

Basketball heats up p. 16

Alumnus produces film for Sundance Festival p. 12

Elon University's Weekly Student Publication

# The Pendulum

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**SPECIAL REPORT:**  
see pgs 2, 3, 8 & 9 for more coverage on Democratic debate

## Democrats battle at Myrtle Beach



Angie Lovelace/ Photo Editor

Sen. Hillary Clinton, Sen. Barack Obama and former Sen. John Edwards heatedly discussed education, health care and employment just days before the Democratic primary in South Carolina.

Alyse Knorr  
Design Editor

**MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.**— The Democratic presidential candidates met at a debate Monday in Myrtle Beach, S.C. in preparation for Saturday's upcoming primary election.

The event took place at Myrtle Beach's Palace Theatre and was hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus Institute.

It was held at a pivotal time in the state, as the South Carolina's Democratic primary will be the first Democratic primary to vote in the South during this election.

Monday night's debate could prove to be extremely important when South Carolinians hit the polls.

"It might help people finally decide how to vote," South Carolinian Gayle Elvington said of the debate.

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## University buys Lighthouse Tavern

Olivia Hubert-Allen  
Editor in Chief

It was the end of an era this past Thursday when Elon University administrators officially purchased Lighthouse Tavern and Deli at 131 W. College Ave.

The sale comes a little more than a month after Lighthouse owner, Grayson "Chad" Snyder, was charged on Nov. 30, 2007 with selling and delivering cocaine, possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and attempt to violate the Controlled Substance Act by possessing the date rape drug GHB (gamma hydroxy butyrate).

Initial plans for the building have yet to be determined, but Dan Anderson, director of university relations, said that student input will be considered throughout the decision-making process.

"We don't want to rush to judgment on what to do with the property," said Smith Jackson, dean of student life, who is spearheading efforts to find a new use for the space. "During the next couple of months we will get a lot of input from students on what they consider the best use of the space."

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## Phi Beta Kappa committee to visit Elon

Whitney Waters  
Reporter

A review committee from prestigious arts and sciences honors society Phi Beta Kappa will be visiting Elon Feb. 3 to 5 to evaluate the university's application for membership.

The committee will consist of four professors who work at universities with Phi Beta Kappa chapters. Professor Don Wyatt from Middlebury College is the leader of the committee.

While at Elon they will be looking at how the school supports students in the arts and sciences, the quality of

the professors and teaching, faculty scholarship and academic financing.

"It is a very thorough look," explained Professor Russell Gill, a member of Elon's Phi Beta Kappa committee.

The committee will begin their visit with a student-lead tour followed by dinner with the Phi Beta Kappa faculty committee. They will conduct interviews for two days with the department heads and various committee chairs.

Though they will primarily be interacting with faculty and staff members in a series of meetings, they will also have the opportunity to meet

a few honors students, as they are interested in student reactions to the program.

Elon applied for membership to Phi Beta Kappa in 2000 and 2003, but this is the first time Elon has moved on to the second round of the process. Since the last application, Elon has made many improvements that may give the university a better chance for selection, Gill said.

The quality of the faculty and the student body are continuously improving, as well as the quality of the facilities. Library funding and the number of foreign language programs, two things the Phi Beta Kappa looks

at to determine membership, have also grown.

If Elon gains status, it would be in the company of other top universities in the country.

"It would serve as an evaluation and approval of the quality of Elon's arts and sciences program. It would be an honor," said Gill. "It would also benefit Elon's image and recruiting."

Elon is expected to hear the final verdict about selection in the fall of 2009. If Elon is selected, the first members will join in the spring of 2010. Juniors and seniors of high academic standing majoring in the arts and sciences are eligible to join.