

THE PENDULUM

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BioBus receives new navigation system

Margeaux Corby
Summer News Editor

A student in Danieley rolls out of bed, goes through the usual morning rituals and walks outside just in time to see the tram roll past. The paper schedule said 10:15 a.m., as does the student's watch. But still, all that is visible is the bus's exhaust pipe. Many students, not just those residing in Danieley, have experienced the aggravation of a tram arriving too early or too late.

"It's hard to articulate exact time with such a small schedule," said Christopher Waters, director of information systems and technology.

Administration is hoping to dispel frustration in the fall with the installation of GPS navigation system. The navigation system initiative was pushed by President Leo Lambert and it has taken almost a year to work out the kinks. The new system will allow potential passengers to find the exact location of the

bus and when it should arrive.

"This project was driven by student demand," Waters said. "They don't want to have to guess. And because we are running trams, it is hard to predict timing."

Students in Old Trolinger waiting for the West line bus can check the Internet and access a map that will show the exact location of the bus minute by minute.

Others waiting at off-campus bus stops can text or call the BioBus service with the bus number, which is printed on each bus stop sign. They will be given the exact length of time until the bus reaches their stop.

Students will also be able to work with the Web site to set up alarms on their phones, telling them when their bus is 10 or five minutes away. Waters warned that the texting feature of the system is still in a test mode but that the navigation is precise and efficient.

"It is very accurate," Waters said. "It has to be since

the bus stops are so close."

Supervisor of Automotive Services Keith Dimont agrees that the navigation system will be advantageous for Elon's campus.

"I think it will benefit students," Dimont said. "It'll be better when they know when the bus is coming."

Come next semester, the BioBuses will change little in appearance.

There will be an extra antenna and a control module easily accessed by the driver. When tram drivers first get on the bus, they have to enter which route they will be driving.

"The routes will not change," Dimont said. "The system will just help manage time better."

Elon now has seven BioBuses—six buses that run strictly on biodiesel and the Danieley tram that was converted from gasoline to biodiesel last spring. Elon currently has more than 20 bus locations. The site, which should be operational in the fall, is www.elon.edu/biobus.

ALUMNI SERVICE



MANDIE ROSE DANIELSKI | Photographer

Elon alumni made a service trip to Bay St. Louis, Miss., on Memorial Day weekend to help with Hurricane Katrina recovery. The serenity of the sunset over a still St. Louis Bay May 24 belies the ferocious 30-foot storm surge that rose from the same waters almost three years ago.

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Summer plans will alleviate Octagon's congestion

Ashley Barnas
Summer Editor

You've got 15 minutes between classes and all you want to do is grab a smoothie. You round the corner in Moseley and there's a line winding out the Freshens entranceway. No need to fret - it's wrap week at Pan Geos and you can grab something there. You push your way into Octagon and alas, you can't see past the parfaits and plastic triangle-boxed sandwiches. You give up and head to class hungry and depressed.

The number of students who are turned away by Octagon each day is the primary factor for the changes it is undergoing this summer.

Smoothies and pasta will no longer be a hassle to obtain on the run. Pan Geos, which creates the most congestion in Octagon, is moving out of its old corner and into Freshens, which will be expanded with a separate entrance and exit, along with drink coolers and its own cashiers. Pre-made sandwiches will also be offered in grab-and-go style.

Seemingly the biggest news for fans of Pan Geos will be its increased offerings. A specialty from each of its three options will be available every day: pasta, salad and wraps.

Freshens will move to a location that otherwise may have gone unnoticed by students in the past. Renamed "Freshens Energy Zone," the dining location will move to the Scott Dining Room, tucked away in the Octagon seating area behind the pizza and pasta. The nearly nonexistent dining room used to house an office, storage space and an ice machine. Sheetrock will be torn down, the area will be opened up and a new counter will be built.

Smoothies, frozen yogurts, ice cream blasts, high-energy juices and bars are among the new and old menu items.

Within Octagon, Bene Pizzeria will be expanded and could begin offering lasagna and manicotti to continue the Italian theme.

Grille Works will become larger

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O'Kelly Ave. closed until late August

Pam Richter
Reporter

Major changes are in store for Elon University commuters. Part of O'Kelly Avenue will be closed for most of the summer. The work began on Monday, June 23 and will last until Aug. 21.

The construction will start at University Drive and end at a new roundabout at the intersection of Phoenix Drive and O'Kelly.

According to the university, the two major closures will be:

-- O'Kelly Road will be closed from the Phoenix Drive to University Drive (Vehicles will be able to turn around at the Moseley Center Parking Lot).

-- Phoenix Drive will be closed from the Loy Center to O'Kelly Road (Vehicles will be able to turn around at the Loy Center Circle).

University Drive is used by many Phoenix fans for access to the stadiums for Elon athletic events.

O'Kelly is being converted into a divided two-lane road with a planted median between the lanes. It is currently a

standard two-lane roadway. The road is being closed so that the roadwork can be done as quickly as possible.

Brad Moore, the assistant director of construction for Elon University, said the contractor has scheduled the work to be done by Aug. 23 barring any major delays caused by weather.

Freshmen will arrive on campus for the first day of orientation on Friday, Aug. 29. This is only eight days after the construction is scheduled to end.

"If we encounter delays due to weather, we will have some sort of access - either the existing road still in use or a new functioning road without all of

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WHAT'S HAPPENING TO O'KELLY AVENUE?

- O'Kelly Road will be closed from the Phoenix Drive to University Drive. Motorists may still access the Moseley Center Parking Lot if they come in from Haggard Avenue.

- Phoenix Drive will be closed from the Loy Center to O'Kelly Road. Loy Center Circle will still be open.