



The Pendulum

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Vol. 28, Issue 27

Elon University

Elon, N.C.

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

Earthfest invades Lake Mary Nell

Students raise environmental concern

Kathleen Frey

Features Editor

Have you ever eaten organic popcorn? Or tie-dyed a shirt?

Participants in the sixth-annual Earthfest, sponsored by Elon Sierra Club and Students for Peace and Justice, did both and much more during the afternoon event Sunday.

Nearly 50 students, faculty, staff and community members gathered at Lake Mary Nell to enjoy the festivities, which included live jazz music by The Kevin Pace Band, information tables, free food and activity booths.

The purpose of the event was to raise public awareness of local and national environmental issues and have fun at the same time.

"I went last year and had a lot of fun so I decided to go again," sophomore Jess Gross said.

At one table, senior Dana Gowland fielded questions about Elon's recycling program. She also shared information about her experience at Earthaven, a sus-

tainable eco-village community located near Asheville. Nearby, freshman Raquel Corona, a volunteer from Students for Peace and Justice, demonstrated to passers-by how toxic landfills can contaminate drinking water.

Other tables offered free samples of organic apples, snack bars, milk and popcorn. Earthfest volunteers grilled vegetarian hamburgers and hotdogs.

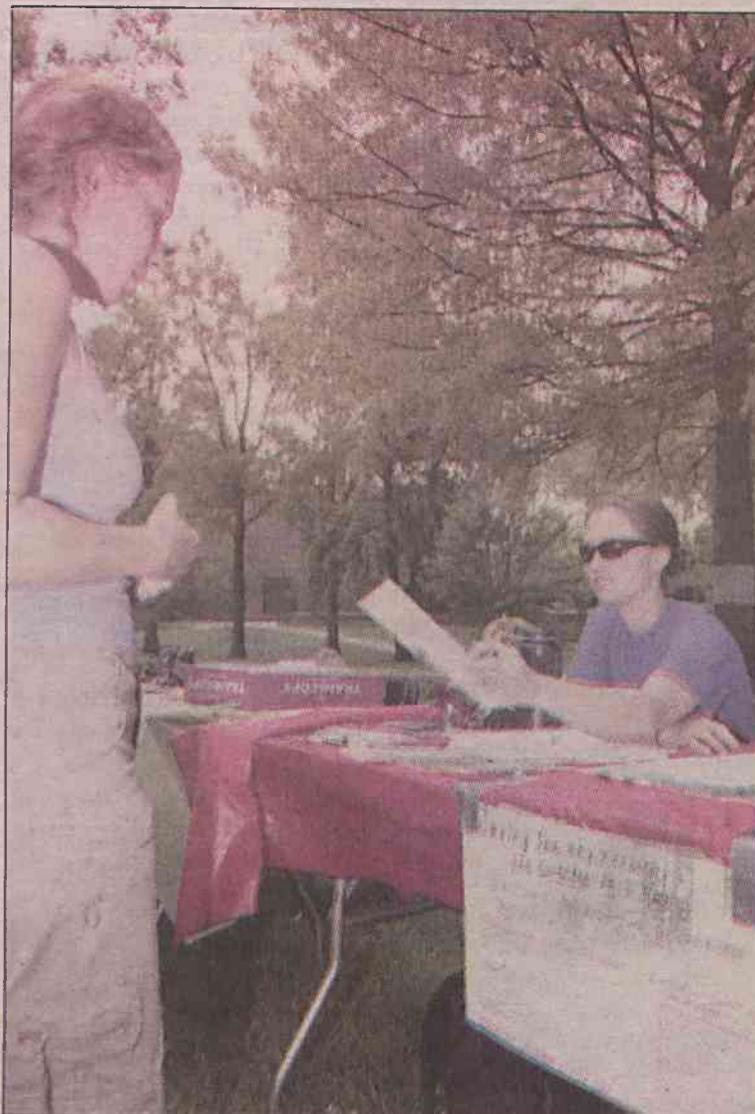
Next to the stage, Biology Club members sold plants in special hand-painted pots. Senior Jenn Coleman, the club's president, explained that the group had returned to Earthfest after a two-year hiatus to raise money for an annual scholarship fund.

"We're trying to get people to buy some for Mother's Day," club member Kelly Foster said.

Elon Outdoors also set up a table offering information about outdoor excursions and gave away free Frisbees.

The Blueprint Art club spon-

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Tim Rosner / Photo Editor

Volunteers from the Elon Sierra Club and Students for Peace and Justice hosted the annual Earthfest Sunday afternoon. Dana Gowland hands Lauren Admire information at Earthfest.

Health center diagnoses 10,000 cases each year

Cites no exposure to SARS

Adam Smith

Reporter

Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) has caused worldwide panic in recent weeks. Though the threat of this disease at Elon is minute, the R.N. Ellington Health Center had nearly 10,000 visits from students this year with other issues and concerns.

"All universities are talking about [SARS]," said Kitty Parrish, the director of health services. No one traveling abroad has been exposed to the disease, Parrish said. "We don't have any epidemics."

So what is plaguing Elon? Of course, there are the usual cases of cold and flu. "We see anything you would in a normal doctor's office," Parrish said. Other viruses seen at the center include mono and strep throat.

"There are more allergies this semester because there has been more rain," she explained. Parrish also said there have been more injuries reported because people are taking advantage of the nice spring weather.

Many students have complained of the center's tendency to treat everyone equally, dishing out the same dosage of Tylenol to those with mono and those with a cold. This, Parrish said, just isn't true. "If people say they are misdiagnosed," she said, "I can usually sit them down and show them

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Concern raised over Blackboard security

Matt Belanger

Reporter

Some students have recently expressed concern over the security of Elon's Blackboard Web site. Blackboard stores student grades, quizzes and assignments, making it a prime target for hackers to attack.

However, Chris Fulkerson, director of campus technology, explained that hacking into the

university's server is more difficult than many may think.

"We really try to maintain our servers as securely as we can," Fulkerson said.

In order for someone to view another student's Blackboard site, the person would have to use a program called a sniffer. A sniffer is designed to monitor password activity on a server and pull out any passwords it can decode. A hacker could theoretically use that

password to log into another student's site and gain access to their personal information.

But there's a catch--for a hacker to be successful in extracting a password, the student the hacker is targeting must be online and logged on to the Blackboard site at the exact moment the sniffer program is running.

Also, the hacker must have extensive technical knowledge regarding the operation of com-

puters and servers to be able to avoid the security measures that are in place.

The university takes a number of preventative measures to prevent hackers from breaking into Blackboard server. Elon subscribes to a service that provides continuous updates of possible security concerns.

"When new Microsoft hackers

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