



THE PENDULUM

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Fran's Fury Takes its Toll in Elon

Jeff Wirick
Asst. Managing Editor

Strong, proud, tough and durable, they were as old as the college itself. But after Hurricane Fran tore through Elon early Friday morning, several of the hundred-year-old oak trees that symbolized the college no longer stood.

Luckily, they were Elon's only casualties from a storm that killed at least 12 people state-wide.

Along with losing more than 35 trees from heavy winds, the college experienced some leaky roofs, busted windows and lock damage to some dorm rooms.

Facilities Director Neil Bromilow said all the locks on the north side of Jordan Center-F building will have to be replaced because "too much rain water got into them."

Bromilow estimated the damage on campus at "\$35,000 and counting." That cost is only for the fallen trees.

One of the trees landed about 20 feet away from the front door of Virginia dorm.

Freshman Jim Crotts, of Virginia dorm, who slept through the tree falling, said people were lucky not to get hurt by the 100-foot tree.

Campus Security, who doubled its staff for the night, rotated four police officers, two security guards, one student guard and one dispatcher from midnight until 9 a.m.

"They did an excellent job," said Security Director Charles Gantos, who was one of the eight to stay overnight. "We got a chance to see if our campus emergency plans worked."

Three patrol cars traveled around campus and the surrounding streets of the town. The cars responded to about 20 calls from students, Gantos said.

The following morning, Elon cancelled classes and the cleanup job began. Students from several organizations helped in picking up scattered tree branches around campus, a task that took several hours.

The physical plant workers cut the large trees into smaller pieces before discarding them.

Junior Kim Wheeler, who helped in the cleanup, was impressed with the stu-

dents' charity.

"It was really interesting," she said. "Students would be walking by and ask 'what are you doing?' After we told them, they would help out too. To think that everyone would just help like that on their day-off was pretty incredible."

Despite initial reports that Fran would only pass through Elon as a tropical storm, residents had mixed impressions of how strong the storm hit the school.

Sophomore Nicole Murphy, who lives in Jordan Center, was surprised by the strength of the wind

and how long it rained.

But Crotts said Hurricane Hugo (in 1989) was much worse. "We really didn't get the big part of this storm," he said.

Crotts experienced Hugo while living in Lexington.

Some students had to deal with flooding. Eric Marcus, who lives in a house on South Williamson Avenue, said he got out of bed "and stepped into a puddle of water."



Photos by Tracey Stark/ The Pendulum

Whitley Auditorium (above) lost some shade, as this 100-plus year-old oak was felled. This house (below) on Saddle Club Rd. fared much worse, as its roof was smashed by a falling tree, causing extensive damage.

