

Wallace Chandler Fountain flows again this week after repairs

Rachel Cieri
Reporter

Contrary to rumors circulating around campus, Wallace L. Chandler Fountain is not sinking into the ground nor is it breaking in two from a massive crack. In fact, construction on the fountain is nearly finished, and it is expected to be filled with water this week.

According to Director of Construction Management Neil Bromilow, the problems with the fountain are not nearly as severe as the rumors imply.

Because the structure is made from a massive amount of concrete, there were several hairline cracks radiating from the center like spokes on a bicycle wheel, he said. Water was seeping through the tiny cracks, and in order for them to be filled in with caulk they first had to be expanded.

"It's not unnatural for something that's made out of that much concrete," Bromilow said. "Think of a sidewalk, that's made out of concrete and [it] cracks."

As the structure was settling into the ground the walls of the fountain began to bow out, causing some of the ceramic tiles to come loose.

"Imagine that you've got an air mattress with rocks under it," he said. "Over time, the air mattress changes shape to conform to the rocks underneath it."

This is all part of the fountain's structural shifting. The places where the cracks and "fault lines" appeared have been filled with rubber-like joints to absorb any future movement as the

Rumor vs. Reality:

Rumor: Chandler Fountain is sinking into the ground because the foundation was not built correctly.

Reality: The fountain is not sinking. It's shifting like any concrete structure.

Rumor: There is a huge crack in the fountain.

Reality: There were several tiny, hairline cracks in the concrete and they had to be expanded before they could be filled.

fountain conforms to the ground.

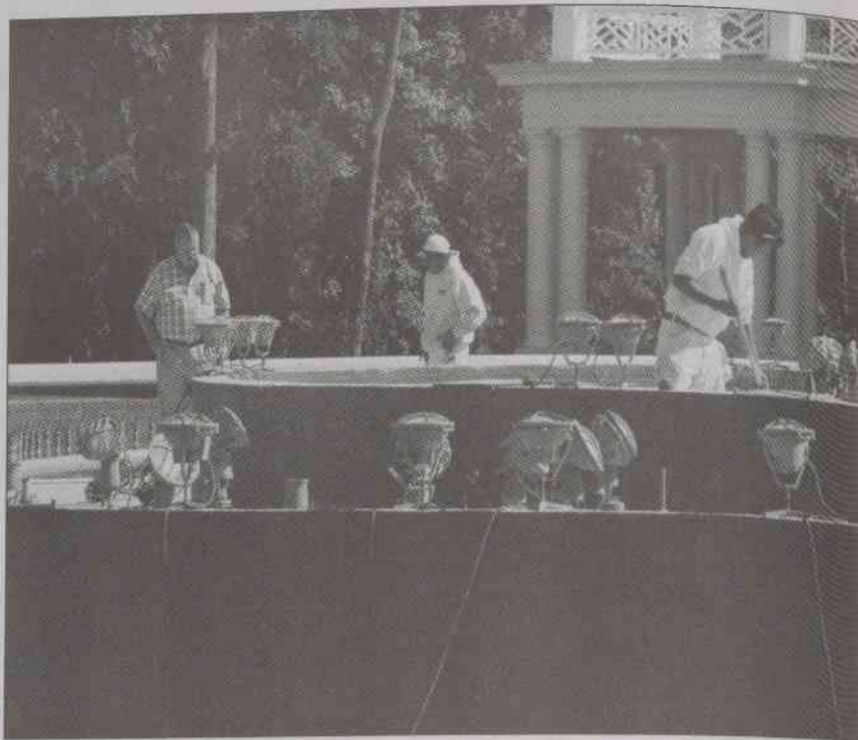
While it was dry, maintenance was performed on machinery like ventilation and pumps used to operate the fountain.

The bottom, originally black to give the illusion of depth, was painted blue to make it more aesthetically pleasing. Lights have been reinstalled to illuminate the water at night.

Much speculation about irreparable damage stemmed from the length of time the fountain was filled with construction crews rather than water, but Bromilow explained that weather has delayed repair efforts.

For the bottom to be painted the concrete needed to be bone dry, which requires five days of sunshine. Instead, construction crews got frequent rainstorms.

Whenever it seemed like they would finally be able to start, the clouds



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Chandler Fountain stands empty in front of Koury Business Center as workers repair damages. The fountain began running again on Tuesday morning.

rolled in, Bromilow said.

"If you ever need a drought broken, I'll bring you the fountain," he said.

Construction crews were waiting for a water-resistant coat to dry and machinery to calibrate before filling Chandler Fountain. Bromilow said he does not expect to have to perform maintenance on the fountain for another 10 years.



