



# the Seahawk

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## N.C. takes initiative to reduce underage drinking

SOMER STAHL  
STAFF WRITER

North Carolina is cracking down on underage drinking by stiffening current policies and passing new legislation which targets 19 and 20-year-olds caught drinking and those individuals over the age of twenty-one who provide alcohol to minors.

Under the new law, 19-20-year-olds who are caught will be charged with a class three misdemeanor and a \$200 fine. This legislation replaces an old law that charged this age group with an infraction, no criminal penalty, and a \$25 fine.

The new law also requires 25 hours of community service and a \$500 fine to those over twenty-one who are charged with aiding and abetting a minor. Additional convictions within four years will result in a penalty of no less than 150 hours of service and a \$500 fine. 18-year-olds caught consuming alcohol are charged with a class one misdemeanor, the highest charge possible.

New legislation will also impose harsher penalties upon those who are caught selling alcohol to minors. A person convicted for the first time of selling or providing alcohol to someone under the age of 21 will receive a minimum sentence of a \$250 fine and 25 hours of community service. Like the penalty for aiding and abetting, a second or subsequent offense within four years of the first conviction will impose a penalty of no less than 150 hours of community service and a \$500 fine.



Lieutenant David Donaldson of the university police also cited one other law that came into effect as of September 1.

"It is now illegal to have an open container of alcohol in the passenger area of a motor vehicle," Donaldson said. "Quite frankly, it has just simplified the original law and made things easier."

*"The new law also requires 25 hours of community service and a \$500 fine to those over twenty-one who are charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor."*

Donaldson also said that there had always been misconception when dealing with the term "open container" and remarked "if the seal is broken, then it has been opened."

"When I heard about the new open container law in cars I was surprised," said out-of-state sophomore Michael Kelly.

"In my hometown it was always a law

that no matter how old you are, you can't have an open container in the car. I just assumed that the same was true when I came to North Carolina."

It is important for students to realize that under this legislation, party hosts will be held responsible if their guests are caught drinking underage, a policy many students find unfair.

"When you make an amount that high your creating a deterrence rather than dealing with the problem," said senior Gabriel Ciampi, regarding the fines imposed on those charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. "I don't think anyone will ever collect that amount unless there is a medical incident. I think they should stop making such stringent laws."

UNCW Police Chief Billy Dawson, director of public safety on campus, confirmed

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## UNCW student dies in motorcycle accident

DAN GUY  
STAFF WRITER

Students and community members gathered on at a memorial service on Monday, to honor the life of Douglas Norman Zelif, who died in a motorcycle accident last Wednesday.

Zelif, a 25-year-old junior, died on impact when a jeep collided with his motorcycle near the intersection of Wrightsville Avenue and Rogersville Road.

According to police reports, Zelif was driving faster than the posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour when his motorcycle crossed the yellow centerline and sideswiped an oncoming truck. Zelif was thrown from his motorcycle and a jeep that had been behind him,

collided with the motorcyclist after attempting to avoid hitting him.

Police indicated that Zelif died upon impact, and there were no other injuries in the accident. As of Monday, the police report had not yet been released. The incident is still under investigation and no charges have been filed against the driver of the jeep.

"This is a tragic situation for our community," said Associate Dean of Students Brian Hemphill. "Douglas was an extremely bright student, had a great personality, and really got the most out of life."

Zelif had transferred to UNCW this semester from Cape Fear Community College, and was majoring in computer science. He previously served four years in the United States Coast Guard, and had also

earned the Boy Scout's prestigious Eagle Scout honor.

"Douglas was a person of great integrity, who was very honest and courteous," said Zelif's roommate Ray Morris. "He gave everything in life a full effort, and knew what it took to succeed every time."

Approximately one hundred people came to memorial service Monday afternoon at the Church of the Servant on Oriole Drive. Reverend Nancy Cooper of the UNCW United Christian Campus Ministry presided over the service during which many individuals spoke of Zelif's achievements and character.

"I heard words like honor, integrity and perseverance [associated with him,]" one unidentified speaker at the service said.