

THE PENDULUM

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

Student says free speech compromised

Steve Earley
Copy Editor

In a recent letter to the editor in a local daily newspaper an Elon student wrote that his right to free speech was compromised by various members of the university community.

The author, freshman Nicholas Benjamin, contends that actions by Residence Life, The Pendulum and students have "all but destroyed" his right to free speech at Elon and prompted him to consider transferring schools.

Benjamin said threats to his right to free speech have been made in response to his very exercise of it: a letter to the editor in The Pendulum in which he opposed same-sex marriages.

Among the most acute of Benjamin's complaints, which include accusations of liberal bias in the student newspaper and reports of borderline hostile e-mails and phone calls from fellow students, is his claim that he was discriminated against by Residence Life in its decision not to hire him as a resident adviser.

Benjamin's concerns, which were published in the March 18 Times-News, garnered the attention of the administration and prompted phone calls to The Pendulum from local media.

In response to Benjamin's concerns, Dean of Student Life Smith Jackson met with Residence Life staff to review the office's selection process.

"They told me some of their reasoning in this particular case and it seemed that they had gone through the procedures, which are quite extensive," Jackson said. "I didn't have any concerns about how they made their decision."

Benjamin's Pendulum letter appeared in

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Memorializing a year of deaths in Iraq



Jeff Heyer / Photo Editor

The ribbons in Young Commons commemorate the 14,273 people killed in Iraq. It has been one year since the United States went to war in Iraq, and the ribbons are intended to make people pause and reflect on the human costs of war. See story p. 7.

New campus parking policy aims to cut down on traffic

Ashley Feibish
News Editor

Put on those tennis shoes or catch a ride on the tram. Starting next fall, students living in Sheridan and freshmen, sophomores and juniors living in Danieleley Center will no longer be able to park on campus from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Campus Transportation and Traffic Planning Committee, comprised of Elon stu-

dents, faculty and staff, announced the decision to students on March 16. It is the first part in a series of changes that will lead to a more pedestrian-oriented campus over the next several years.

"There's many reasons (for this change)," said Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of student life, who chairs the committee. "Aesthetic questions, the environment, health - it's not bad to walk a bit."

Another reason for the change is the prior-

ity of residence parking. Elon wants to make sure students living in residence halls can park near where they live.

As Elon continues to grow both as a campus and a community, efforts to produce more foot traffic are not only for environmental reasons, but safety reasons as well.

"A lot of development is going on in this area. Over 6,000 homes are going to be built in the next couple of years. Just in the Town of

See **PARKING** p. 8

P13: University executive chef from tells his story from Poland to the United States

P17: Elon soccer coach launches new nonfiction book with a personal reading