

Shhhh! We have your secrets  
and our lips are sealed.

(Well, kind of)

Elon PostSecret **PAGE 12**

getting **IN STROKE**

Club Swimming hosts  
regional tournament

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# THE PENDULUM

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GRACE HELMS | Photographer

Members of the Elon community traveled to Greensboro on Saturday to protest the passage of Proposition 8 in California, a law that bans same-sex marriage. Above, a protestor holds a sign to show support.

## Students protest for gay rights

Whitney Bossie  
News Editor

Several Elon students participated in a nationwide protest on Saturday in response to California's recent passage of Proposition 8, which banned gay marriage.

About 200 people gathered in front of the Melvin Municipal Office building in downtown Greensboro to protest. Some members of Spectrum, Elon's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender awareness organization, joined the fight for same-sex marriage.

Grace Helms, a junior and a member of Spectrum, went to Greensboro on Saturday. She said that although protestors were saddened by the passage of Proposition 8, the atmosphere remained upbeat.

"It was kind of a celebration and a protest, all at once," she said.

Drummers played at the demonstration as protestors held handmade signs and rainbow flags and waved to the cars that passed by.

The ban passed in California on Election Day with 52 percent of the vote, just months after the state Supreme Court ruled in favor of allowing same-sex marriage. As many as 18,000 couples married after the court's ruling in May. It has not yet been determined whether California will honor those marriages.

California has seen a rush of rallies and protests

in recent weeks. Many were directed at the Mormon Church, which promoted Proposition 8.

Protestors showed support for the cause in more than 300 cities nationwide, with at least one in each of the 50 states. In addition to Greensboro, rallies were held in Raleigh, Charlotte, Asheville and Boone.

Although Proposition 8 bans same-sex marriage thousands of miles away, local protestors wanted to show their support for the rights of gay couples everywhere.

"A lot of people related it back to the Civil Rights Movement," Helms said.

Helms said a diverse group gathered in Greensboro. She added that the protest was particularly meaningful to her as a young person.

"For me, it seems like this generation is kind of apathetic," she said. "It's important to take action for something we believe in."

In states where gay marriage is not permitted, same-sex couples face issues with child custody laws, matters of inheritance and property ownership, among other things.

North Carolina does not recognize gay marriage under the Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Only two states currently allow same-sex marriage:

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## Vandals strike work of Elon scholar-in-residence

Andie Diemer  
News Editor

On Saturday afternoon Iraqi artist and journalist Ahmed Fadaam, who was also a scholar-in-residence at Elon, received a disturbing phone call from psychology professor Tom Arcaro. Arcaro, who played a large role in bringing Fadaam to Elon, had to deliver awful news to Fadaam: The sculpture he had been working on for three weeks and planned to gift to Elon had been devastatingly disfigured on Thursday night.

Fadaam's masterpiece, what will be a bronze sculpture of a Middle Eastern woman, had had her face smeared, her breasts lopped off and a hammer smashed into the back of her head, among other damages.

Working out of a warehouse in Burlington, Fadaam also learned that paint from the studio had been used to write a phrase on the wall that is not completely legible, but said "I come in" followed by an upside-down peace sign, more words and "haha."

"I was surprised, I was speechless for a moment," Fadaam said about receiving the news. "I wasn't expecting someone would do such a thing, especially to a piece of art that was meant to be at Elon."

Fadaam said it was never his intention to offend anyone or criticize anything with the statue that represents the struggle of Iraqi and Middle Eastern women.

"It was talking about a noble cause, it was talking about the women in the Middle East and their fight for their future," he said.

He said it looked like a worker had accidentally left the back door unlocked, which is how the vandalizers most likely entered.

After the owners of the building realized their venue had been broken into on Friday, they phoned Arcaro who then contacted Fadaam, who was speaking at a conference about human rights at UNC Chapel Hill.

The police were also notified immediately, and finger and footprints were collected, Arcaro said.

While Arcaro thinks it was just some "silly vandals" that struck, he said the way the statue was disfigured makes him think it was a misogynistic, though he cannot be sure.

Also, the building next door had been attempted to be entered and the alarm went off. This means the vandals

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PHOTO SUBMITTED

The vandals scraped away the face of the statue, mutilated the breasts and created a hole in the back of the figure's head.



Visit [www.elon.edu/pendulum](http://www.elon.edu/pendulum) for a slideshow and video of the damage