



The Pendulum

Thursday, May 8, 2003
Vol. 28, Issue 28
Elon University
Elon, N.C.

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

Graduates will face tough job market

Steve Earley
Reporter

Graduation is a little more than two weeks away. For most of the class of 2003, this means leaving the Elon bubble for the world of work. Familiar college phrases such as "all-nighter and "road-trip" give way to "job shortage" and "hiring freeze" as graduates enter a workforce still feeling the effects of a weak national economy.

The unemployment rate climbed to 6 percent in April, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics — just one symptom of an economic slump that has dealt states their worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

However, Elon seniors are less concerned with economic statistics and historical comparisons than being able to say "yes" to one simple question: "Do you have a job lined up?"

With fewer jobs out there -

about 800,000 a few years ago to 100,000 - 200,000 this year - the answer to that question may be a bit different than in years past, according to Jim Allison, associate director of the Career Center. Students are faced with an unfamiliar range of options.

More students may be going back home after graduation, said Allison. He would not be surprised if last year's nationwide average of six out of every 10 graduates going home climbed to seven out of 10 this year, he said.

Others may take some time off. "Not just the economy but our world has been stressful the past few years," Allison said. "I ask folks, 'What are you doing when you leave Elon?' And they'll say, 'I'm taking a vacation because I need a break.' And that's understandable."

Business administration major Robby Grandy is looking to relax a bit. "This summer I've got a job

See Jobs p. 9

Faculty say grade inflation reflects a national trend

Jessica Patchett
Assistant News Editor

As the GPA and SAT scores of incoming students rise, so do the average letter grades received by Elon students each semester. However, many faculty members attribute the distribution of more 'above average' grades not to a pool of brighter students, but to grade inflation, a national trend that is disturbing to many Elon professors.

"We're creating unrealistic expectations on the part of students - that success will always be easy," said psychology professor Catherine King. King recently spoke with Fox 18 news regarding the effects of grade inflation on students.

"We're making individuals very vulnerable to failure," she said.

Over the past 10 years, the

See Grades p. 10

Athletes showcase unusual talents at Wack-E Olympics



Tim Rosner / Photo Editor

Elon's varsity athletes competed in a variety of Wack-E sports Saturday as part of Elon's Wack-E Olympics. The students pictured above were competing to be the first to finish a relay race.

Two arrested with \$6,000 in stolen goods

Lindsay Porter
News Editor

Campus Safety and Police made two arrests Saturday night after officers found \$6,000 worth of stolen merchandise in backpacks. Timothy Douglas Bunnells, 17, and a juvenile were charged for numerous violations, including felony breaking and entering, possession of burglary tools, resisting a public officer and injury to personal property.

"The charges are numerous and they're not done," said Chuck Gantos, chief of Campus

Safety and Police.

Sophomore Michele Hamilton, a Staley resident, called the campus security office at 11:23 p.m. and reported two suspicious-looking individuals lurking in the Harper Center parking lot vicinity. Bunnells and the juvenile had been seen by other residents outside of Moffitt hall and walking in the Harper Center parking lot.

"They were standing on the corner by the Staley bushes. I could tell they weren't talking to each other, and it just looked strange," Hamilton said.

When security officers arrived

on the scene, Bunnells and the juvenile had left the Harper Center area. The two were found four to five minutes later walking through the parking lot at the Greek court, according to Gantos. The two were stopped for questioning.

Gantos said officers found a large number of stolen musical instruments and accessories in the individuals' backpacks, including flutes, a clarinet and drumsticks. They were also carrying burglary tools.

See Arrests p. 8

INSIDE

Fourteen seniors leave their mark
page 14-15

Summer movie preview
page 22

Ten more things you never knew
page 28