



Patiently waiting: Dominoe's delivery man, Robert Talbert, sits on his tire as he and two security guards wait for the police to investigate a pizza theft. According to Police Chief Dan Ingle, at 11:55 pm on Sept. 27, Talbert reported that two pizzas, valued at \$20 were taken from his car parked in the lot outside of Hook, Brannock, Barney dorms.

Photo by: Michael Johnson

Minority from page 1

...de up 9.5 percent of the student body. The Pendulum asked Dr. Board what he thought might had been the cause for the decline. He said, "The first thing is that the trend nationally is down. Students from a different social economic background are more inclined to use education to get into the job market immediately. They are doing it by going to places like community colleges."

...He added that a second reason is "the cost of a four-year education has been increasing, especially among private colleges." Dr. Board added that he was not sure if Elon has had an historical reputation of attracting minority students.

...last year, in the wake of Pendulum stories about minority enrollment, the English department passed a resolution expressing its concern and calling for increased efforts.

Dean of Academic Affairs Gerald Francis said that faculty members are very concerned about the dropping minority enrollment.

"They are also knowledgeable that this is a difficult problem. They are active about suggesting different techniques that might be used in attracting more minorities. They are also quite involved about helping out with recruiting," Francis added.

The Pendulum asked Dr. Board if the administration was doing anything to attract more minority students. "Yes," he said. "We have some projects that are underway and some that are planned for the future."

Board also said, "We now have a new staff member (LaTonya Birch) in the admissions department who is currently involved with a research project. That project is to find out what it is that would attract minorities to Elon."

Board also stated that the new minority recruiter will be following up with every minority family

that shows an interest of having their siblings attend Elon.

Board added that after these projects were complete, an advisory committee made up of faculty, administrators, and students would be formed to advise on the outcome.

It is hard to say what may lie ahead for Elon, but the administration is hopeful. Dr. Board said that he would like to see the school reach the 1983 level of 9.5 percent.

"That is the direction we should go, and after that we should see if we are retaining those students and see if they are succeeding after graduation. This is my own goal, and it doesn't necessarily represent any trustee policies," Board said.

In concluding remarks, Dr. Board said that the college's motives are the right ones. He added, "We are going to grind this thing out, and that's how we get things done here at Elon. We do it through planning, funding, then delivering at a level of quality."

Centennial Moments

June 1891 and 1892 the "town turns out" for the First Commencements.

On June 2, 1891, the two-day exercises of Elon College's first commencement began. This was not only a notable event throughout the Christian Church, but also one in which "naturally very considerable interest" was felt in Alamance County. This was especially true of Graham, whose citizens attended to such an extent that the local newspaper commented, "Everybody who could get a conveyance is gone from this place—the town turned out."

Commencement programs of that day were not merely graduating exercises, but the culmination of the outstanding scholastic accomplishments of the entire student body for the year. It was also a time of social conviviality to the extent that the usually strict rules governing student conduct were relaxed in order to permit the men to escort the ladies to the various events.

This manner of closing the college year was typical of educational institutions at the time and served as a pattern that, except for periodic modifications, was a format for similar occasions at Elon and elsewhere until well into the twentieth century. The Christian Sun printed the entire 1891 program.

The first graduating class was composed of Nathaniel G. Newman, C.C. Peel, and Herbert Scholz. All three had averaged more than 95 in their studies and graduated cum maxima laud, and all three ultimately became ministers of the Christian Church. Scholz earned a graduate degree from Elon and served on its faculty for several years. Newman, a brother of Dr. J.U. Newman, also achieved a graduate degree, and eventually served as pastor of the college church for a number of years.

Also during the 1891 ceremonies, the administration used the authority granted by its charter to confer two honorary degrees. The first was a Master of Arts to H.J. Stockard, who had been principal of the preparatory school at the former Graham College. The second was the Doctor of Divinity to the Reverend J.P. Watson, editor of The Herald Of Gospel Liberty, who had enthusiastically publicized the founding of Elon in the official organ of the northern Christians.

These were expressions of respect for scholarly achievement and gratitude for support of the institution, and were the first of many similar degrees to be conferred by the college on those it wished to honor. The prerogative was used for the third time shortly after the commencement was concluded when Elon conferred the Doctor of Divinity degree upon the Reverend Charles J. Jones, who had preached the baccalaureate sermon for the initial occasion.

The first commencement was a success from every viewpoint. The second, in June 1892, was similar to it except that only one student was awarded a diploma. Miss Irene Johnson was not only the first woman to receive a degree from the college, she was the only person in its history to constitute the entire graduating class.

Excerpted from *Elon College: Its History and Traditions* by D. T. Stokes

A Benefit VOLLEYBALL MARATHON

Friday, October 7
2:00 pm - 12:00 pm MIDNIGHT
JORDAN CENTER OUTDOOR COURT
Rain location: Jordan Gym

Teams of 6 persons (male, female, or co-ed) will be playing

The \$30 registration fee for each team will be donated to the Good Shepherd Community Kitchen in Burlington

Walk-ons Welcome

Free refreshments to all participants

Sponsored by:
Newman Club and the Student Religious Life Council

402 S. Church St.
Burlington, NC

THE POSITIVE IMAGE SALON

2 FOR 1
SHAMPOO, CUT & BLO DRY

Note: Students Only. Valid Mon., Tues., Weds. Ask for Rick, Leslie or Brent. You And A Friend Must Come At The Same Time.