

Misunderstanding leads to fatal shooting

by Cheryl Kern
Entertainment Editor

Duck season opened five months early this year at Elon College with a misunderstanding of orders given to remove the Canadian Geese and

white ducks from Harper Lake.

The relocation of the fowl was necessary because of the mess they were making. Apparently they were using the \$8 million Fine Arts

building patio as a bathroom.

College officials say most of the birds were moved without harm to a pond in Caswell county. One grounds keeper misinterpreted the instructions, according to Elon officials.

The killing of the goose came to the attention of the State Wildlife officials because of Hunter Walsh, a 26-year old Burlington resident who came to watch the ducks and geese.

Just after 5 p.m. of June 21, Walsh, with his mother Jean, said he saw William Wade, a grounds keeper at Elon, and a younger employee standing near a bleeding goose.

When Walsh approached both men, the younger was holding a bow and arrow. They told him that they were given instructions to kill the geese from their supervisor, Robert Poindexter, vice president for administrative services.

William Wade, 61, of Route 4, Burlington pleaded guilty last Thursday to a misdemeanor charge of destroying wildlife out of season after he admitted killing one of the geese.

The corps had not been found, said Sgt. Douglas Flake of N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Flake said that Wade told him he



wounded it with a bow and arrow and killed it by twisting it's neck. Wade also told Flake - the younger grounds keeper was not involved.

Robert Poindexter, a Burlington City Council member, said Wade used bad judgement in killing the goose and misunderstood instruction to remove it to an off-campus pond.

Wade entered his plea of guilty Thursday morning to Alamance District Judge Spencer Ennis. Judge Ennis ordered him to pay a \$150 fine and court fees. Ennis also suspended a 30-day jail sentence.

Sgt. Douglas Flake said Robert Poindexter has assured him wildlife officials will be consulted the next time the college wants to move wild animals off campus, an action that requires a state permit.



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