

New drinking laws, regulations

Continued from page 1

his blood, upon conviction, will lose his license until he is 18 or for a minimum of 45 days, whichever is greater. Minors who attempt to buy beer or wine and are caught and those who help minors do so will lose their licenses for a year.

Civil liability is imposed on certain sellers of alcohol. This section of the law is called the "dramshop law." It clearly allows someone injured in an accident caused by a youthful drunken driver to sue and recover damages from the bar or store that sold alcohol to the drunken driver.

It applies if the sale made by that store created the impairment that in turn led to the accident. The dramshop law is designed to discourage bars and stores from selling alcoholic beverages to youths under 19 by holding a financial threat over them.

In addition, police can set up roadblocks specifically to check for drunken drivers.

Because of the changes in the state drinking laws and driving while impaired, Elon College revised its alcoholic beverage rule, effective Sept. 1. As in years past, there will be no public consumption of alcoholic beverages anywhere on campus, with the exception of residence hall rooms. Any violator of this rule will be penalized. Also added to this rule is a statement prohibiting

the possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus or at a campus event by students less than 19 years old.

Dean of Student Affairs William G. Long said that it would be easier to enforce the prohibition on 18-year-old drinking a month before it becomes a state law.

He said, "This way is less disruptive, less disturbing than to yank it away. Many of the out-of-state students, especially from Virginia, are used to the drinking laws of 19. It doesn't have anything to do with what students do off campus."

Addressing the question of enforcement, Long said, "This issue will be enforced like anything else is. If someone comes across a violation, it will be dealt with. People are afraid we will haunt fraternity houses but that is not the case."

He added, "We are not interested in the business of entrapment or setting people up; that's no way to treat people."

Long maintained that not enough attention is being given to the penalties associated with a DWI. "That's what worries me," Long said. "I hope people start thinking about their own private drinking habits and what happens when they drive drunk."

A new policy found on page 23 of the 1983-84 Student Handbook reads: "No party, formal or informal, planned or spon-

taneous, involving the use of alcoholic beverages may be held in any individual student's residence hall room or combination of rooms that are owned or controlled by the college."

The handbook goes on to define a party as any group larger than six, except for the new dorm suites which house eight or six persons, making the limit there 16 in an eight-person suite and 12 in a six-person suite.

This policy includes the college-owned fraternity and sorority houses whose housing contracts state that no parties involving the use of alcoholic beverages may be held in the house or on the premises.

"There has never been an approved drinking party on this campus," Long insisted. "That's not new; new is the legal drinking age 19. For years, we've asked that drinking not be advertised with slogans such as 'all you can drink' because that certainly isn't tap water."

"Because the liability question is a big gray area," he continued, "we've asked organizations not to make a profit off selling alcohol. We just want parties to be reasonable until we can get possible liability matters straight. We haven't had enough time to deal with the ramifications of the law."

On the subject of liability, college attorney Bob Baxter

said, "If we don't do something to comply with the new Safe Roads Act, the college will be liable. This new law imposes a great deal of liability not only on people under 19 who try to possess alcohol, but also anyone who tries to assist in the purchase or possession of alcoholic beverages."

Baxter said that the college wants to make sure students are aware of the severity of the law. "It'd be a shame to have someone convicted and say 'Why didn't you tell us?' If we do everything possible to inform them, then there's not much else we can do. Students need to know the law before they violate it."

Both Long and Baxter maintain that what people do on a private basis — that is, their activities not sponsored by a group — is like being at home. "Nobody's liable for someone drinking alone in the dorm," said Baxter. "Drinking in your dorm is like drinking in your house. If you're of age, it's o.k."

Long said that now that the drinking age has been raised to 19, "We are in a different race to regulate how people consume alcohol. If people just concentrate on the effect it has on parties, they're missing the main point."

"We aren't singling out the

Greeks. Every organization has responsibility." Under the new rules, Long said, events like rush and open house won't be "killed," only "modified."

He continued, "Last year the Safe Roads Act had not been passed, so people didn't have the chance to sue a provider or a seller of alcohol. Because Elon College is chartered under the state of North Carolina, we must adapt to the changes of the state laws. If students existed only to drink, then it's a poor existence. The Greeks exist for many reasons, and I hope they discover that people learn how to adapt."

"The Safe Roads Act is 34 pages long, single-spaced — and that's longer than the U.S. Constitution," Baxter pointed out. "It's almost too much to digest. I think it (the Act) will cut down on drunk driving because the penalties are stiffer to the point of confiscating your automobile under certain circumstances."

"There's no plea bargaining, so I think it'll turn some people loose. A jury will probably find a man with nine kids on welfare innocent."

Today Long and Baxter will attend a conference at Duke University on the ramifications of the new law, sponsored by the N.C. Association of Private Colleges and Universities.

Students react

Jumped from page 1

Kennedy, from Cleveland, Ohio, "You are drinking yourself; nobody is forcing it down your throat."

Karen Drake, a 20-year-old junior from New Jersey, said, "Individuals should be personally responsible for themselves. It's not fair for somebody to be responsible for someone else's mistakes."

Many students feel that the rules prohibiting organizations from having events involving alcohol will hurt the social life, mainly Greek life tremendously. Junior Cyndi Lawson said that the law was "passed because of problems with high school students, but it's hurting college students."

The school is "not being realistic," said Doug Surratt, a 24-year-old senior. "They (the state) are trying to keep people off the roads, and the school is pushing people off campus and onto the roads." By not allowing functions with alcohol to be held on campus, he said, students will have to drive back to campus to their apartment or dorm room instead of already

being on campus and within walking distance.

Surratt argued that functions on campus "can be controlled" by doing such things as checking ID's and not having parties open to everyone.

Although many people here do not favor the new college

rules, they seem to feel that the North Carolina laws are for the better. Even if they think that the new situation is ridiculous and unfair, there is really not much they can do about it.

As Cyndi Lawson said, "It's something we'll have to get used to."

CORRECTION

The Pendulum last week incorrectly gave the date of N.C. PIRG'S Open House as Sept. 12. The correct date is Sept. 20, 2 p.m. in the Listening Room of the Student Center. There will be a film with munchios provided. Everyone is welcome.

Knollwood

Luxury Two-Bedroom Townhouses

Bath-and-a-half, modern kitchen with disposal,

washer/dryer connection.

Air conditioning, carpeting, drapes, pool.

Cable television available.

Rents from \$292.

Model Open Monday-Friday 10-6; Saturday, 10-5
321-C Atwood Drive 226-4202

DO YOU NEED

Birth Control or Birth Control information?

V.D. Screening or Treatment?

Pregnancy Testing?

THEN CALL

Planned Parenthood of the Triad, Inc.

At 373-0678

WE ARE HERE TO LISTEN AND TO HELP.

418 S. Eugene Court
Greensboro, N.C.
and Winston-Salem.