

## Drug survey

From Page 1

Twenty-three percent of those surveyed said they use drugs "to fit in." This is noticeably low compared to the other schools which participated.

Patterson said the main concern is alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine use and how it is affecting academics. Twenty-eight percent of the students surveyed have actually gone to class influenced by alcohol; 30% have been under the influence of drugs. "It's hard for students to learn when they are going to class high," said Patterson.

Now that administrators know where the problems lie, they have the opportunity to find out what they can do to reduce them. "We as a community need to deal with it because it is negatively affecting student lives," Patterson said.

In the survey, students were asked for their suggestions as to how the college can solve its drug problem. A majority of students suggested a change to more stringent campus policies.

A quarter of those surveyed said they desire to reduce their alcohol consumption and 34% want to stop. Also, 31% hope to reduce their drug use and 46% want to stop completely.

Patterson said many students want to go into treatment programs but do not want to have to take the time off from school. The dean is currently trying to establish programs so students will be able to remain at college during counseling.

Faculty members admit that they are not experts on the topic, so many times they do not realize if students are drunk, high or hungover in class. "At 8 a.m., it's difficult to tell if a student is hungover or just tired," said Dr. Kathryn Larson, an economics professor.

Another professor said that he once had a student come to class "so drunk they could hardly stand." He says, "Students should save sober hours for class."

Dr. Chris Wilson, a religion professor, said, "So far this semester I haven't noticed students being hungover or drugged as much as in past semesters. It is much worse winter term than any other time."

Students are not the only ones being studied. The government has required the school to

write a policy and meet certain set guidelines of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988. Each faculty and staff member must sign a form saying he or she has received the information.

Elon's policy reminds employees that "the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of illegal drugs or alcohol at work is absolutely prohibited." It also encourages any employees needing help to seek it, assuring them that it will not jeopardize their jobs.

Elon has formed a special SGA Committee to deal with this survey information. Also, it was discussed in a faculty meeting and a faculty forum was held to involve the staff in possible new programs.

The Student Affairs office has developed the following suggested plan of action. Since drug use is most common during freshman year, special program efforts will be designed for implementation during the Orientation period and throughout the freshman year.

Faculty will be asked to integrate substance abuse issues within their curriculum as well as support and encourage substance abuse programming efforts on campus. Also, all sections of Elon 101 will be requested to devote a class to substance abuse issues and concerns.

Elon will design training sessions for faculty members to focus on substance abuse, use identification, confrontation and referral.

## Interview

From Page 8

drugs that students are coming in contact with, like Greensboro and Chapel Hill.

**Q.** Does the police department sponsor any anti-drug abuse programs?

**A.** The D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program is just geared and set up for elementary school children. ...

For college-age students there are no real programs. By that point in time, they have pretty much determined that if they are susceptible to taking drugs, there's no one in the world that's going to tell them not to take them.

**Q.** Do you agree that most drug use is done off-campus?

**A.** Most of our drug searches that have involved students have been off campus.



Photo by William Hassell

The college will continue to provide drug-free programs and social opportunities for students.

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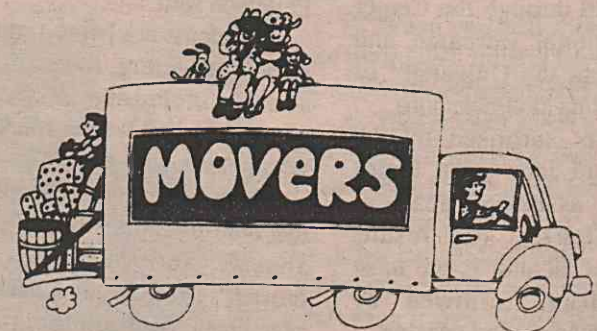
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