

THE PENDULUM

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Rape victim "discouraged" by police

Mary Kelli Bridges
Staff Reporter

Editor's Note: This is the third in an occasional series on rape.

An Elon College student says local police "discouraged" her from prosecuting her alleged rapist last summer.

The 19-year-old woman said a police official told her that she could have escaped and that her case would not have stood up "five minutes in the D.A.'s office."

"When I heard him (the police official) say what he said, it made me feel like a liar. When I think about it, it still makes me feel like a liar. It made me feel as if it was my fault and almost as if I had made it up," the woman said in an interview last week.

(The *Pendulum* is withholding the woman's name because she is the alleged victim of a sexual assault and

she has asked that her name not be used.)

Elon College police officials Monday denied that they told the woman she could have escaped

"It made me feel like it was my fault and almost as if I had made it up."

from her attacker. Detective Mike Woznick, however, said he probably told the woman that her case would not be prosecuted by the Alamance County District Attorney's Office.

District Attorney Steve Balog declined Monday to discuss specific cases.

In talking about rapes cases in general, Balog said that "whether

an arrest occurs depends on the results of a police investigation."

"The problems with the date rape situations and the acquaintance rape situations is: When is the line crossed? How did he cross it? What could have been done to prevent it from both their perspectives," Balog said.

"She's got to be just as aggressive in not giving him sex as he...is being aggressive in trying to get it," Balog said.

No one has been arrested in the eight rapes reported on Elon College's campus since 1992.

Elon College police have said no one was arrested because none of the women wanted to prosecute.

One woman tells a different story.

In the early hours of July 23, the woman told police she had been raped in her Jordan Center
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Police refuse to release rape victims' names

Mary Kelli Bridges
Staff Reporter

Elon College Police Chief Dan Ingle says he won't release the names of alleged rape victims in order to protect them.

Ingle and City Attorney Robert J. Wishart, however, said they are reconsidering the policy after being contacted by the North Carolina Press Association's lawyers and by the state attorney general's office.

The *Pendulum* has requested the names in an attempt to find out how the cases have been handled by the school and by police.

Of the eight rapes reported on Elon College's campus since 1992,

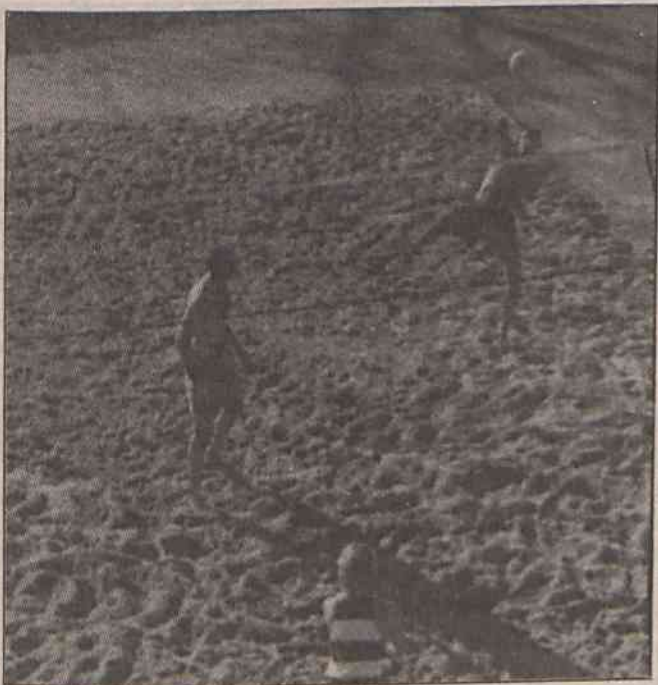
no one has been arrested.

One of the alleged rape victims told *The Pendulum* that Elon College police "discouraged" her from prosecuting her attacker.

According to the young woman, who is an Elon College student, police told her that she could have escaped and that her case would not have stood up "five minutes in the D.A.'s office."

A 6-month-old state law says the name of "a complaining witness" shall be "temporarily withheld" if release of the information will "pose a threat to the mental health, physical health, or personal safety" of the person or "materially compromise" an investigation.

According to the law, which
See Names, page 8



Marco Ormaetxea/ The Pendulum

Students take advantage of warm weather

Friday last day to turn in election petitions

Friday is the last day to turn in petitions to run for SGA offices.

The completed petitions must be turned in to the second floor of Long Student Center by noon.

The elections will be held March 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in front of Long Student Center.

Trustees scheduled to have met Wednesday

The Elon College Board of Trustees was scheduled to meet Wednesday to decide possible tuition and salary increases.

Student tuition may increase up to 7.5 percent.

Faculty and staff pay raises could increase up to 4 percent.

Rezoning proposal withdrawn

Tiffany Edmondson
Staff Reporter

Plans for an apartment complex at Lebanon and Manning avenues have been dropped for at least six months.

The developer withdrew his proposal to rezone the land after Elon College aldermen objected to the apartment complex Tuesday night.

Ernie Koury, owner of the lot, wanted to rezone the land from business to multi-family residential.

Koury, owner of Trollinger Apartments on West Trollinger Avenue, first proposed the change in October.

The planning board voted 3-3 in January.

Koury reduced the number of apartments from 32 to 16. The Elon College Board of Aldermen held a public hearing on the rezoning last week.

The aldermen were scheduled to vote on the rezoning Tuesday.

At the meeting, motion to approve the rezoning died for lack of support.

Alderman Gerry Francis made a motion to deny approval.

"I'm not convinced what is the best use for the property," Francis said. "I have some unanswered questions on the whole thing."

"If this comes back in six months I might change my vote," Francis said.

Alderman Chuck Gantos said, "This is one of the hardest decisions I've had on the board in 14 years."

Koury now plans to "wait six months and see" what he will do with the land.

Area residents opposed the rezoning. They said another apartment complex would create more trash and noise from students.

Some of the residents are currently looking for a new place to live.

Koury said before the vote, "The biggest issue to the residents is the trash. They have created a homeowners association and are finding ways to keep the area clean."

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