



The Pendulum

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Elon University

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If it matters to you, it matters to The Pendulum.

Disabled students face challenges

Jennifer Guarino
Editor in Chief

Lauren Easop will never see the third floor of Alamance building. She'll never stop by a professor's office in the political science department.

Each trip to class or to the dining hall poses problems for this freshman, one of three students at Elon with permanent disabilities. Six steps up to a building become a challenge, not a hop, step and a jump. It's a struggle to open heavy doors.

"The bricks, cafeterias and doors really frustrate me getting around campus," Easop said. "But I try not to let it get me down. I try not to let my balance troubles get in my way."

Easop underwent surgery for a shattered vertebra in 1999. During the surgery, nerves to her feet, ankles and legs were severed. While the nerves will re-grow slowly over the next six to eight years, Easop walks with a cane to stay balanced. She also wears leg braces and a knee brace.

The brick walkways are one of Easop's biggest challenges. "I don't just trip on bricks, I all out

fall," she said. She would love to see all the bricks replaced with cement. "All the things that would make it easier for me, I don't think will happen."

She knows there is not a solution to every struggle she faces. Easop said she relies on others to help her, especially carrying food in the dining halls or opening doors.

"Usually when I'm in Moseley Center it's hard to open the door because I'm carrying things and the door is heavy and the handle is low," she said. "When people see me, they help me as much as they can."

Although Easop faces challenges moving around campus, the university works to assist disabled students. Sometimes this means moving their classes to the first floor, or arranging for first floor dorm rooms. Others factors are also considered when constructing or renovating buildings to follow guidelines established by the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1991. Elon has met or exceeded all mandates by the ADA.

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Community gathers



Tim Rosner/Photography Editor

At last weekend's Festival of the Oaks, the community gathered along Williamson Avenue for the 10th annual event. Local children ventured to Kid's Land for rides and entertainment. *See page 10 for story.*

Police chief clarifies complaints

LaVell Lovette
Guest Columnist

Six months ago, I assumed office as the Chief of Police for the Town of Elon. I am still adjusting but find that things are going extremely well.

It is not in my nature to respond to editorials or opinion columns, especially when they concern law enforcement and particularly, my department; however, because of recent contacts my officers have had with university students, I would like to clarify some information that was recently presented in an opinion column by Ryan Costello, "What to do and say if you are arrested by police," in the Sept. 19 edition.

While the gist of Costello's article is right on the money, he tends to give his opinions and advice as absolutes.

"What you say and what you don't say to police is of the utmost importance." TRUE.

"What you say can be used against you..." TRUE. This is one of the Miranda Rights that is required to be given to all suspects who are questioned about specific crimes while in custody, we do not have to give these rights to everyone before questioning, "... and may give police an excuse to arrest you." FALSE. Police do not need an excuse to arrest; we need probable cause.

"You do not have to answer any questions..." TRUE. "... and your best bet is to stay quiet, polite and respectful at all times."

Sometimes what you have to say will clear you of all suspicion;

McBride speaks on common reader

Julia Smith
Reporter

James McBride, writer, composer and saxophonist, entertained students and faculty Thursday night in Alumni Gym with his thoughts on his book "The Color of Water."

McBride, author of the common reader, engaged the audience

with his humor woven through readings from the book and stories about his family. One of 12 children, McBride wrote about growing up and his relationship with his Jewish mother.

"The book has given me a peace about the world," McBride said. "We have a lot more in common than we have differences."

His grandfather, a rabbi, came

to the United States in 1920. He began to destroy his family physically and emotionally, and as a result McBride's mother left home for Harlem at the age of 17. She then married an African-American and began her own family. When her husband died of cancer, she turned to her aunt for help and the door was slammed in her face. McBride's father's sister

traveled to Brooklyn, N.Y. to help the family. His mother later remarried and she returned back home.

McBride told the audience he never attended lectures when he was in college. "You have demonstrated you know how to succeed by being here," he said. "This is

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