



# THE PENDULUM

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Informing the Elon College Community

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## Alcohol, high speed factors in crash



Woody Marshall/ Times-News

Shane McDermott (top) and Robert Lanham (lower) survived a crash which left the rear of this Mazda wrapped around a pole.

### Tracey Stark Managing Editor

Last Thursday, at approximately 10:45 p.m., Elon students Robert Lanham, 22, and Shane McDermott, 19, drove west into Gibsonville at speeds exceeding 90 mph slid into a utility pole and changed their lives forever.

According to a police report, alcohol was a factor in the single car accident.

Charges may be pending.

The 1990 Mazda, driven by McDermott, was severed at the rear axle upon impact with the utility pole. The rear end remained wrapped around the pole, but the front end carrying Lanham and McDermott, continued down Burlington St. for another 330 feet, rolling and careening off an embankment along the roadside.

Before coming to a stop in front of 309 Burlington St., the passenger, Lanham, was thrown from the vehicle. Both Lanham and McDermott were wearing their

seatbelts, but Lanham's was ripped from the frame of the vehicle.

Edith and Randy Apple were watching *ER* on television at the time of the accident, when Edith looked out the window and saw a car rolling through their yard.

"My wife called 911. Then we went outside and put blankets over them and she took the pulse of the guy on the road," Randy Apple said. Edith is a critical care nurse at Alamance Regional Medical Center.

The first ambulance arrived at 11:03 p.m. "The rescue units were super," Randy Apple said. The second unit arrived at 11:12.

The Gibsonville Fire Department arrived and cut the remainder of the vehicle's roof off to remove McDermott. His seatbelt was intact and had to be cut from his body.

A Life Flight helicopter landed in a vacant lot next door to the Apple's house and the two were airlifted to UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

(See Accident, page 4)

## SGA elections coming soon

### Stacey Ward Editor in Chief

Student Government Association elections are scheduled to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday Feb. 27-28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first floor of Moseley Center.

Petitions for elections are due by 5 p.m. Feb. 14. A mandatory meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. The petitions can be picked up in the SGA office, 231 Moseley Center, on Wednesday Feb. 7.

Positions on the Executive staff, the At Large Council and the Academic Council are available. The Organization Council is scheduled to be chosen at a later date.

An open house, for possible candidates is scheduled for Tuesday Feb. 6 at 6 p.m. in 233 Moseley Center.

## New Security and Safety Director Named

### Jeff Wirick Asst. Managing Editor

Charles Gantos, a retired AT&T manager who also has extensive emergency management experience, has been named director of security and safety at Elon and will start his new position today, according to an Elon College press release.

He will oversee a staff of nine full-time employees as well as numerous part-time student workers.

As director, Gantos is responsible for enforcement of campus security and safety regulations, administration of motor vehicle registration and parking programs and inspection of college buildings.

Gantos, who is in his 20th year as Mayor Pro-Tem and Alderman for The Town of Elon College (1976-1996), visited the campus for a day of interviews Jan. 19.

Gantos worked for AT&T for 25 years leading projects, programs

and business opportunities to successful implementation. While working for AT&T, Gantos was responsible for the development and negotiation of contracts with international corporations, U.S. agencies, foreign governments and AT&T Business Units.

Prior to AT&T, Gantos served as captain in the U.S. Army Gen-



Charles Gantos Photo Submitted

eral Corps. and was commanding officer of the 28th Base Post Office in Europe, where he was for three and a half years.

"This position (the security

and safety position at Elon) has a lot of management aspects associated with it," Gantos said. "If we know where we are going to be in five years from now, we can put the plans in place today and get there."

Gantos encourages student participation in the security department at Elon. "I strongly believe in team play. I will take responsibility for anything that happens, but we will function as a team," Gantos said.

Gantos is in favor of Elon's possible conversion to an armed police force. "There are legal advantages, and they can provide a better safety environment for students and faculty," Gantos said.

The original four candidates who were interviewed on Elon's campus by several panels of students and faculty members are John J. Hackett Jr., director of public safety at Babson College in

(See Gantos, Page 4.)