

Parking problems plague Elon students and security

Tracey Earley
The Pendulum

In the past five years, Elon students have spent nearly \$30,000 in towed vehicles. In the 1997-98 school year Elon Towing collected \$6,515 from students.

Some students say towed vehicles and lack of parking spaces is a major problem on this campus.

"We don't have enough parking spaces as it is. And for the school to tow our vehicles if we are at least in a parking spot just doesn't seem fair," Brendan Westlund said.

To date, the campus has 2,662 parking spaces available. As of Sept. 14, Campus Security has given out 2,169 permits, leaving the campus with 493 extra parking spots.

So why are students complaining? Officer Nelson Gunn, the Traffic Coordinator for Campus Security, says that the problem is students not parking where they should be or students park-

ing in lots when they don't have a permit.

"When the science lot fills up, they can come park in Jordan Center, but students say that is too far of a walk across campus. That's not really an excuse though because we can't make a lot to fit all of the students," Officer Gunn said.

Sue Johnson issues parking permits at the security office and hears complaints daily.

"Probably the main argument student make is they pay so much to go here, that they expect a parking space. What they want is guaranteed parking," Johnson said.

Johnson also says that students complain about cars without permits parking in their lot.

"Part of Gunn's job is to make sure these lots are free from vehicles without permits. But with 2,662 spots to look after, he may miss a few. Officer Gunn is only one person and he does the best he can," Johnson said.

UNCW professor speaks on spirituality

Jason Chick
The Pendulum

Whitley Auditorium seemed the perfect place to discuss how to integrate spirituality into students lives. Its airy, nondistractive atmosphere is perfect for student reflection on their own spirituality

Wilkes, a lecturer in the Creative Writing Department at UNC-Wilmington, came to Elon as a guestspeaker for Sigma Tau Delta.

"It's doing the little things well," said Paul Wilkes to his audi-

ence on the topic of spirituality.

Wilkes currently has 15 books on the news stand, has been published in numerous magazines such as *The New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly* and *The New York Times Magazine* and also scripted the PBS series *Six American Families*.

A graduate from Marquette University and Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, Wilkes has an extensive background in writing. "Seeing something and then getting it right on the page is awesomely difficult, but an ulti-

mately satisfying experience," said Wilkes.

Wilkes spent the hour elaborating on how simple faith can be, and yet, how painful we perceive it.

"God made all good people, he didn't make trash," said Wilkes. "We all have freewill therefor we can do what it takes to be happy, holy people.

"Do your best. It's all you can do, and it not about going to church daily or reading scripture 20 hours a day, not even the Monks do that, but it's about realizing that you can incorporate spirituality into your life."

Elon Volunteers! assists Special Olympics

Jason Chick
The Pendulum

Elon Volunteers! will be helping out with Special Olympic Bowling tomorrow. Terea Smith, one of the coordinators of the event, said the volunteers will help things run smoothly.

"They'll be handling a group of people and become their support. The kids can get frustrated with the challenge and so they be-

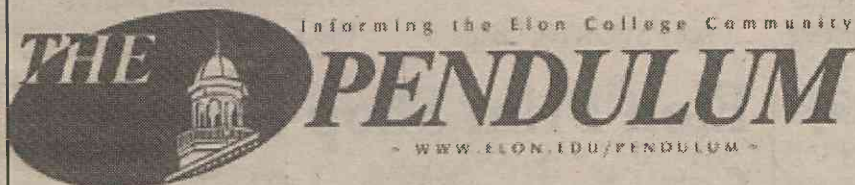
come support."

Alison Edwards, another coordinator said volunteers will be helping with the basics. "Volunteers will be assisting Special Olympic children and adults with keeping score, carrying the balls, helping with the actual bowling and cheering them on," Edwards said.

The event is going to be held tomorrow at Country Club Lanes all day. Some of the participants will have Down Syndrome, Autism,

and other mentally handicapping illnesses.

Elon Volunteers hopes to get around 100 students helping out. Smith said Special Olympics helps people become more aware of people with disabilities, and is one of the reasons she got involved. Edwards said, "I have been working with Down Syndrome patients for the past five years, and I've been involved with Special Olympics at home."



The purpose of *The Pendulum* is to inform and entertain the Elon College community and provide a forum for ideas and opinions.

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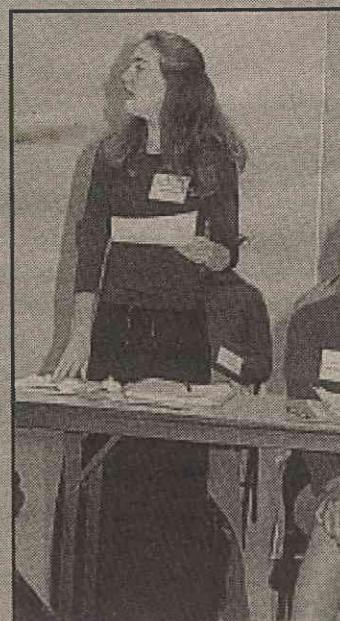
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Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed, double-spaced and signed with the author's name, year in school and phone number for verification. These submissions are also accepted as Word documents on disk or by e-mail. *The Pendulum* reserves the right to edit obscene or potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may have to be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of *The Pendulum* and will not be returned.

EYE ON ELON



Becca Johnson
addresses the
students at the Model
UN conference this
weekend.

Photo by: Becca Morrison/ The Pendulum