



Focus Section Topic of the Week:

The Police of Elon College

The Cops of Elon College - Town and Campus - Police or just Po-Po?



Chuck Gantos and Scott Nelson happy with Elon Security and Police

Josh Phoebus
The Pendulum

With fountains, oak trees, and green grass surrounding the typical student, Elon becomes a quiet, "safe" place for all of who attend. Some have even gone so far as to describe the campus as a "bubble."

However, Elon's reputation as a tranquil environment did not occur overnight. Over the past three years, the division of Campus Security and Police has made significant strides in providing protection for those students who call Elon College "home."

For starters, Elon has increased the number of foot patrols as well as targeted areas, such as the bushes along Jordan Center, where visibility can be improved. As a result, violent crime was down 67 percent in the December, 1998.

These positive outcomes can be tied to a series of improvements made by the college three years ago. For instance, there was no security coverage on the weekends. Likewise, Elon lacked twenty-four hour coverage of the campus.

On top of this, there was no campus police department specifically designed to keep the criminals "at bay." Three years ago, Elon obtained a certified police force to compliment the already present security force.

These changes were all part of a campaign spearheaded by Head of Campus Security and Police, Chuck Gantos. In the last few years,

Gantos and his officers have specifically focused on increasing the level of student awareness of crimes. Campus Security officers make special visits to those students living on-campus to establish a rapport and remind students about being safety-conscious.

Nelson points to the hiring of Gantos as a one of the best moves that was made concerning the security and policing of Elon.

"The hiring of Mr. Gantos helped increased the professionalism of the security staff as well as helped expand the role to which

Campus Security was involved here at Elon." Furthermore, Dean Nelson added that better lighting near North, Staley, and Moffitt Halls has increased the safety level for students as well.

However, no system is perfect and Gantos and his staff are working closely with Elon officials to make the campus a safer environment in which to live.

Nelson believes that a Student Escort Service might be allow females a greater sense of se-

curity by providing students who would volunteer each night of the week to serve as a companion for girls who wish to walk across campus late at night. "Each organization could take a day in which they would provide a few people to serve as escorts," Nelson said.

Moreover, three key points made by officers were to lock all dormitories, avoid the propping of doors, and to always walk in pairs at night. These words prove to be wise indeed after the tragic incident involving an Elon student being violently assaulted by a man as he was walking home from a party one weekend earlier this fall.

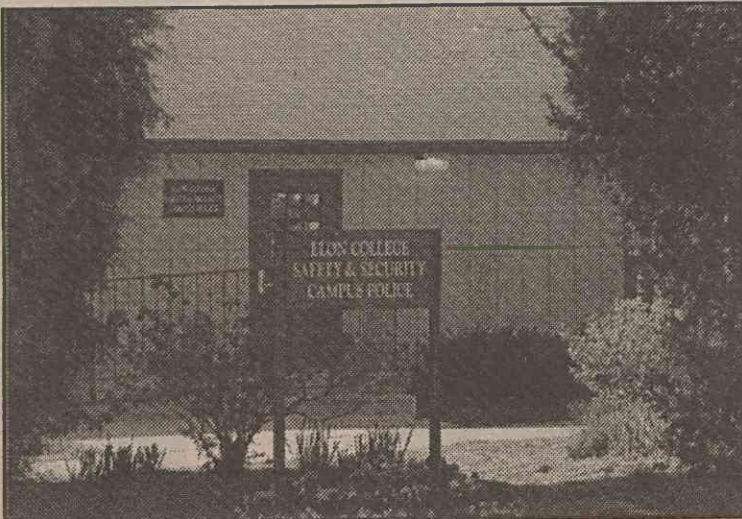
Gantos feels such incidents are caused by "students becoming lulled into a false sense of complacency because violence seems to be a non-factor on campus."

A specific concern was for females jogging at night in poorly lit areas. College women are encouraged to jog in pairs during the daytime in well-populated areas.

Such improvements did not go unnoticed by the Assistant Dean of Students, Scott Nelson. In fact,

Furthermore, with a constant eye towards the future, Campus Security and Police continue to look for more ways to improve the physical safety of all students. The department will be looking to increase it's response time on all calls, as well as continually providing a superior level of security where students can feel safe enough to let their guard down and enjoy "the college experience."

Any and all suggestions can be communicated to Campus Security at X 2407.



Jen McCort/The Pendulum

The headquarters of Elon College Campus Security and Police is nestled in luxurious downtown Jordan Center.

Elon cops a joke

"Dirty Hippie"
Contributing Reporter

Hello everyone. I hope this day finds you safe and happy. Some dear friends of mine at *The Pendulum* have asked me to come and give you my unbiased opinion of the campus security here at Elon, so here goes...IT SUCKS!!!! Here's my rationale.

First of all the cars they drive establish the fact there a joke. My friends and I lovingly refer to them as the "Pac-man police." If it was my call, I don't think I would have used bubble letters from the early 80's. They don't quite inspire the fear and respect that's necessary for an officer of the law. My God, if they were following you all you

There was one clear and obvious sign she was going to die. That's when she called the campus police. I pretty much knew she was a goner at that point. I'm not Wading in the Velvet Sea here, people.

This is why I think all students should carry a joint around in their pocket: If they're ever getting attacked or raped they can pull the joint out and start puffing. That'll definitely get the cops there, cause Lord only knows they aren't going to come if there is a real problem. It's much easier to bust the stoners who don't pose a threat anyway. Maybe if they spent their money on training instead of getting new paint jobs on the cars this could be averted. Who knows?

For my closing thoughts, I



Jen McCort/The Pendulum

Brand new Campus Police cruiser in JC lot.

have to do is eat a Power Pellet to scare them off. Maybe they were trying to be hip and cool with the kids when they did it.

Don't. You're cops, kids aren't going to like you anyway.

This brings me to my next point. Have you ever seen the movie *Scream 2*? You know the scene where Sarah Michelle Gellar (Buffy) is about to be attacked by the killer?

would like to encourage all the woman out there to learn some form of martial arts, it's for the best.

I need to give a shout out to the Gibsonville Posse, and for the cops who were kind enough to sit through this tirade, I have one last closing comment: I was high as balls when I wrote this article. Good night and God bless.

Next Week's Focus Topic: Those Nutty World Orders

We are going to look at the many wonderful different forms of government in the world, from the zen of communism to the joy of fascism

Is there a topic you would like to see covered in the Focus section?

If so, let us know!

Call *The Pendulum* at ext. 2331 or visit us in Moseley 233.