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School Gives Students Alternative to Drinking

Jeff Wirick

Asst. Managing Editor

"Home of the best educated alcoholics in the country."

People can find this logo on the back of a shirt of some Elon students this fall. But students won't find these shirts at the campus shop.

"I've seen T-shirts and signs around campus that emphasize heavy drinking," said Dean of Students Smith Jackson. "And that is a concern."

Jackson said schools with heavy drinking problems often lure new students who don't drink in high school into the lifestyle.

But he doesn't think Elon is one of those schools. "I think Elon students are responsible when it comes to alcohol use," he said.

"But sometimes I think we need students to define what is responsible and what is not."

Robert Lanham and Shane McDermott, who suffered severe injuries in a January car crash, admit to falling into the lure of alcohol.

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Sometimes I think we need students to define what is responsible (drinking) and what is not.

Smith Jackson, dean of students

"You see it every weekend," Lanham. "What can you do?"

"We thought we were invincible. Nothing will happen to you until you have two respirators hooked up helping your heart pump."

But is binge drinking — having five or more drinks in one sitting — a school matter or for students only?

There have been mixed opinions.

Associate Dean of Students Jana Patterson said the school

should get involved because, "quite frankly, we're losing students (because of it)."

"We ask students (who drop out) what happened, and they say 'well I drank one night and then I didn't go to class. And then I got up and drank some more.'"

Assistant Dean of Students Scott Nelson agrees with Patterson that the school should do something to make students aware of the habits they are forming.

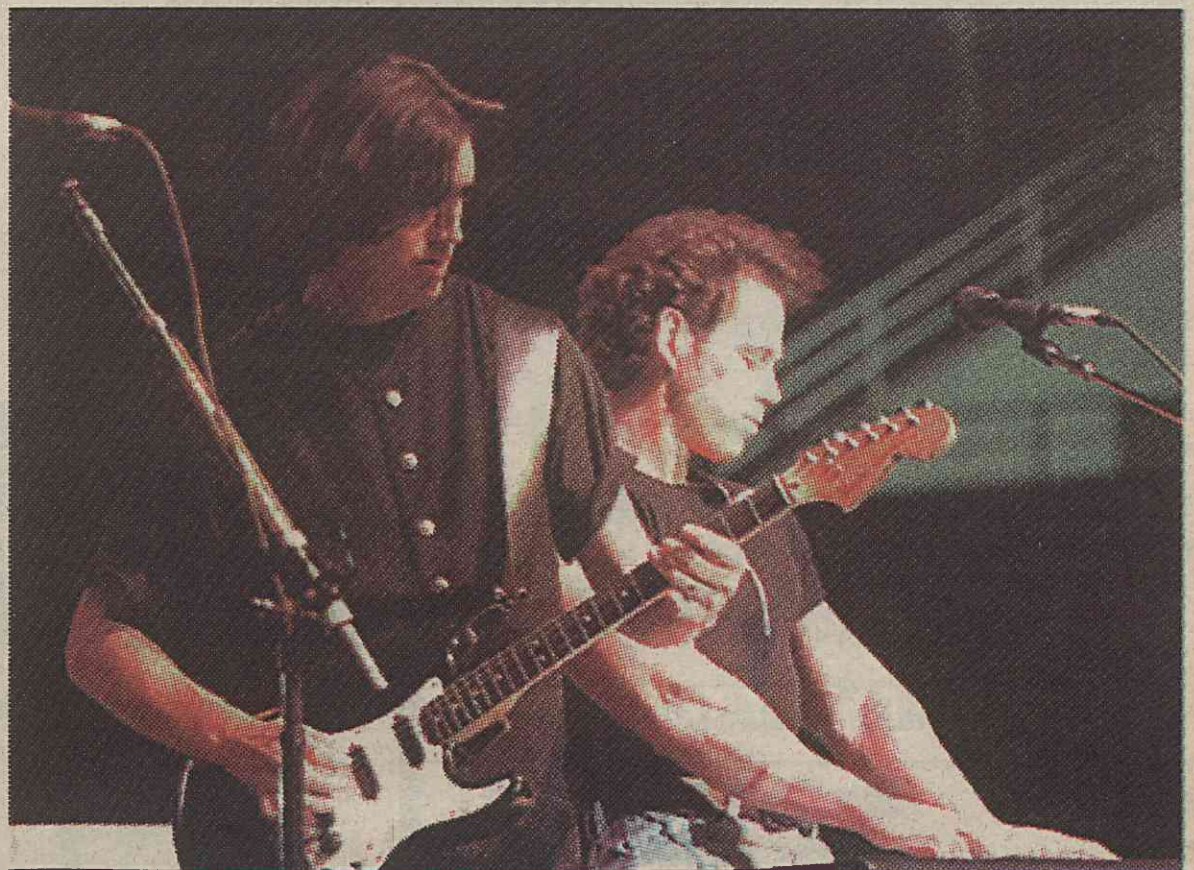
"The habits that they start here are going to carry on for the rest of

their lives," he said. "College is a time to learn how to drink responsibly. We want to give them some space, but I think maybe we should intervene at times."

Both Patterson and Nelson said education is the best method to keep students from abusing alcohol.

Jackson said it's the school's responsibility to find alternative ways to have a good time.

"There are certain situations that we see as unacceptable and see ALCOHOL, page 6



A Little Texas in North Carolina

Lead guitarist Porter Howell (left) of Little Texas jams during the show last Saturday in Koury Center. See story, page 11.

Andrew Brickey/The Pendulum

New Major Gives Students More Choices

Leann Alfred

Beginning this fall, Elon will offer an independent studies major for students who want to combine several disciplines into one major.

The proposal for the major was introduced during May of 1993 while Elon was drafting a new General Studies program. An Independent Major committee was established to research the possible major.

The committee contacted other

schools with an independent major such as Appalachian State, Duke and Davidson College. The members evaluated both the benefits and drawbacks of such a major and have thus agreed that the major would have a positive affect on Elon's curriculum.

The procedure for declaring an independent major was designed by the ADHOC Interdisciplinary Studies Committee and student Paula Weinbach, a former research assistant.

"I think it is important that a

student helped put this together," said Jean Schwind, director of general studies. Students considering this option must have first completed 66 semester hours with a minimum GPA of 3.0 for his/her entire course work.

An adviser should be chosen by the student as well as two additional faculty members to make up the student's advisory committee. The advisory committee must be composed of at least two different academic departments.

This committee helps the stu-

dent to successfully complete his or her independent major. A course checklist should be designed by the student which includes the general studies requirements and the interdisciplinary major courses. These courses are chosen from three or more departments.

The student must also have a "written rationale" stating why he or she chose the independent major. Everything must be approved by the Director of General Studies as well as the Independent Major see MAJOR, page 6