

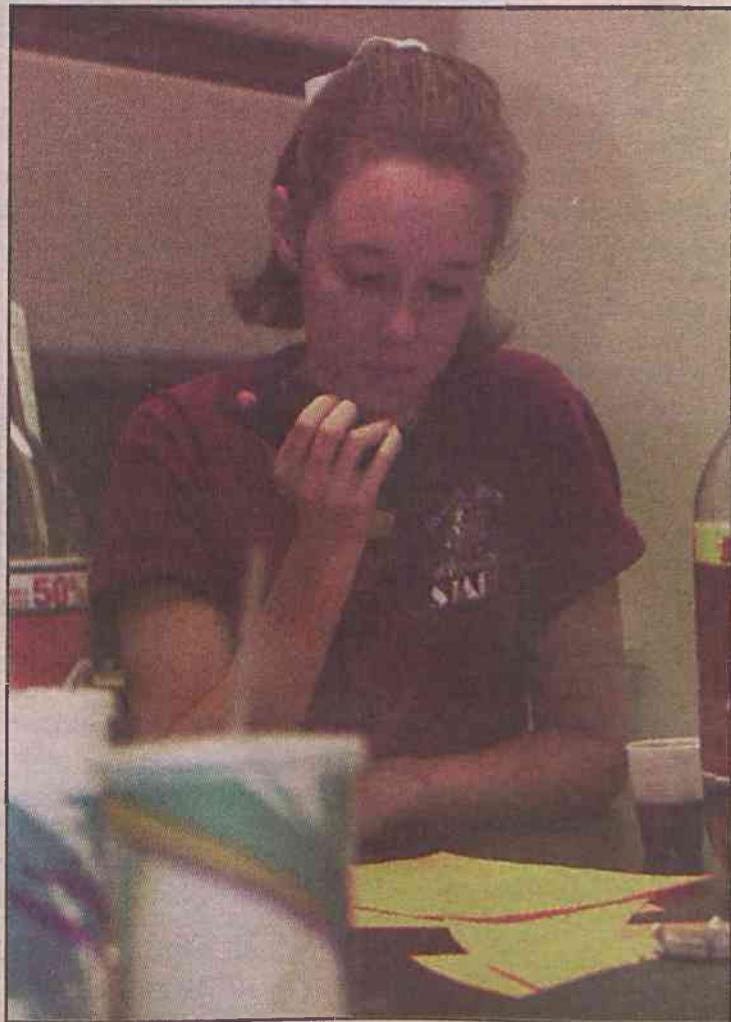
THE PENDULUM

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



Tim Rosner / Asst. Photo Editor

Gavin Sands communicates with student drivers using a radio while working for Safe Rides in the EV! office Saturday night.

Giving back: Safe Rides searches for volunteers

Matt Belanger

Asst. News Editor

A lack of volunteers could force Safe Rides to stop offering its service to the Elon community.

"If our pool of volunteers does not improve, [closing] is certainly a possibility that we need to look at," said Karen Floyd, associate director of residence life and service learning. "The program needs campus support, which we are not getting from the campus community."

Floyd explained that the problem stems from a lack of student initiative to give back to the free service. She explained that most of the people who use Safe Rides do not offer to volunteer for the service. However, demand for the program is strong — last weekend Safe Rides transported more than 200 students to locations within a one-mile radius of campus.

"The desire to give back has to come from within; for us to keep going it is imperative that those who use the service give back by

volunteering for it," Floyd said.

Britten Ginsburg, student coordinator for Safe Rides, offered a hypothetical situation for the student body to help them consider the impact they could have.

"If every student at Elon volunteered just one night during their four years here, then we would have more than enough people to run our service every weekend in full capacity," Ginsburg said.

Floyd said that Ginsburg, Jocelyn Maningo and Dan Hampton have all been crucial to the continuation of services this year.

"Our leadership and their commitment to the program has been very positive for the program this year," Floyd said. However, Floyd continued to explain that already this year, Safe Rides has been unable to operate on three occasions because of a lack of volunteers.

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Isabel sparks review of disaster plan

Lindsay Porter

Managing Editor

With hurricane Isabel making landfall during the day today, local officials have been busy planning preparatory arrangements for the storm's imminent arrival.

Vice President and Dean of Student Life Smith Jackson said Tuesday that it is unlikely Isabel's more serious effects will be felt at Elon, more than 200 miles from the coast.

"We're watching it closely, and we always prepare for the worst," Jackson said.

University senior staff met Tuesday to discuss the emergency plan, which includes evacuation plans if the need should arise. According to Jackson, the university has taken precautions by topping off generator fuel, backing up power for fire alarms and stocking a three-day food supply.

As of Wednesday, North Carolina Governor Michael Easley had ordered a mandatory evacuation for residents of the state's Outer Banks and declared a state of emergency.

Family Weekend events are still scheduled to continue as planned. Any changes to the schedule will be posted on E-net.

Isabel has fluctuated in its categorized severity since weather officials started monitoring it closely more than a week ago. The storm has passed through the stages of categories three through five. The storm was most recently lowered to a category two, with winds reaching gusts of 110 mph.

Students are urged to monitor updates on E-net, or access the latest information by calling 278-RAIN.

Contact Lindsay Porter at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

Elon Fire Station plans construction of substation

Matt Belanger

Asst. News Editor

Just seven minutes after an emergency response unit was dispatched to an apartment on Lebanon Avenue, a train passed through the Town of Elon cutting the Elon Fire Station off from over half of its jurisdiction. In his 26 years of experience at the station, Assistant Fire Chief AJ Sizemore said the train has always been a concern for the station.

"We have had cases where we have been cut off from the northern part of our district by the train," said Sizemore. "All we could do was turn off the sirens and wait at the tracks until the train went through."

However, plans are in progress to build a new facility that would ease some of the stress placed on the Fire Station by the train. A new substation is slated to be constructed on a tract of land north of

campus that was recently donated to the Town of Elon by the university. The substation will provide relief in a number of areas for the station, not only easing complications posed by the train but also serving as a solution for the station's desperate need for more space.

Elon Town Manager Mike Dula said that the construction of the substation is essential to account for the future growth of

Elon. The recently completed Elon bypass, located just north of Rhodes Stadium, will most likely be developed in upcoming years. Dula explained that as the Elon area expands, the need for more efficient fire protection is crucial.

The project is a collaborative effort between the Town of Elon, the Elon Fire Station and Elon University. The university has

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P16: Thomas Friedman will visit campus for this year's fall honor's convocation.

P21: Check out the details of the Phoenix's first football victory against Hofstra.