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Phoenix football moves on from Saturday's loss, heads into final regular-season game with determination

MELLOW MUSHROOM

Is Burlington's new pizza joint worth all the hype? PAGE 16



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DANGER IN THE DARK

Anna Johnson
Senior Reporter

Last Wednesday, Elon University sophomore Alex Trice, who is a multimedia editor for The Pendulum, was struck by a white Nissan Sentra while crossing the North Williamson Avenue and West College Avenue crosswalk. According to Elon Police records, this is the fifth accident involving a pedestrian or bicyclist this calendar year and the second time this year an accident has occurred at the Williamson Avenue crosswalk.

Trice was taken to Alamance Regional Medical Center and suffered minor injuries to the left side of her body.

Elon senior Catherine Melendez was driving the vehicle when the car struck Trice. Melendez said she was driving below the speed limit and could see no one at the crosswalk because of low visibility and the heavy rainfall.

"I had absolutely no idea anyone was there," Melendez said. "I wasn't speeding. I didn't see anyone. My boyfriend didn't see anyone. There was no light. It was raining. I would have stopped."

Trice was released from the hospital later in the evening. But other pedestrians and cyclists have been less fortunate. Last year, Elon chemistry professor Eugene Gooch died after being struck by a motorist while riding his bicycle on University Drive.

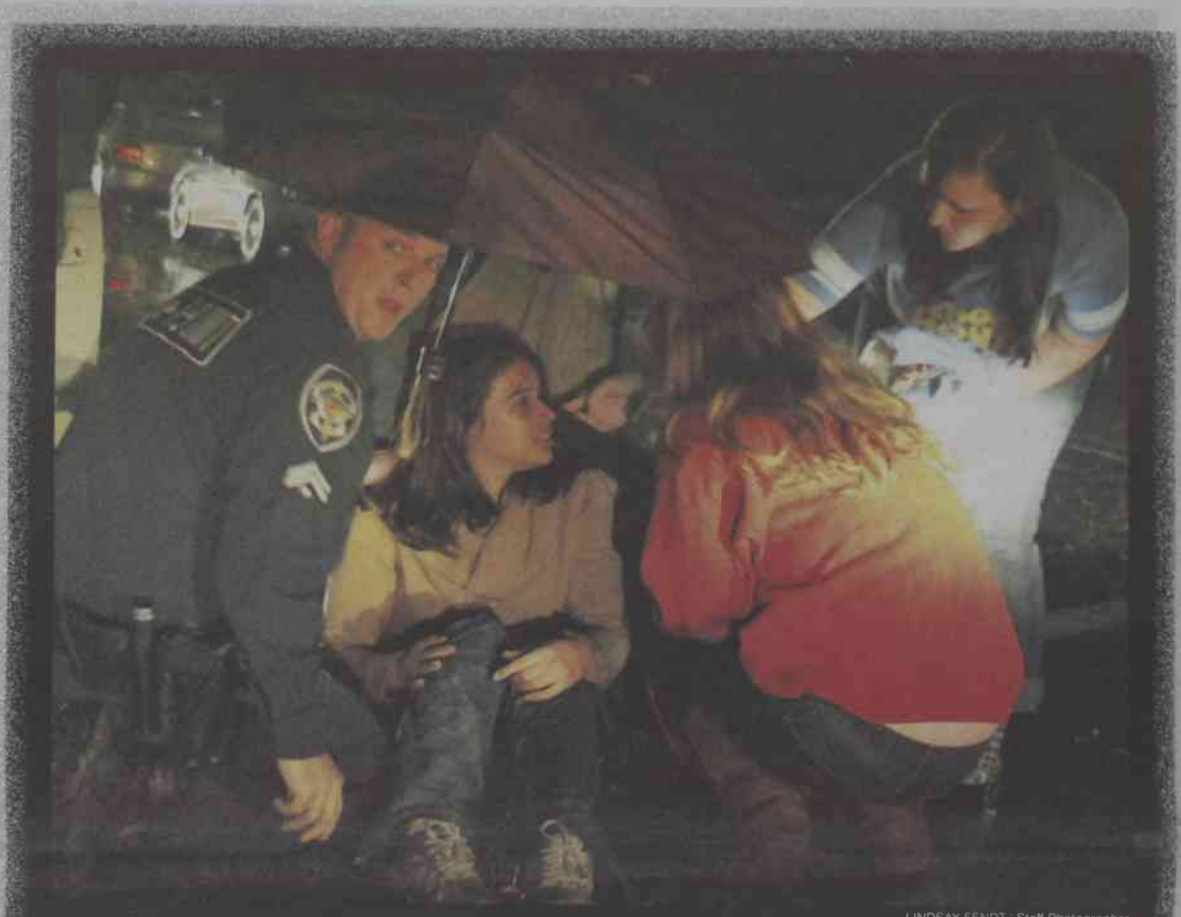
Ken Mullen, chair of Elon's safety committee, said once a semester the safety committee, made up of students and professors, walks around campus making recommendations to improve campus safety. Mullen said in recent years sidewalks, bicycle lanes and crosswalks have not been cited as an issue.

