, at the Burlington Athletic Stadium. The Olympics will be from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There will be a bus

provided - leaving the Alumni Gym at 7:30 a.m.

The Special Olympics is a series of athletic events involving the developmentally disabled. The Olympics provides the disabled with an opportunity to participate in athletic and competitive sports.

This event encourages them and they feel self satisfaction to be able to interact with similar handicaps. The Olympics also allows them to meet and interact with the community and college.

There will be three-hundred participants in the Special Olympics ranging from 16 to 65 years

of age. The Olympics needs four-hundred volunteers. The Athletic Director of the Burlington Recreation Department, Herold Owen, said "The Burlington community and Elon College have been a tremendous help in the past, I hope the support will continue."

Three-hundred of the volunteers will have a chance to work one-on-one with a participant- helping them through events, attending entertaining clinics, and sharing lunch with them. The other volunteers are needed to help run events, clinics, and serve lunch.

Each participant will compete in two events. In between and after events they will attend clinics. The clinics are for entertainment and they involve cheerleading and soccer games. The volunteers are needed to support and guide the participants through the activities.

This will be an experience of a life time. Volunteers will share a special part of someone's life and know that they have helped to make it special. Developmentally disabled people are enjoyable

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1.5 million in USA have AIDS virus

by Kathy Meadows
Editor

This is the first in a series of articles on AIDS.

Carol Ann was a typical 19-year old college sophomore. She was an honor student, a member of Alpha Delta sorority, first chair flutist in the concert band, head cheerleader. She also dated the quarterback of the football team. Everything seemed perfect in Carol Ann's life until she was diagnosed as having AIDS.

According to the 1987 Surgeon General's Report, an estimated 1.5 million people in the United States have Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). AIDS was first reported in the spring of 1981, according to *Morbidity And Mortality Weekly Report*. However, patients with diagnoses meeting the definition of AIDS were seen before then.

But what is AIDS? AIDS is a virus that attacks a person's immune system which damages the ability to fight off other diseases. In other words, the person's ability to fight off germs makes him/her more susceptible to bacterial or other viral infections which may cause life-threatening illnesses like cancer or pneumonia.

Once the AIDS virus enters the blood stream, it attacks white blood cells called T-Lymphocytes. Antibodies are produced which can be detected in a blood test from two weeks to three months after infection.

But, other than a blood test, how does a person know that he/she might have AIDS? The fact is that he/she may not suspect anything. The Surgeon General's Report says that the majority of infected antibody positive individuals who carry the AIDS virus show no symptoms and may not actually come down with the disease for years, if ever.

However, "Approximately half of the persons who develop one life-threatening disease in the AIDS syndrome will die within a year," said Dr. Robert J. Bigger of the National Institute of Health.

When AIDS first surfaced, it was thought to be a homosexual disease. However, this stereotype is no longer accurate. According to the *U.S. News and World Report*, some 57,000 people have become infected with the AIDS virus

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Pull harder: Sisters of Alpha Sigma Alpha competed in the Greek Week tug-of-war competition this past Saturday afternoon. See photo essay p.6 & 7.

Photo by Kathy Meadows

Writing center to open this fall

by Cheryl Kern
Staff Writer

Elon will start a new Writing Center this fall. The purpose of the center will be to act as a drop-in place for writers who would like feedback and encouragement.

The new facility will serve the Elon College community; students, faculty, staff, and the town's people. By focusing on developing writers, it will not only be a center for tutorial work, but a place where poetry readings and creative

writing workshops can take place.

The center will be staffed by specially trained students and faculty. The tutors will suggest strategies and resources that will suit the writers' needs and will provide the feedback that will help the writer.

The center, located in Mooney 206, will open at the start of each semester. It will be opened to anyone interested in its services on weekdays and on some week-nights

and will close the last day before exam week.

Writers of all abilities will be able to make use of the center. Primarily, the Writing Center will function as a place to discover and develop the potential writer in each person. The center aims to develop the creative talents of the Elon College Community.

For more information, contact Barbara Gordon, Director of Writing (ext. 2123) or Michael Gaffigan (ext. 2110).

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