

# 'Somebody Should Have Taught Him,' not to drink

"Somebody Should Have Taught Him"

I went to a birthday party mom,  
I remembered what you said.  
You told me not to drink at all mom, So I drank soda instead.

I felt proud inside mom,  
Just the way you said I would,  
That I didn't choose to drink and drive mom

Though some friends said I should.

I knew I made the right choice mom

Because your advice to me was right.

And as the party finally ended mom

The kids drove out of sight.  
I got into my car mom

Sure to get home in one piece, never knowing what was coming mom

Something I expected least.

Now I'm lying on the pavement, mom I can hear the policeman say,

"The kid that caused this wreck was drunk," mom

His voice seems far away.

My own blood is all around me, mom

as I try hard not to cry.

I can hear the paramedic say, mom

"This girl is going to die."

I'm sure the guy had no idea,

mom

While he was flying high,  
Because he chose to drink and drive mom

That I would have to die.

So why do people do it, mom  
Knowing that it ruins lives?

But now the pain is cutting me now mom,  
Like a hundred stabbing knives.

Tell my sister not to be afraid, mom

Tell daddy to be brave,  
And when I go to heaven mom

Write "Daddy's Girl" on my grave.

Someone should have taught him mom

That it's wrong to drink and drive.

Maybe if his mom and dad had, mom

I'd still be alive.

My breath is getting shorter, mom

I'm getting really scared.

These are my final moments, mom and I'm so unprepared.

I wish that you could hold me Mom,

As I lie here and die.

I wish that I could say Mom I love you and good-bye.

\*\*\*

403 signatures followed this e-mail, most expressing sorrowful good-byes to friends, relatives and loved ones whose lives come to untimely ends. 403 signatures in one forward alone.

This number is staggering to conceive. This e-mail is not your average forward which might typically describe jokes, chain letters or promises that some multinational corporation will send you money or various products in exchange for passing on the e-mail.

However, this

**Ashley Baker**

*The Pendulum*

abaker@elon.edu

email did have a mission, and that was to attain 5,000 signatures and convey this message to the President of the United States. Who knows if this

e-mail will ever achieve its goal or if the entire message is a hoax? For the sake of all those mentioned in the e-mail let us hope that it is not.

But, if there is an ounce of truth in this message (which I believe that there is,) then the issue of drunk driving must be addressed. Moreover, the issue of alcohol must be confronted at its most rudimentary level which raises the question: Why drink at all?

After noting a statistic posted in one of the dorms which stated

approximately how many Elon students drink, a friend, who is actively involved in Safe Rides, raised the concern that: "They [students, teachers, etc.] keep mentioning the fact that Safe Rides is an option if you've been drinking, but no one ever said don't drink."

This is true.

Recalling all the information that pervaded freshman during orientation, no one ever mentioned

abstinence as an option, not an orientation leader, or members of an Elon 101 group, or teachers, or the Community Development Coordinator. No one. This is not to say that they approve of students' drinking, on the contrary, some of these very same people com-

prise the third of Elon's students who refuse to drink.

This article is only noting the fact that as a whole, students are not nearly persuaded not to drink as much as they are importuned to make informed choices. On page fifteen of the Elon Files (and how often do you read that?) weakly states "If you don't drink, you don't have to start just because you're in college." The rest of the page is dedicated to drinking safely.

At this point, you may be

thinking to yourself, why bother to mention this topic? People drink anyway so what's the point?

That attitude will destroy u.

If we passively sit by and watch the world stumble in this state of bedlam then nothing changes. Dismissing the issue with the mere phrase "whatever" begets only more indifference while not attenuating the problem. Even though this message is addressed to a college audience I do not feel that it is a waste of ink or paper. To someone out there it matters. It mattered enough that 403 people signed an e-mail. And it matters enough to the millions of friends and family members who have been affected by people who chose to drink from the start.

"390. Nicole Elizabeth Vogel~ This is in memory of my "big brother" Chad Ruth, who just passed away on Nov. 6th. I love you forever! You were the best guy in the whole wide world, you taught me so much, I wish had gotten a chance to tell you, but I know you know. You will be in my heart forever~

384. Keegan Hughes- for my grandfather who I never got to meet.

209. Tom Miyashiro—This is for you Joe..."

You make the choice! If you would like to participate in the signing of this email and or forwarding it to others please contact me at my given e-mail address.

## Tour guide puts life and limb on the line for SAC

I took a dive for Elon. I put my best foot forward, right into a pothole. I am the only member of the Elon College dive team. Only this team dives across asphalt, not into water. We dive across Haggard Ave., right in front of McMichael Science Center to be exact. Right in front of a tour. I actually showed my swan-diving abilities to a tour. I was giving the tour at the time.

Yes, laugh, please laugh. I have been laughing about this since Saturday. I am the Student Admissions Committee member who took a serious dive across Haggard while explaining to her tour group the benefits of being a science major at Elon.

*The science building is home to our Masters of Physical Therapy program and a human anatomy lab. In addition ....Ahhhh. Ow! What happened? Did that pothole really jump up and make me fall?*

I reacted the way any khaki clad SAC member would. I rolled over, stood up and announced how

embarrassed I was, and then went right back into my tour.

*"Oh, that hurt. I can't believe I did that. I am so embarrassed. In addition to the human anatomy lab McMichael also has a scanning electron microscope."*

My group of potential new students just looked shocked at first. They stood in the middle of street as cars and other groups paraded by, laughing at the tour guide who can't walk. I was, after all, lying in the middle of the street. Cars drove by and many, many people passed me. I think I went blank for a second. When, out of the crowd, a girl who goes to my high school and is friends with my brother Tyler, (hi Tyler — look you are in the paper) asked if I was okay. Thank God for fellow Bruins.

*"Emily, are you okay?"  
"Okay, how okay can I be? I fell flat on my face while giving a tour. My knees are scuffed up, as are my new shoes. My ego is bruised, and this Elon, so everyone will know about this in a few hours."*

I dropped off my tour at Moseley and ventured up to the fountain, to give a tour to a group of parents. I figured I had nothing to lose with the parents. If I took a dive in front of them, oh well, I had already done it once, why not twice? I ran into my friend Cam

**Emily MacDonnell**  
*The Pendulum*  
macde7a0@elon.edu

(hi Cam — look your name is in the paper) and told him what I had done.

He basically sat me on the fountain and laughed and laughed. At that point in time, all I could do was laugh too. How could I not laugh? *I fell on my face while giving a tour.*

I did have fun, though. I loved giving my tours. This weekend several hundred potential new students came to Elon to tour and look at the college and look at what life here is like.

By having these weekends high school students are able to look at Elon and realize what they want in a college. Admissions works hard to make Elon look its best and

the Student Admissions Committee is their first line of offense. These tour guides give high school students the first view of Elon, and leaving a lasting impression.

My group will go home with the impression that Elon has pretty grass and

tour guides who fall while talking. This is okay, because it gives the students the impression that the people at Elon are not only human, but they can laugh off their own mistakes.

SAC is a group of volunteer students who give up their free time (sleeping — 7:30 a.m. on a Saturday is really early) to help promote Elon. These students are dedicated