"Usually, tree limbs need to be cut," Mullen said. "Or we need a light there. Usually what happens is, once we get the official list and if (the projects) involve the town, we talk to the town planner."

He said if the road is state owned, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has to be contacted and the plans have to be approved. But if the town is solely involved, the town often works with the university to meet the recommendations.

Mullen said he was happy with the current

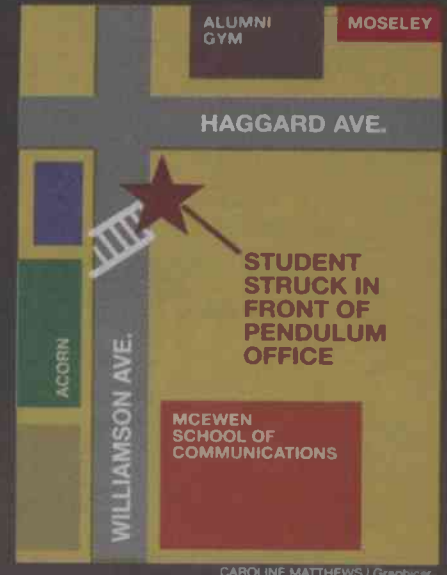
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Sophomore Alex Trice receives help from friends and emergency officials at the Williamson Avenue and College Avenue crosswalk Wednesday evening. LINDSAY FENDT | Staff Photographer

Pedestrian accident raises safety questions

LIGHTING bicycles
sidewalks
CROSSWALK
pedestrian ACCIDENT



CAROLINE MATTHEWS | Graphic

Spreading of sludge sparks controversy in Burlington



A vehicle spreads biosolids as fertilizer on a farm next to Sylvan Elementary School in Snow Camp, N.C., late last month. This event led to questions from environmental groups about the safety of biosolids. PHOTO SUBMITTED

Jack Dodson and Rebecca Smith
Senior Reporters

Five hundred yards from Sylvan Elementary School in Snow Camp, N.C., a small town south of Burlington, biosolids were used for fertilizer on farmland and have sparked an environmental debate in the city. Biosolids, which are commonly referred to as sludge, have been a growing concern of environmental groups in the area for some time, Sewage Sludge Action Network Chair Myra Dotson said.

On the morning of Oct. 23, Synagro, the company contracted with the city to

manage the biosolids after treatment, was spreading the sludge on farmland next to the elementary school when a citizen noticed and filmed the event. The citizen then called Dotson, who came out to look at the situation and take photos of the incident.

"They were just sludging so much," she said. "It's unbelievable."

The law of North Carolina states the spreading of biosolids, must occur at least 400 ft from any occupied structure, said the city's Water Resources Director Bob Patterson.

"We were well away from that requirement," he said. Groups like Sewage Sludge

Action Network make the argument that biosolids retain pathogens and toxins that are harmful to human health.

"The rules and regulations need to be updated, and there needs to be research done — unbiased research," Dotson said.

Currently, there are many regulations that must be met before the biosolids can be sprayed. There are metal limits and pathogen limits, and crops soak up the extra nutrients. There are also operational requirements.

For example, biosolids cannot be spread when it is

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