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# THE PENDULUM

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## Bailout bill fails, stock market plummets



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Jim Clyburn leave a news conference after the failed House vote on the financial bailout package.

### House says 'no' to \$700 billion bailout, Dow posts record losses

Caroline Fox and Andie Diemer  
Executive Editors

The House of Representatives rejected the proposed \$700 billion plan to bail out the U.S. economy late Monday afternoon. The emergency rescue package, which aimed to buy bad mortgages to help stabilize the economy, failed by 23 votes, sending the Wall Street Stock Exchange plummeting before the vote was even complete.

The bill, which lost 228 to 205, would have been the Treasury Department's biggest intervention since the Great Depression. The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 777 points, the biggest closing point drop in history.

About 60 percent of Democrats backed the bill while only about a third of Republicans supported it.

Jim Barbour, associate professor of economics, said this

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### Local citizens express skepticism over bailout of financial firms

Lesley Cowie  
Reporter

After receiving news of the rejection of the bailout bill, some local taxpayers took a sigh of relief while others winced. Yet, as plans for a new bill quickly began to circulate among political leaders, the possibility of a government bailout remained pertinent on the minds of local citizens.

Brandon Black, an ARAMARK catering supervisor, expressed his concern about the effect of this plan on his taxes.

"It will only cause taxes to go up or the monetary value of our dollar to go down," he said. "Both of which are going to affect every American negatively."

Much of the local concern over this plan pointed

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## Food-related illness sends two to hospital

Andie Diemer  
News Editor

For juniors Mike Milano and Dan Rickershauser, seeing their families during Elon's annual family weekend wasn't in the cards. But each was forced to reunite with their loved ones in a rigid scene: the hospital.

Both students were hospitalized last week with internal bleeding and released Sunday once they had recovered.

At press time the exact ailment had not been determined, but the students said their doctor, Robert Elliott, said he was 99 percent sure it was a food-borne illness, most likely food poisoning and bacteria-related.

"We had the same exact thing," Milano said. "I had it a little bit worse, a little more progressed."

Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president of student life, said the administration was contacted Friday afternoon and told two students had been hospitalized, one on Wednesday and one on Friday.

"Given the severeness [sic] of the illness, they needed to survey our records to see if there was anything similar," she said.

Patterson said Elon was also contacted by the health department to see if there was any connection.

"There is not any set pattern or anything," Patterson said. "Any time you're going to have that kind of connection, two students at one time in the hospital, then [the health department] feels like they're going to need to follow through."

While the health department consulted each student to determine a link between their cases, the only thing each had commonly eaten were a chicken sandwich and fries from Chick-fil-A Wednesday evening, Rickershauser said.

But he said the health department asked for every item consumed since Sept. 15, making it difficult to assist them.

Milano, who does not regularly dine on campus, said he still doesn't know where it may have come from.

Since Sept. 23, seven people visited the health center with symptoms that could possibly mirror Milano and Rickershauser's symptoms, Patterson said.

She said that it is not an atypical number and that none of the other cases were severe.

"There's nothing right now where we've seen a bunch of people or any out of the ordinary numbers," she said. "That may change."

On Wednesday both Milano and Rickershauser started having stomach pains, among other symptoms such as vomiting.

Milano said the sharp, stabbing pains he experienced immediately denoted something was wrong. Thursday morning he skipped his morning class and visited the urgent care unit next to Alamance Regional Hospital.

From there he was immediately handed off to hospital specialists and was admitted into the hospital once

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## Obama tackles economic crisis in speech

Miriam Williamson  
Design Editor

GREENSBORO, N.C. — As the economic crisis worsens, Sen. Barack Obama, the Democratic presidential nominee, says the priority should be meeting the needs of the people of Main Street before the people of Wall Street. In his speech at a rally in Greensboro on Saturday, Obama, who was joined by his running mate, Sen. Joe Biden, focused on the economic changes he would make as president to help release America from its current financial quagmire.

"We need a president who will fight for the middle class every single day," Obama said. "And that is exactly what I will do when I am in the Oval Office as president."

A crowd of Carolinians holding signs and shouting "Obama!" and "Yes we can!" greeted Obama and Biden.

"I love North Carolina," Obama said. "Every time we come to North Carolina we end up having a great experience. The people here are some of the best people in the country."

A subject both Biden and Obama focused on was the seeming lack of

concern his opponent, Republican Sen. John McCain, has for the middle class.

"More important than what we heard from McCain was what we didn't hear from McCain," Obama said of the first presidential debate Friday evening in Oxford, Miss.

During the debate, McCain failed to mention the middle class once, Obama said.

"The truth is, through 90 minutes of debate, John McCain had a lot to say about me," Obama said. "But he had nothing to say about you."

### The Economic Crisis

Obama said that he, on the other hand, has a plan to help middle-class Americans and the United States get out of their economic crisis.

He plans to cut taxes for 95 percent of all working families, he wants to implement lower tax rates than those enacted by former President Ronald Reagan. He said his plan offers three times the tax relief for middle-class families than McCain's does, which

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MIRIAM WILLIAMSON | Photographer  
In preparation for last Monday's senate vote, Obama focused on economics at a rally in downtown Greensboro last weekend.