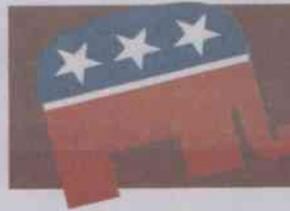




TAKE A TRAIN, TAKE A HORSE

The annual Burlington Carousel Festival comes around again.

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PREVIEW OF THE 2012 ELECTION

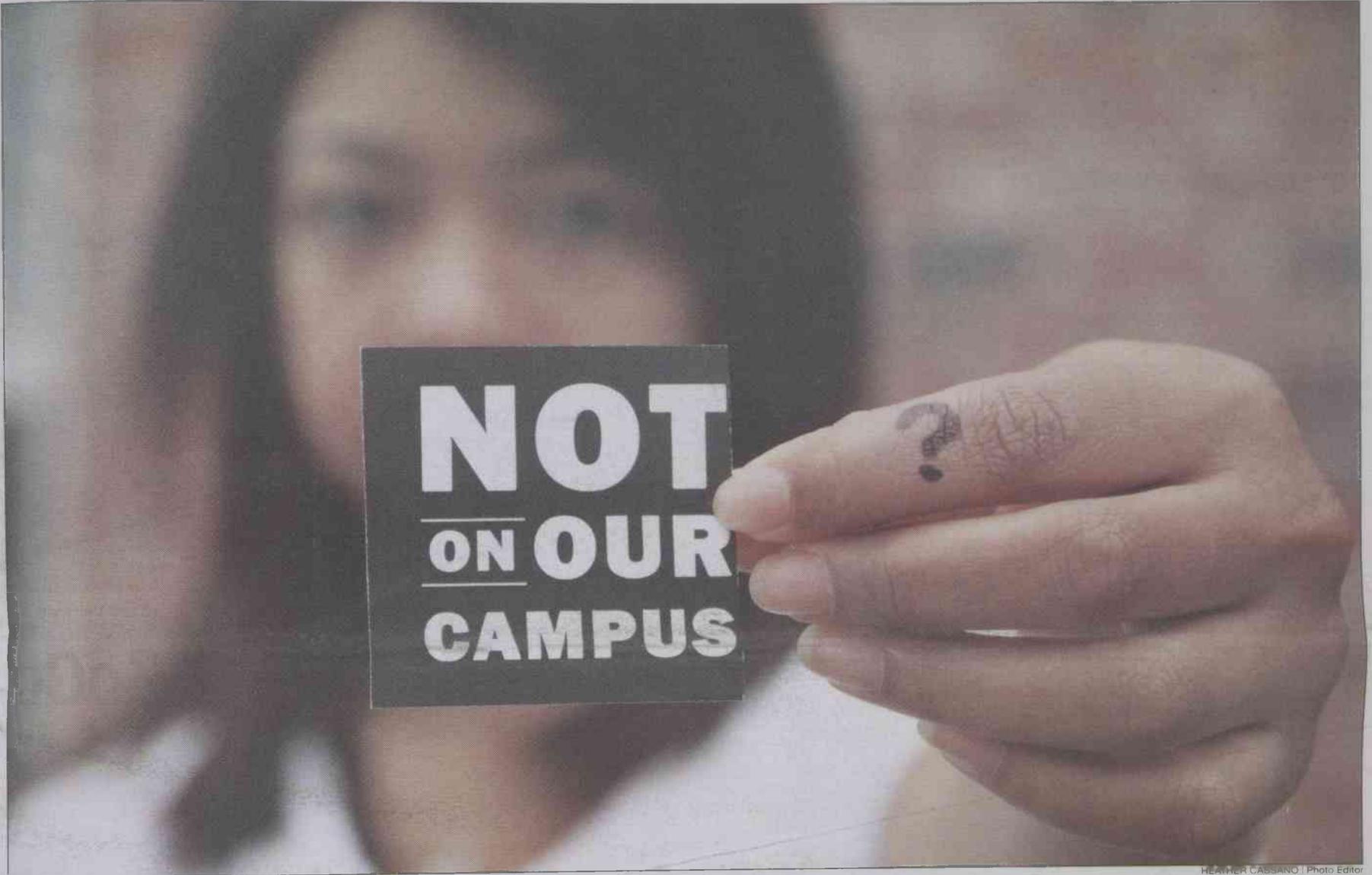
Elon professors make their predictions regarding the presidential race.

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HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor

The Not on our Campus movement began in response to two instances of discrimination on campus. While the university has made strides to address the issue, it has not come without its challenges from students.

Defining Diversity: Campus grapples with response to discrimination

Natalie Allison
Senior Reporter

Although diversity on campus is now at its highest level since Elon University became an institution, discrimination has not disappeared, and the campus community's commitment to responding to discrimination is nothing new.

When Elon College's marching band stopped at a restaurant in Raleigh on the way back from a football game in 1963, the restaurant owner told Glenda Phillips, the first black student to attend Elon College, that she was not allowed to enter. The next day, former president Earl Danieley called then-Governor Terry Sanford to report what had happened. Sanford immediately sent a human resources worker to the restaurant owner to rebuke him on behalf of the state of North Carolina.

"That was all I knew to do — to report it to the highest man in the state," Danieley said.

In light of two recent incidents in which Elon University students were subjected to racial slurs while walking on and nearby campus, the university has responded with a forum, public and private meetings, letters sent via email to the undergraduate student

body, a special College Coffee and the distribution of Not on our Campus stickers.

The first of the two incidents occurred around 9 p.m. Sept. 7, when junior Brenna Humphries said she was forced to run to get out of the path of a car speeding toward her as she crossed N. O'Kelley Avenue. Humphries said one of several young men in the vehicle, which she described as a silver BMW, shouted a derogatory racial slur at her before driving off.

A second incident occurred Sept. 10, when someone in a passing car yelled the same racial slur to a student walking on Williamson Avenue.

Regarding the first case, President Leo Lambert told students during the Sept. 15 SGA meeting that the university strongly believes the car's driver and passengers are within the 18-25 year-old age range, although it is unclear whether they are Elon students. Campus Safety and Police is actively pursuing an investigation of the incident, which includes interviewing students whose vehicles match the description Humphries provided and analyzing hours of video footage from parking lots.

Lambert said Campus Safety and Police believe the driver of the vehicle

in the second incident is not an Elon student, as the individual appeared to be much older.

"This is an open campus," Lambert said at Thursday's SGA meeting. "Anyone can come onto the Elon campus. We're not a gated or walled community, and I think this was some idiot driving through. And there are idiots out there."

A long-term response to an ongoing issue

Despite the university's response in trying to address the recent incidents and inform the student body that these incidents are unacceptable, some students and faculty said they felt the university was negligent in ensuring that resources were in place to ensure future occurrences are handled properly.

"There are a lot of places you can go to report these incidents on campus, but no direct path, no one person to contact

or direct way for a student's fears to be resolved," said senior Raafa Purnsley, vice president of Spectrum, Elon's queer-straight alliance. "If our policy on discrimination isn't helping people come forward or talk about it, we have to think of another."

-Candice Blacknall
CO-FOUNDER OF NOW WHAT?
MOVEMENT. CLASS OF 2013

At a special College Coffee Sept. 13, a group of students responded to the university's Not on our Campus message by asking Lambert questions at the end of his prepared speech on diversity.

The group of students, part of the newly formed Now What? movement, shouted out questions regarding how future incidents of discrimination would be handled and whether an office would

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