



THE PENDULUM

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Special Olympics: Everyone's a winner

**Tamara LaMassa
Erik Akelaitis
Staff Reporter**

Despite a rainy day, about 270 athletes and 300 volunteers participated in the Alamance-Burlington Special Olympics at Newsome Field of Elon College Friday, April 19 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Some of the volunteers signed up before hand and others walked up to the information desk and volunteered, said Tony White, an Elon student working at the information desk.

Among the volunteers were Elon students, local high school

students, students from Alamance Community College, members from The Church of Latter Day Saints and people from the Elon community.

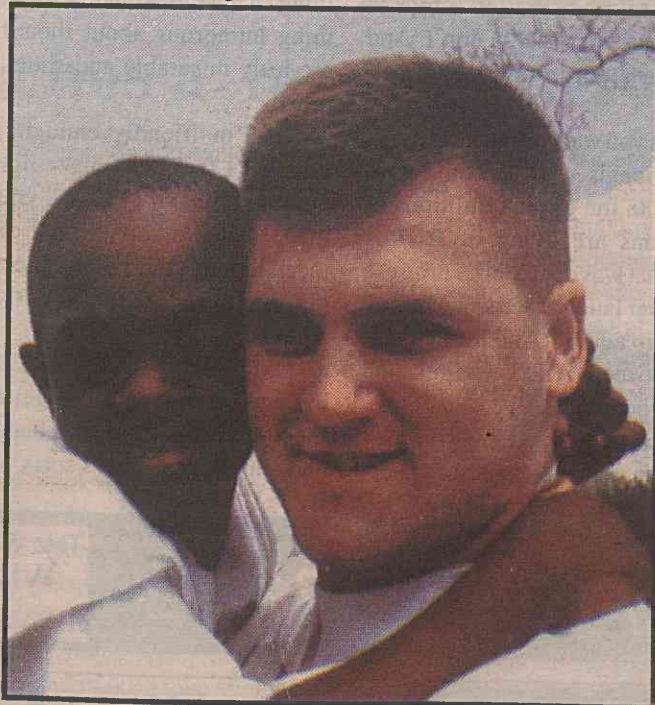
Michael Stamps, a sophomore at Elon College, was one of the volunteers.

Stamps said he was having a bad week, but volunteering at Special Olympics changed his whole mood.

"Just to see the smiles on those athletes brightens up your day," Stamps said.



Tonya Hubart/The Pendulum



Tonya Hubart/The Pendulum

Special Olympian Terrance Vincent hugs his new friend and sponsor, Darrin Haywood.

Louie Loines achieves a personal goal with the support of sponsor Beth Garcia.

"One of the athletes, Harrison Hill, said he loved me," Stamps said. "It touched me."

Anyone in Alamance County who is eight years old and up and qualifies as physically or mentally disabled can participate.

The purpose of Special Olympics is to provide competitive activities for those who are mentally retarded, said Jim Drummond the head of Special Olympics at Elon.

Special Olympics was started by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in response to the cases of mental retardation in her family.

This organization has spread not only to national levels, but also to international levels thus reaching thousands of people worldwide.

The first Special Olympics on the Elon College campus was held

in 1960.

Friday, each athlete can compete in two events. The events the athletes competed in are the ones they were the best in at the trials held at the schools they attend, Jones said.

Those who competed, practiced for a year, she said.

The athletes who participated were from Ralph Scott Life Services, Fisher Care, Adults at Home, Alamance Development Center and Alamance and Burlington city schools.

The events included a 100 meter run, a 100 meter walk, a softball toss, a 50 meter run, a 50 meter walk, a 25 meter walk, standing long jump, wheel chair events, a 400 meter walk and shot put.

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Sigma Phi Epsilon sanctioned for alleged hazing

**Andrea Stoffer
Staff Reporter**

On March 6, the Judicial Board held a hearing accusing Elon's Sigma Phi Epsilon of not abiding with the pledge education program. A representative from every fraternity, except Sigma Phi Epsilon, attended the trial, supervised by Jana Lynn Patterson, associate dean of students. The fraternity received 15 hazing charges.

Elon officials collected evidence from pledge's phone calls to

the National Hazing Hotline. Also, officials interviewed pledges about hazing.

Fraternity President Bucky McCarley and fraternity brother Justin Fredrick served as representatives at the hearing.

McCarley was allowed to pick one other "school affiliated" representative. Fredrick played a minor role in the trial.

McCarley said, "I pleaded not guilty for our fraternity and explained why I felt this way."

No other fraternity has gone as far to deny all allegations to the Judicial Board Review, said Jeff

Mercado, chapter vice president.

"On March 7, I was handed the accusations in written form from Smith Jackson, dean of students. The charges came right out of the Elon Student Handbook," said McCarley.

The meeting resulted in penalizing the fraternity with the following sanctions: no social activities, probation through May of '98, suspension of Inter-Fraternity Council rush, fraternity house off limits except for residential housing through May '96, and Sigma Phi Epsilon must reform their pledge education program.

Jackson said, "An evaluation of the fraternity will be made during winter term of '97. If the fraternity has conceived with the sanctions then we will lift the suspension of social privileges and the one year suspension of I.F.C. rush."

Mercado said Sigma Phi Epsilon appealed the charges.

"The school was uncooperative and more investigation was needed. It takes the administration less than 24 hours to decide a punishment, but more than two weeks to return an appeal request," Mercado said.