

# THE PENDULUM

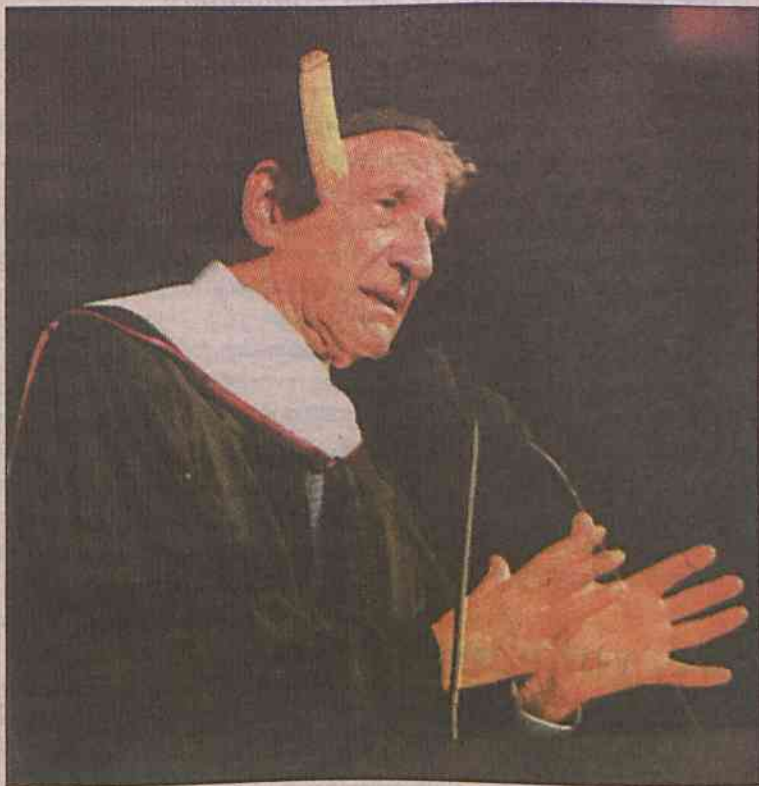
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If it matters to you, it matters to The Pendulum.

## Wiesel addresses moral obligation, overcoming hate



Brian Viebranz / Photographer

Humanitarian Elie Wiesel was the speaker at Wednesday's Convocation. Wiesel, the author of many books about the Holocaust, addressed hatred and anti-Semitism, and encouraged people to have compassion for others.

**Jessica Patchett**  
*Editor in Chief*

After nearly 60 years of accomplishment since his enduring of the Holocaust, Elie Wiesel spoke at Elon University on his worldview and struggle for faith, but little on the experience that he says profoundly influenced them.

"To this day, I prefer not to speak about that topic. I will talk about philosophy, literature, religion. It is too personal," Wiesel said. He held both a question-and-answer session and gave an address at Elon's Spring Convocation for Honors Wednesday afternoon.

In his Convocation address, Wiesel spoke on the resurgence of anti-Semitism, his hope for the spread of compassion among people and his wisdom for living in moral obligation. When students asked about Wiesel's experience in the Holocaust during the question-and-answer session, he said, "It is in my book."

Wiesel is the author of more than 35 books, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, an advocate for the rights of all minorities and a Holocaust survivor. He has been active in the forefront of international politics in engaging leaders and encouraging reconciliation among the people of hate-torn situations such as South Africa and Yugoslavia and Israel and Palestine.

To these people, he said, he offered the same perspective he gave to the Elon community. This worldview looked beyond his past in a Nazi concentration camp and deeper than the current situations pressing the international community in what Wiesel identified as memory and moral obligation.

"It is the passion, the passion that matters," Wiesel said to Elon students. "That you want to know why. That you want to know, how can culture and education be open to cruelty? What is there that we can do to bring even a moment of redemption in the lives of men, women and children who live in despair because

humanity has failed them, because civilization has lost its magic?"

A man of words, Wiesel said he has known since 1945 that he would write. His first manuscript of his world-renowned book "Night" was more than 864 pages. But after all of his accomplishments, Wiesel said, "I would trade all of my books to have written one chapter like Isaiah."

The biblical prophet's poetry, wisdom and expression mirror the passion for humanity and faith in God that Wiesel demonstrated throughout his address and his comments.

"I was the man who was there, I was the one who saw it," Wiesel said.

To many, Wiesel's words have become a modern prophecy, recalling the memories of the unimaginable and foreshadowing the darkness of what could come from another culture of ignorance and hatred.

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## Sierra Club hosts Earthfest tomorrow

**Ashley Feibish**  
*News Editor*

Elon University's Sierra Club will host its seventh annual Earthfest tomorrow by Lake Mary Nell from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The organization's form of Earth Day, which is today, will celebrate and promote education about Earth with organic food, canoeing and music from BenJamin, The Harmony Reservation and Loop.

"We'll also be collecting donations for a coral reef national park," said junior and president-elect

Jennifer Gough.

"We'll have organic foods (including organic hotdogs). Tables (will feature information) about the Sierra Club, recycling, gas mileage and coral reef conservation."

There will also be craft projects available to students, ranging from decorating cups to tie-dyeing shirts, Gough said.

Generally, students pay money to participate in the crafts, which accounts for the donations, said Greg Haenel, assistant professor of biology and adviser to the Sierra

Club for the past three years.

Although Earthfest is specific to Elon, the nationwide celebration of Earth Day started April 22, 1970.

"The students in the Sierra Club are primary dealing with getting education and awareness (about Earth) out," said Haenel. "The environment is a big issue - (we must) say what the issues are and get people to recognize Earth is important."

In addition to promote environmental awareness, the Sierra Club's

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Jeff Heyer / Photo Editor

An Elon student takes advantage of the unseasonably warm April temperatures. Students have been spending time outside in the sun.

**P13:** Find out about Domestic violence and how it can be prevented.

**P17:** Elon softball going up against conference-leading University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.