

Paul Harris on the arts

Summer is over and here we are at Elon, finally getting back into full-swing. Or is summer over? The temperature has still been in the 90 s, and there's something about the term "swing" that has many freshman and transfer students disagreeing. Orientation is over and all the questions have been answered.

Except one.

Where do you go to rock'n'roll?

Well, the truth is that the college tends to lack ambition when it comes to sponsoring live rock'n'roll. Occasional concerts are attempted throughout the year, but acts that lack any kind of claim to fame usually draw limited audiences. The administration feels that major rock bands are too expensive and could jeopardize the condition of school facilities. Also, big-name bands would draw non-students, and therefore cause a disturbance in providing for the tuition payers.

The Town of Elon College does very little to create a decent rock'n'roll scene, as well. Things like passing an ordinance prohibiting outdoor concerts, which the Board of Aldermen did in July of 1980, tends to discourage the development of this art in the community. The outdoor stage at The Lighthouse, which could have been providing the perfect atmosphere for a nightlife scene for all these years, hasn't seen a band since.

So where do you go to rock'n'roll? Burlington? While Burlington is a fairly large city that should have the potential of housing a few rock'n'roll clubs, it doesn't. Interstate 85 is bound to be used by at least one travelling band per day, but it is a rare occasion for one to take any of the Burlington exits. Ramada's Rumors has presented The Spongetones, Delbert McClinton, and Robin Thompson in the past, but normally the performing arts at this lounge are limited to beach music and Top 40 bands.

Two years ago, a few enterprising Burlington residents attempted to solve the area rock problem. Those people built a very large and extremely attractive club in Haw River called Marbles Lounge. While the extremely accommodating building was able to attract many of the finest in regional rock bands, as well as a performance by The Atlanta Rhythm Section, Marbles closed in less than a year. The closest thing to excitement Marbles has seen since is a red-hot Bingo game.

Greensboro is where you have to go to rock'n'roll. The best club in the city is probably Chasers on Spring Garden and Kenilworth streets. In the past year, Chasers has hosted BTO, Blackfoot, The Guess Who, and The Nighthawks. The club maintains a regular schedule of the best rock in the area, which is published on Fridays in The Greensboro News and Record, and Spectator magazine.

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