

Planning continues for pedestrian tunnel

Nate Acosta and Nancy Whitman
Reporters

Development of a new pedestrian tunnel under the railroad tracks between Lebanon Avenue and West Trollinger Avenue continues this fall, with the tunnel expected to open spring 2009 according to Neil Bromilow, the Director of Construction Management.

After the death of an Elon student at the railroad tracks last spring, new interest in a pedestrian tunnel has emerged, though the tragedy did not affect the university's existing plans to build a tunnel, Bromilow said.

Architects are in the designing process of the tunnel while the project awaits funding approval from the university.

The tunnel will be located behind Hook, Brannock and Barney residence halls. The project will cost an estimated \$1 million, a figure to be shared by the university and Norfolk Southern Railway Company.

Lebanon Avenue may be converted to a one-way street during construction, said Bromilow.

Reactions from the student body have been mixed.

"The project is good in theory, but I don't think it's going to be very effective," said junior Maura McGrath. "People won't walk the entire length of the tracks just to use the tunnel."

To keep people from continuing to walk over the tracks, the state will put up a fence. The fence will run the length of the tracks adjacent to Trollinger and Lebanon.

Some students who walk to South Campus through main campus on a daily basis especially support the

school's new project.

"I feel a little bit scared when I cross the tracks, and since the trains do go through there so fast there are safety issues," said senior Virginia Zint.

According to Norfolk Southern,

"I'm glad the university is concerned about our safety rather than the cost of such a project."
- Colleen Cooper, senior



Plans for construction of a pedestrian tunnel between Lebanon and Trollinger avenues are currently underway. File Photo

the speeds of the trains through the Triad increased in the past four years. Previously, passenger trains were not allowed to go above 59 mph, but now they are allowed to operate as fast as 79 mph in accordance with the North Carolina Transportation Department and state law.

"I'm glad the university is

concerned about our safety rather than the cost of such a project," said senior Colleen Cooper.

While construction is not expected to start for a few more months, there will be some noticeable changes when building begins. Trains will still operate, but at slower speeds through the Elon community.

Elon News Briefs

Voices of Discovery begins Monday

Kaitlin Ugolik
News Editor

In keeping with the theme of climate change and sustainability, Elon will host the president and CEO of the Organization of Tropical Studies September 24 at 7:30 p.m.

This talk marks the first installment of the 2007-2008 academic year of the Voices of Discovery series.

Dr. Elizabeth Losos, president and CEO of the Organization of Tropical Studies [OTS], will speak about climate change in Costa Rica in Whitley Auditorium.

In a talk entitled, "Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Understanding Global Climate Change Through the Costa Rican Experience,"

Losos will share her knowledge of environmental impact on Costa Rica and other tropical countries.

She earned her Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology in 1993 from Princeton University, and worked for the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute's Center for Tropical Forest Science before joining the OTS in 2005

According to their Web site, the OTS was founded in 1963 as a non-profit association of universities and research institutions from the United States, Latin America and Australia.

The organization leads members in researching and using natural resources responsibly.

The Voices of Discovery series is sponsored by Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences.

Suspect apprehended, laptops retrieved

Olivia Hubert-Allen
News Editor

A string of on-campus thefts between 9:30 and 11 a.m. ended in the apprehension of a suspect on Friday, Sept. 14.

The Elon Campus Safety and Police office received a call from a student reporting a missing book bag. Shortly thereafter, a laptop was reported missing from a faculty member's office in McEwen Communications Building. Then a third complaint reported a missing laptop in McMichael Science Building.

Bystanders in and around McMichael were able to come up with a description of the suspect and an e-mail was sent out to faculty and staff members. Campus Safety and Police then received

several phone calls indicating the direction that the suspect was moving. Officers confronted the suspect outside Holland House shortly after 11 a.m.

All stolen property was recovered, including three laptops, one wallet and one book bag. The suspect has been charged with four felonies and has been set on \$50,000 bond.

"I thought [the situation was handled] extremely well," said Chuck Gantos, chief of Campus Safety and Police. "People were observant and we were able to get a description of the suspect."

Gantos urges Elon community members to lock doors and take care of personal possessions. He says that universities are perceived as easy targets for criminals because people tend to be relaxed.

Ominous odor detected, Carolina evacuated

Angela Aslanian
Reporter

Wednesday night all 150 Carolina girls were evacuated from their dorm.

Security paced the halls as ambulances and fire trucks arrived to investigate a mysterious fume floating around the first floor hallway.

"I started coughing, my throat was burning, and my eyes started to water," said Erica Edmondson, freshman and first floor resident

Girls sensed the odorless fume as soon as they opened their doors

"It felt like somebody put pepper in my lungs," freshman resident Caroline Adams said.

Room after room, girls flooded out of the dorm, perched on the steps, many with books and laptops in hand.

"I could tell it was going to be a long process so I grabbed my Mac and hauled my ass out of there, my first paper was due in a few hours," freshman resident Jayna Roberts said.

After they realized the intensity of the situation, a few of the girls fled to their RA's room to caution her about the problem. Liz Adcock took one breath before she also started to cough; she then called security.

It took a while for the firefighters to figure out the cause of the fumes.

"We were the contaminated group," said freshman and first-floor resident Jennifer Hempel.

The firemen discovered the fume was caused by a bathroom exhaust fan malfunction.

In an e-mail to the girls of Carolina, Niki Turley, director of residence life explained that, "the plastic fan blades were rubbing on the housing of the unit and the constant abrasion created some heat and the blades began to erode away and, at the same time, emit a melted plastic odor."

The bathroom was barricaded for the night but the girls were let back into their dorm around 1:30 a.m. A crew came the next day to prevent



Anna Tolner/ Photo Editor

Residents of Carolina were evacuated Wednesday night when a strange smell was detected; firemen discovered fan blade erosion as the source of the smell.

future damages.

Some girls continued to feel nauseous, dizziness, chest pressure.

Twelve girls were checked out by the EMTs and three girls decided to take a trip to the hospital.

"I've never rode in an ambulance before," said freshman resident Erica Edmondson, also commenting that it was about a three hour wait once they arrived.

The girls were treated for smoke inhalation and told to drink lots of water and to rest.

Days after the incident a couple of the girls are still experiencing mild symptoms.

Additional horns and strobes will be installed in the shower area, after several girls missed the fire alarms while taking showers.