

Gender gap widens o

Sarah Moser and Amy Parker
Special Projects Editors

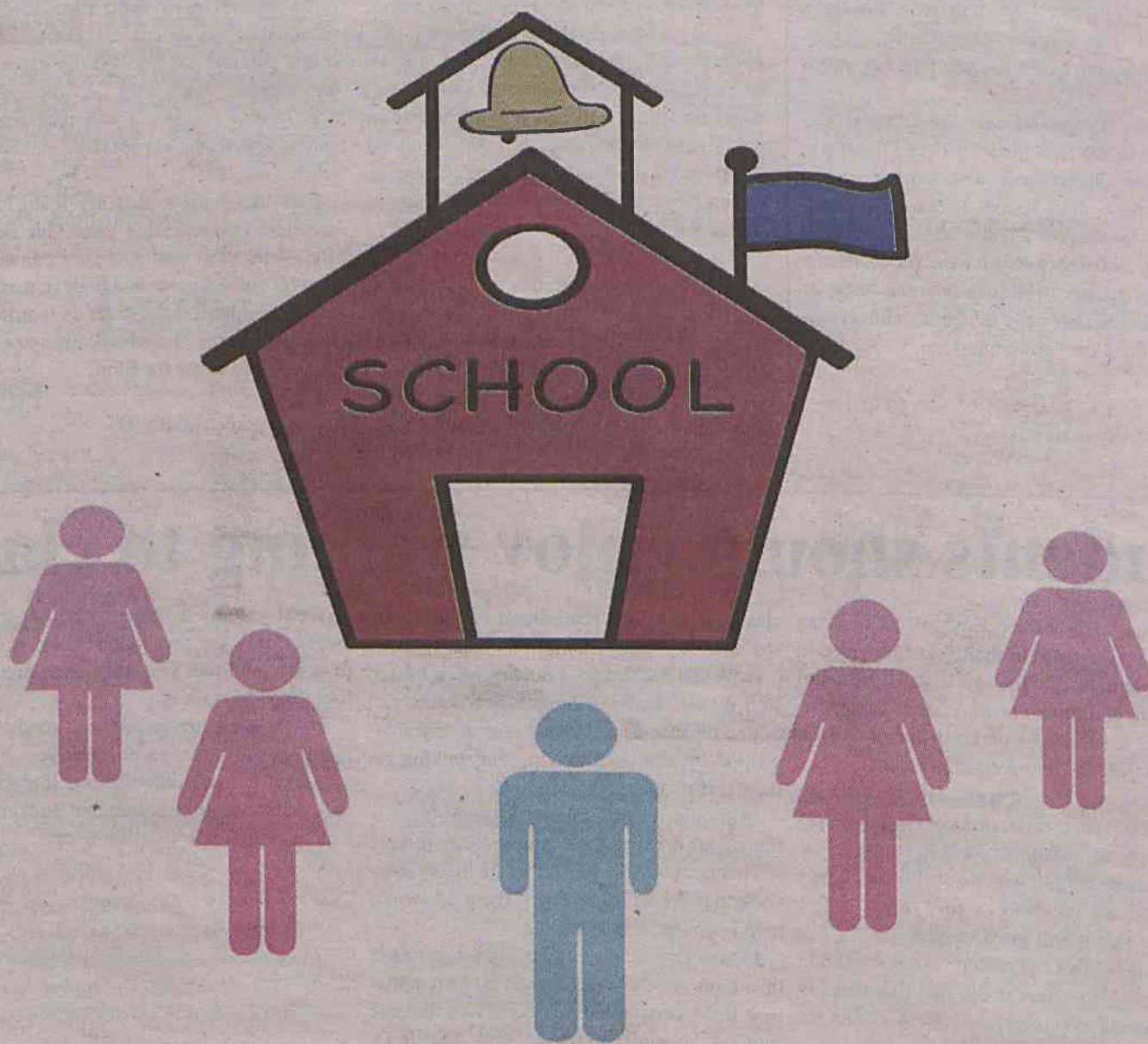
Next time you are walking through campus take a look around you. Besides the beautiful scenery notice the people around you. It's pretty evident that Elon has more women than men. In fact, the ratio is 61 percent women to 39 percent men. Classrooms are dominated by women, there are more sororities than fraternities and there is one more all-female dorm compared to the lone Smith dormitory. What about outside the bubble, are there more women than men in other universities?

Colleges and universities around the United States are seeing more and more females on their campus. In fact the gender gap has widened in recent years with 43 percent of college students being male and 57 percent being female, according to USA Today. This is a dramatic reversal from the 1960s and 70s when men dominated the college scene.

According to NPR, the gender gap in higher education overall is widening in favor of women. Colleges gave out 200,000 more degrees to women than to men in spring 2005. Women now make up 57 percent of the college population and it is continuing to rise. Within ten years, three million more women than men could be attending college.

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FEMALE COLLEGE STUDENTS
RECEIVE HIGHER GRADES
MALE STUDENTS ACCOR



In the past, male students were the majority on college campuses. This was because they were the traditional breadwinners of the family and this was the only way to get a good education. There are several reasons researchers give for the recent rise in the number of female students. One reason is that the mental needs of boys are not being met in as early as elementary school. Boys shy away from being excited about attending college because they do not want to seem uncool. Also males are more likely to be interested in sports than in academics, so they are more likely to be interested in attending college.

Girls began to seek career paths and enrolled in college in the 1970s. By the mid-1980s, more women began attending college. There was also an unexpected drop in the number of male students. Not know why, but they have their theories.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, boys are more likely than girls to attend college. Another point is that more men are going to college in other areas in which a degree isn't necessary.

Universities are trying to come up with ways to keep the number of male students in Pennsylvania the admissions team admitted a greater percentage of male students last year. However, their ratio still breaks down to 48 percent male and 52 percent female. For example, if a male and a female both apply to a school through affirmative action, the male will get in. Some schools are even putting a quota on the number of male students to give them a better chance.

But even with all these exceptions, girls should not be discouraged when applying to school. Universities are not going to admit more males than females to maintain an equal balance on campus. Many schools have more males than females, but they must be careful. The University of Pennsylvania had an affirmative-action policy favoring females.