

Review:
Improv group
brings creativity
to comedy
page 9



**Tre Lennon makes good
use of height for Elon
Football**

page 12

THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014 • VOLUME 40 EDITION 24

www.elonpendulum.com



Fountain jumping tradition holds consequences

Leena Dahal
Senior Reporter

The daring tradition of wading in all four of Elon University's fountains without being caught has left trails of wet footprints for years.

In a Pendulum survey of 112 students, 98 percent indicated they have jumped or plan to jump into one of the Elon fountains before they leave. But as the number of students who choose to engage in the tradition rises, the potential for injuries and property damages does too.

Maintenance

On a typical workday, plumbing maintenance staff member Eric Biebel crosses off numerous tasks on his extensive to-do list. Some of those jobs related to the fountains include checking water levels, measuring chemical and pH balances, cleaning large filters and removing debris.

According to Biebel, fountains are basically large electrical pumps that push water into different valves, out of jets and into the air. The equipment required for this to take place, he added, requires a good amount of maintenance.

Biebel's to-do lists are longer on some mornings than on others. On top of the work required to regularly maintain all four fountains, a slight damage to a single piece of equipment could lead to more work and an increase in water waste.

"If a light is knocked over causing damage to one of the jets, for example, it would lead to a loss of at least 22 gallons of water," he said. "To fix the damage entirely, we would then have to drain the whole fountain as well."

For Chandler Fountain in front of the

Koury Business Center, that would mean draining 80,000 gallons of water. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the same amount would provide an average U.S. family of four with 200 days of water usage.

To avoid water waste, the university purchased two pumps in 2005 and 2007, eliminating the need to drain the fountains for cleaning. According to the Office of Sustainability, the vacuums save 186,720 gallons of water annually.

That is, unless, damage is caused and fountains need to be drained.

According to Biebel, the potential for equipment damages when students wade in fountains are endless: lights can be broken, jets can be moved or dented and metals and pipes can be stepped on. In addition to damages to property, he stressed the potential for physical injury is just as high.

"I know it's tempting to give in to," he said. "But consider the possibility of hurting yourself, the amount of water you would waste if a damage was caused and, not to mention, a hefty fine."

Fines

A variety of rumors circle the monetary fine of jumping into the fountains, including the popular "pay-by-limb" theory, which suggests that students pay a fine based on how many limbs were submerged in the fountain.

According to Elon's 2014-2015 Honor System, no wet limbs are counted. Instead, point 2014.36 states that sanctions for swimming or wading in restricted areas normally include "no less than an official warning and possibly disciplinary probation; campus restitution hours, education program or project."

Associate Dean of Students for Leader-

ship and Honor Code Jodean Schmiederer said monetary costs are only charged when physical damages are made to the property.

"For example, last year, damages were made to both Chandler Fountain and Fonville Fountain over the course of one weekend," she said. "The students were fined solely the amount of money it took for the utilities department to repair the damages."

Trends and Awareness

While wading in fountains is listed as a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, special events have contradicted the rule, such as when the Senior Class Giving Campaign offered students who donated the chance to have their picture taken in Fonville Fountain last year.

One alumnus who attended the event, and wished to remain anonymous, argued that this contradiction reflects poor administrative decisions and is a threat to the tradition.

"It was basically saying if you spent money on Elon, you can break a rule," he said. "It just weakened the tradition because it wasn't nearly half as fun as jumping in during the middle of the night."

One surveyed student pointed to the event as a reason to lift the ban.

"Events like that just show that Elon is seemingly OK with people wading in fountains," the student wrote. "It just shouldn't be restricted."

A majority of the surveyed students indicated that they would only jump with the protection of their senior-year status.

"I think Elon knows that everybody is going to do it, especially as a senior," another student said. "They should just lift the ban."

For other students, the existence of the
See FOUNTAINS page 7

Cheating, plagiarism persist as current academic concerns

Michael Papich
Assistant News Editor

Cheating and plagiarism sit at the top of honor code concerns at Elon University and at most schools. But as the technology around teaching and the professional world change, the need to reassess the climate of unethical behavior arises.

"It's one of the things that's so basic, we forget to talk about it," said George Padgett, associate professor of communications.

One of the main changes to classrooms in the past few years has been the popularization of online courses. In an environment where a professor and a student cannot see one another, professors have different takes on whether this makes cheating more or less likely.

"I'm not concerned that they're looking things up," said Megan Isaac, associate professor of English and chair of the department. "The assignments are open-book already."

Isaac said in the online courses she's taught, the assignments are mainly essays or other written compositions. When it comes to students buying essays or having someone else write those works, Isaac said an online course "very marginally magnifies" concerns.

"The same red flags I look for in a face-to-face classroom carry over to papers in an online class," she said.

Other professors are more concerned. Art Cassill, professor of accounting and Wesley R. Elingburg Professor in the Spencer and Martha Love School of Business, said an online class "absolutely" increases his concerns when it comes to cheating.

"You're more sensitive to it. You don't have that control that you'd have in a live classroom," Cassill said. "You'd be naive to think it's not a possibility."

Cassill said a student cheating in a classroom can be observed and confronted more directly than in an online environment where students are in different time zones.

"My perception of cheating online is less than when I started, but I try to think the best of our students," he said. "But the reality is, if I give an exam, I don't know if that student is the one actually taking it or if that student has his or her book open at the computer. You do what you can do."

Isaac said the idea of someone else taking a class for a student is one thing she is cautious about because she cannot tell who the person on the other end of the computer is, but added this still wasn't an especially large concern for her.

"When it comes to idea that someone's girlfriend or boyfriend will take an online course for a student, I don't think that's how our population acts," Isaac said.

See CHEATING page 5