

THE PENDULUM

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Delayed Athletic Center opens

Angie Riley
Sports Editor

Elon's basketball teams were scheduled to play their first home games in the newly renovated Athletic Center Wednesday night.

The men's team has three home games left, including Saturday night against Presbyterian College. The women have four home games, including Saturday night.

The Athletic Center was originally scheduled to open last November but was delayed because of rain and construction problems.

The Athletic Center consists of a fitness room, weight room, five racquetball courts, Beck Pool, Alumni Gym and locker rooms, coaches' offices, an aerobics room and a lounge area.

Athletic department and HPEL personnel have moved into their new offices. Classes met for the first time in the Athletic Center Feb. 3. The fitness center and Beck pool are scheduled to open around the first of March.

Construction on the new gym began in May 1992 and the projected finishing date was November 1993. Several problems delayed the opening.

Builders encountered harsh weather in February and March of

last year. Several days of rain softened the ground and weather conditions never seemed to clear up fast enough for the mud to dry.

"It was absolutely damnable," said Gerald Whittington, vice president of Business and Finance.

"It would rain and then we would have great sunshine weather for two days and it would get almost dry so you could put a bulldozer on it and it would rain again."

The weather put the builders behind and caused a rush to get back on schedule. The company arranged to work outside on good days and inside on bad days.

Whittington said the deal seemed reasonable at first, but later proved to be a bad decision by the company. The workers had to constantly move their equipment from outside to inside and back again, losing more time.

The combination of renovation and new construction also hindered the project. Jordan Gym, the Alumni Gym and the Beck Pool were remodeled and new spaces, such as the offices and fitness center, were built.

Some of the gym's original blue prints were not accurate because changes had been randomly made over the years and the blue prints had not been



Alumni Gym awaits crowds for Mars Hill game Wednesday night.

Erick Gill/ The Pendulum

modified.

"You are constantly having to discover in renovation work that where you thought something was, it isn't. And some things that you didn't expect to see, you did," Whittington said.

Athletic Director Alan White said he is relieved that the new gym is opening and that the inconvenience is almost over.

"It has hampered our academic program in that we've had to bounce around all over campus and

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Homosexual support group forms at Elon College

Marc Gentile
Staff Reporter

A lesbian and gay support group has started on the Elon College campus.

Friends of Lesbians and Gays, or F.L.A.G., was formed to support homosexuals, educate the campus and town, and work toward changing Elon's policies to make the school more accepting of homosexuals.

The local group is not affiliated with the national F.L.A.G. organization.

Student April Desreuisseau, a founding member, said F.L.A.G. is "something Elon has needed for a long time because of

the fear felt by homosexual students on our campus.

"I feel that this [fear] inhibits the students' learning and comfort level on the campus."

One of F.L.A.G.'s objectives will be to amend the 1994 school handbook to state that Elon holds no bias toward homosexuals.

Provost Warren Board said the school's attorney is reviewing a proposed change to the handbook.

F.L.A.G. was started in November after a gay rights speech by Mandy Carter. The Elon group is headed by student Laura Lewis. She did not return repeated phone calls.

Residence Life flyers on rush offend greek organizations

Erick Gill
Editor

A Residence Life flyer advertising an open forum on rush offended greek organizations last week.

Rush started this week. About 260 women students were expected to participate. About 30 percent of Elon students belong to sororities and fraternities.

The flyers advertised the Greater Understanding Series, which helps students see both sides of issues.

The flyers read: "How much

do friends cost?" "The greek system controls Elon" and "Everyone at Elon is greek."

Bob Pelley, associate dean of Student Affairs, said those comments were intended "to present both sides of the story."

Pelley said members of Residence Life contacted Amanda Harless, director of Greek Affairs, about statistical information on fraternities and sororities.

Harless said she was unaware of what the flyer would say until she read it.

"There was some pretty negative stuff on there," Harless

said.

Harless said she understands that is how GUS advertises its forums.

"I have seen their stuff before. They try to get their point across with harsh phrases," Harless said.

"I don't think they meant to be malicious," she added. "But there were only a few positive words on it."

The flyer also mentioned words like "hazing" and "hell week," which Harless said are

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