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Shannon Wynn / The Pendulum

Possession of milk crates such as this one can now lead to fines and imprisonment.

'Criminals' can be crated off

By Mindy Schneeberger
The Pendulum

As of January 1, 1990, individuals who possess those colorful, plastic milk crates may find themselves facing criminal charges.

According to North Carolina statute GS14-72.4, possession of stolen milk crates will constitute a misdemeanor punishable by a \$300 fine and/or imprisonment.

Prior to this legislation, possession of a milk crate was a misdemeanor under general theft statutes. Thanks to lobbying by the Carolina/Virginia Dairy Products Association, the tougher penalties will be applied.

People in violation of the law had until December 31, 1989 to return stolen crates to local merchants or dairies with no questions asked. The law applies only to crates bearing the name of a dairy, not to those purchased in stores. However, defacing a crate in an attempt to remove the name of a dairy is also illegal.

College students, who use the crates as bookcases and for storage purposes, are among the

biggest violators of the law, the Dairy Products Association says.

Ron Klepcyk, dean of student affairs, says Elon students were arrested for stealing milk crates from the Winn Dixie in New Market Square two years ago. The store's manager copied down the license plate of the students' car and tracked down the violators. The manager said he would drop all charges if the crates were returned to his store. At that time, the college made an effort to round up all other stolen crates.

The Student Affairs Office hosted a "crate amnesty day," upon which students who possessed stolen crates could return them without fear of facing criminal charges. After that day, however, crates could be confiscated and their owner would face penalties.

Lee Proctor, director of housing, says approximately 75 crates were turned in to area offices, which served as collection sites on "amnesty day."

While the college did its part, getting local merchants to collect the crates was a big

challenge. "We had a devil of a time trying to get the grocery stores to come pick them up," Klepcyk said. "We found that most of our crates were from out-of-state dairies," Proctor said. "We basically only enforced those that were from local merchants."

Now resident assistants are encouraged to look for milk crates during health and safety inspections. Klepcyk said the college should not jump to conclusions, however. Many crates are obtained from dairies going out of business or are purchased in department stores. "We ought not to assume that they've been illegally obtained," Klepcyk said.

"The responsibility for determining ownership really lies with the student," Klepcyk said. He said students who use milk crates in their rooms should be able to provide proof of purchase.

At the time of "crate amnesty day," Winn-Dixie was pressing the charges. Proctor says the dairy industry did not want to push for penalties. In the past two years, however, it seems the industry has had a change of heart.

Semester spent south of the border

By Patti Jefferies
The Pendulum

During Winter Term, several Elon students traveled to Allende, Mexico, on a homebuilding mission. David Atkins, assistant dean of student affairs, and Jane Wellford, assistant professor of fine arts, accompanied the group.

This study abroad trip was associated with the Presbyterian church. The students actually built a dormitory-style residence at a retreat center where children are brought to learn about Christianity. The facility will help children for years to come, Atkins said.

Students paid \$600 each for their living expenses and raised \$3,000 to cover the cost of construction materials. They slept in sleeping bags and did most of their own cooking. All the construction work was done by hand.

Aside from the fact that most of the citizens did not speak



David Atkins

English, friendships developed between the students and the Mexicans. The students made adjustments like learning to live with snakes and scorpions.

The group drove two school vans to Mexico. It took them four days and they slept on church floors instead of staying in hotels. On the way home, they spent Superbowl weekend in New Orleans.

This work-study trip will be offered again next year.

New Book Gallery brings changes in semester routine

By Kristy Davis
The Pendulum

There have always been traffic, eating and banking lines on Williamson Avenue. But within the last month, a new line has formed. Students are now lining up at the new Gallery Bookstore.

The Campus Shop moved its books to the new location, on the corner of Williamson and Lebanon avenues, to allow for more room at the Long Student Center location, said Lisa Hall, manager of the Campus Shop.

The move was made so the front section of the Campus Shop can be transformed into a trade bookstore, much like a Dillions or B. Dalton, to be opened by the 1990 fall semester, Hall said. The administration

decided to carry out this plan to "push for an academic atmosphere theme," Hall said.

The move has prompted a variety of responses from students. "It's a better system than what it was before, because the Campus Shop was too crowded for you to find your books and that made the old system confusing," said Lisa Mobley, a sophomore.

Ironically, Hall said the new system is confusing and physically more exhausting for the workers.

The new store has its flaws, as well. "I don't like having to sell your books back at one place and get your money from another," said Kristin DeSanto, a junior.

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