

The Pendulum

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College and drugs

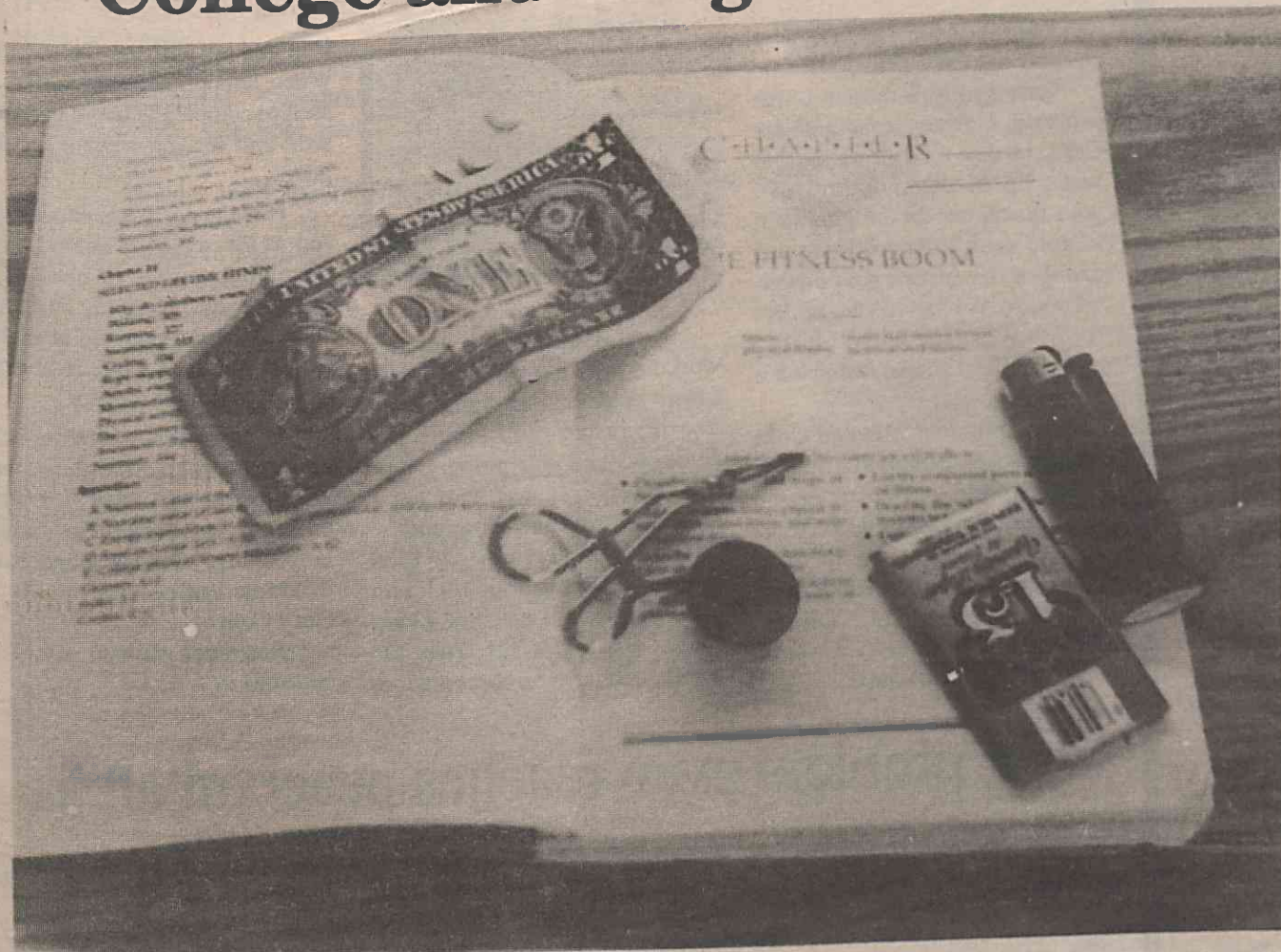


Photo by William Hassell

Student drug 'tests' are in

Alcohol, marijuana are drugs of choice

By Patti Jefferies
The Pendulum

The results are in from the random drug survey several Elon students took last September. The test was administered by the Piedmont Independent College Association (PICA).

Classes which met at 10:10 a.m. were chosen at random by class level. Other schools in the area also took part, and the results were tallied.

According to Jana Lynn Fields Patterson, associate dean of student affairs, Elon students' drug of choice is alcohol. The results showed a wide range of alcohol problems.

According to the survey, most students started drinking in high school or junior high. Most freshmen tended to drink, but fewer sophomores and juniors said they consumed alcohol.

Marijuana was the second most popular drug. There were a wide variety of reasons why students chose to use drugs, including to feel good, to be sociable, and to relieve boredom.

The main reasons students listed for not using drugs included the facts that they are harmful and addictive. Few students cited feeling threatened by the fact that drugs are against school policy as a reason for not experimenting.

See Drug survey, Page 10



Photo by William Hassell

Francis wins alderman seat

By Mindy Schneeberger
The Pendulum

Dr. Gerald Francis, dean of academic affairs, was elected to the post of alderman for the town of Elon College on Tuesday.

Francis, who racked up around 280 votes, was the forerunner in a competition between three candidates. Running against Francis were an incumbent, Don Witt, and Charles Wood. Witt came in second place and will therefore serve as the town's other alderman.

Elections took place between 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Elon College Elementary School, but only 380 people cast votes. "It was a low turnout because it was strictly a local election," Francis said. "What it amounts to is who shows up."



Dr. Gerald Francis

The dean said that 26.6 percent of the electorate voted in the election. The only decision these voters had to make was which two of the three candidates would fill the roles of aldermen.

Aldermen serve for four years, during which time they help to set the policies of the town. Qualifications for the position include an ability to deal with people and responsible decision making skills, Francis said.

Francis has been serving on the town planning board since 1986, but he had no other political experience. He decided to run for office this past summer. "I was approached by a couple of people who thought it would be a good idea."

"One of the college's objectives is that we should exhibit service," Francis said. "It's my way of service to the community."

Because the dean had never campaigned before, he sought the advice of members of the college staff, including Tim McDowell, a former state senator and present director of development for Alamance County; Bob Anderson, special assistant to the president; and Mark Albertson, the registrar.

Francis began his campaign by sending personalized cards to voters and making door-to-door visits. "Once you get out there and do it, it's kind of fun," he said.

Francis intends to give special attention to the effects of the town's growth. "The biggest concern we have in the town of Elon College right now is that the town itself has doubled in area," he said.

Despite his new position, Francis does not intend to neglect his duties at the college. In fact, he did not even wait to hear the outcome of the election. He left the voting area at 6:15 and worked in his office until around 9. When he returned home, Francis found a note about his victory on his answering machine.