

THE PENDULUM

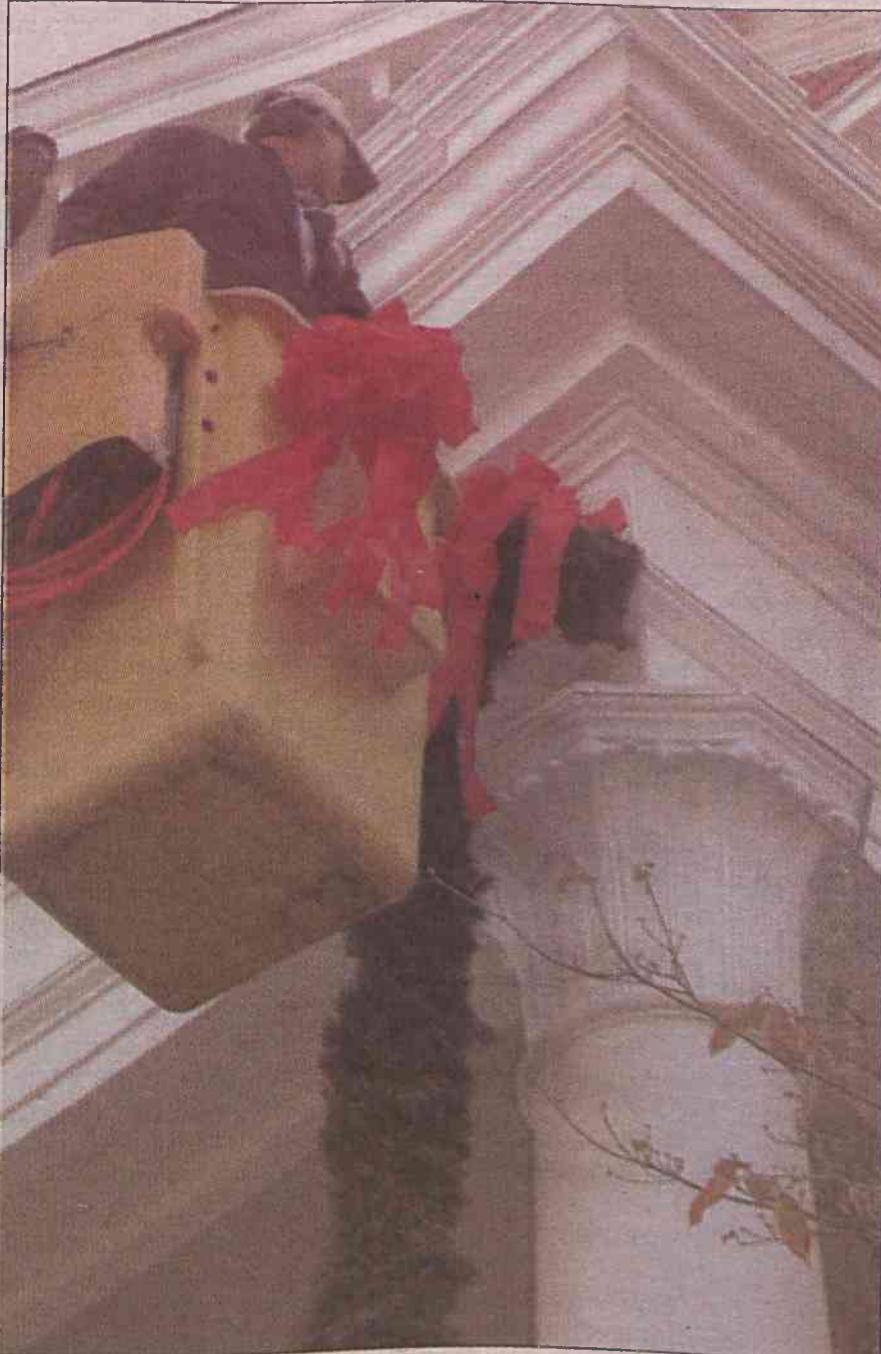
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If it matters to you, it matters to The Pendulum.

Elon decks out for the holidays



Matt Belanger / Photographer

Physical Plant employees began decorating campus earlier this week by hanging garland and bows on a number of buildings around campus. Forty-thousand lights were strung in preparation for the holiday season. The lights will be turned on for the first time at the tree-lighting ceremony at 6:30 p.m. tonight around Fonville Fountain. Elon has been decorating its main campus for the holidays since 1983.

P14: A soldier with an Elon connection shares his experiences in Baghdad

Former officer sues town

Steve Earley

News Editor

A former Town of Elon police sergeant is suing the town, Board of Aldermen, mayor, town manager and nine other current and former town officials for race and sex discrimination.

Patricia Smith, who is of Lumbee Indian origin and currently a patrol officer with the Gibsonville department, filed the suit in the U.S. Middle District Court in Greensboro Nov. 18. She said the town held her to higher standards than other employees in justifying her termination and did not seriously consider her for promotions.

"These are not new issues," said Bob Wishart, attorney for the Town of Elon. "It's just a different forum they have to be addressed in."

Wishart is referring to the appeals Smith made to the Employment Security Commission and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission contesting her

termination. Wishart said in both instances it was determined Elon officials acted within the law.

Smith, who was demoted to corporal June 20, 2001 and discharged Jan. 18, 2002 after 15 years on the force, contends that her superiors engaged in retaliatory practices of discipline and that in reference to several of the incidents used to justify her termination, town officials told her she did nothing wrong.

"We don't feel that the suit has any bearing and we will defend [against] it vigorously," said Town Manager Mike Dula.

Among the damages Smith is seeking in the suit are restoration of her position and rank, restoration of back pay and 401K and \$25 million in compensatory and punitive damages for the violation of her constitutional and civil rights.

Smith is also seeking the repair of her professional reputation. On the separation

See LAWSUIT p. 12

Winter Term offers opportunity

Rachel Abbott

Reporter

Less than 5 percent of the nation's collegiate institutions offer a winter term. Elon's Winter Term gives students chances they might not have otherwise had during the rest of the academic year.

"Elon sees this as a real advantage in that it allows students to take creative classes, accumulate additional credits that they wouldn't get at other institutions and there is no charge for the Winter Term classes," Registrar Mark Albertson said.

Elon's January term allows students to concentrate on one class for three weeks. Many students also use the month between semesters to do an internship or co-op.

"One of the nice things is that students can clearly focus on one class," Albertson said. "Research shows that students do well when they can completely focus on one

class."

Winter Term includes creative classes, special classes and guest speakers that include the chosen theme. Every two years a new theme is introduced.

Continuing from last year, the month's theme will revolve around the theme of living in a global age.

This year, Elon has invited David Gergen to be Elon's first Isabella Cannon Distinguished Visiting Professor for three lectures. Gergen has been an adviser to former Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Clinton.

Gergen will be lecturing at 7 p.m. on Jan. 6, 12 and 14 in McCrary Theatre.

Also in January, Elon will be exhibiting "Fabulous Fibers II" on Jan. 9 in the Isabella Cannon from 5 to 7 p.m. The exhibit will run until Jan. 13.

See WINTER p. 12

P21: Club volleyball ranks second in state after tournament at Appalachian State