Visit www.elon.edu/pendulum for video about the fountain's repairs.

Media groups host viewing of vice presidential debate

Bryce Little
Reporter

On Oct. 2 students from Elon's chapters of the Radio Television News Directors Association and the Society of Professional Journalists met in classrooms in McEwen to watch the vice presidential debate between Sen. Joe Biden and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.

Afterward, members from the two groups had an informal discussion about who was the better candidate and ultimately which parties were hurt or helped by the debate.

"The vice presidential debates can be completely uneven, completely go out of control and not even be that great for a candidate and still win," senior Kevin Kline said.

After intently watching the debate, students conversed about both candidates' views on the Iraq War, the energy crisis and the economic downturn.

"I thought both candidates were prepared and came to the debate well rehearsed and ready to take each other on," said Mackenzie Ames, co-president of RTNDA.

Many students agreed both candidates did as well, or better, than expected.

"I think she [Sarah Palin] is doing really well," senior Jinni Phipps said. "Compared to her interview on Katie



BRYCE LITTLE | Photographer


From left to right: Junior Meredith Gulley, senior Bethany Swanson, senior Olivia Hubert-Allen and junior Tim Barber led the discussion after the vice presidential debate.

Couric, so far so good."

Some students were surprised at Palin's ability to stand against the more experienced Joe Biden, but expectations were still low after Palin's recent interviews with some media outlets.

"Sarah Palin exceeded expectations," Kline said. "My expectations were not terribly high for her. Sarah Palin had a lot less to lose than Biden did because when you have your expectations low you have a lot less to lose."

Visit www.elon.edu/pendulum for video about the debate screening and post-screening discussion.



Elon students polled for national survey

On Monday, about 3,000 Elon students received an e-mail about a poll that will function as a scientific survey of college students in four battleground election states.

According to an e-mail sent by Dean of Students Smith Jackson, between 15 and 20 schools in North Carolina were contacted to participate in Cornell University's Survey Research Institute for its "CBS News Youth Vote Poll."

"They wish to get students' opinions on the candidates, the issues that matter to young voters, your level of engagement in this campaign and your take on the political landscape in the Internet age," Jackson said.

The results will be revealed on the CBS Evening News with Katie Couric and will be printed in the Oct. 17 issue of The Chronicle of High Education and on CBSNews.com, Chronicle.com and UWIRE.com.

Organizers to resubmit Pavon's application, hope partnership emerges

PAVON from page 1

sometimes the government needs more. Pavon is upset his visa was denied, but says he is not surprised by the verdict. He suspects his time spent in Venezuela could be to blame.

"I want to thank everyone at Elon for this attempt at a cross-culture experience," Pavon said. "I am saddened that it has been put on hold by this oppression."

Pavon was set to live in Alamance County for the last three weeks in October and paint a mural on a wall outside of the YMCA in downtown Burlington. Organizers said Pavon was going to make the mural a community effort in not only the planning, but also the painting.

"The whole concept for bringing him in was to develop a deeper relationship

with the Latino community," Cary Worthy, director of the Alamance County Arts Council, said. "We want to use the arts to help that dialogue."

Tom Arcaro, professor of sociology and director of Project Pericles, said focus groups were to be conducted with a diverse group of Alamance County residents to see what the mural should be about.

"The mural project was going to help us learn more about our community," Arcaro said.

He said after the focus groups were over, organizers would have planned to "offer a document to be used by the City of Burlington and other entities that are interested in this type of pulse-taking of our community."

Elon first got involved with Pavon

when the 2008 Periclean Scholars met him in Chiapas, Mexico last year.

The students' original intention was to help with construction on a school. They were able to get Pavon to paint a mural with them on one of the exterior walls.

"We picked out paint with him and our students painted this beautiful mural with him," Arcaro said. "Students immediately said, 'Wow this would be a great Periclean-in-residence. Lets have him do a mural at Elon.'"

But talk soon turned to using Pavon's visit as a chance for Elon to connect to the Alamance County community and the local Hispanic population. Arcaro was able to get the Alamance County Arts Council and the Alamance Community YMCA on board

to help bring Pavon here.

"There is just so much we can share cross-culturally," Pavon said.

Pavon, who has painted murals in Mexico, Germany, Spain, Denmark and the Netherlands, was also the first artist to paint on the wall between Palestine and Israel.

"It was supposed to be a project that lived out the goal we have of creating better and deeper bonds between Elon and the surrounding community," Arcaro said. "It was about doing something proactive in response to the growing heterogeneity in our population."

For now, organizers plan to resubmit Pavon's visa application in hopes that they will still be able to bring him to Alamance County, just at a later time.