

Viewpoint

For men, binge drinking is defined as having five or more drinks in a row, and for women as having four or more drinks in a row. At Elon, the definition differs.

Binge drinking is defined here as asking which wine goes with the grand slam breakfast, or asking for a hand truck at the ABC store. And last week, three students (heretofore referred to as "Kennedy 1, 2 and 3") went to the hospital to give the \$55 donation.

Colleges are catching hell for binge drinking, and why not? It's as if we've drawn the chalk outline on common sense. Yeah drinking may be fun, but when you've written "Don't panic, you're home," on your ceiling, there's something wrong.

You're putting poison in your body for a buzz -- fine. You and your friends have a bet going on who'll "break the seal" sooner -- that's cool. But when people start referring to you as Boris Yeltsin, you're way past screwed.

Frankly, these students got what they deserved. It's easy to blame a lack of education, peer pressure, the availability of alcohol, the media or alleged Greek initiation rituals. Why not blame who's really responsible?

If you don't know your limits, put the NyQuil back in the cupboard. If you DO know your limits, don't put your hand on the stove any longer than necessary. Don't let people pressure you into drinking more or doing stupid s__t you don't feel comfortable with. People lose much more respect for you if you leave a collage on their shoes and clothes than if you turn down one for the road. This is your body and your reputation. The last thing you want is some barfly remembering you as the "Are you gonna finish that?" guy. Or even worse, the whole bar.

I take that back. That whole death thing sucks. Ask Duke students who two weeks ago lost a friend.

For those of you who didn't get a proper alcohol education, here are some simple tips: (1) Don't mix colors of alcohols; (2) Don't drink on an empty stomach; and (3) Don't "shotgun" a drink unless you have a liver the size of Mother Russia.

If you feel woozy, stop boozing and drink water. If you feel pressured, tell people, or walk away. If watching *Leaving Las Vegas* makes you thirsty, you have problems. Most of all, use common sense.

Jeff Sanders, Online Director

Bursting through the Elon Bubble

Brian McDonald

Ebon C. Freeman

Contributing Columnists

One of the goals addressed in the mission statement of the Elon College Student Handbook (99-00) states that "... it is the aim of Elon College to provide its students the opportunity to develop an informed respect of the differences among cultures."

Currently the racial makeup of students at Elon does not represent the school's commitment to this statement. At this time, the office of Admissions indicates that 92% of its students are white Americans.

Based on this statistic, students may not be afforded an adequate opportunity to develop an understanding of different cultures through the campus experience.

How then can Elon College demonstrate a true commitment to racial diversity on this campus to student, faculty, staff, and prospective members of the college community?

It is impossible to do so if minority and foreign students continue to constitute only 8% of the student population. One way for Elon to display a commitment to diversity is to ensure that the entire campus is more reflective of the racial makeup of society. This in-

cludes faculty, staff, and students. In addition to this step, Elon can go further by implementing changes in curriculum.

One idea is to incorporate a diversity-based curriculum into the Global Studies course all students are required to take. While we acknowledge that Global Studies professors choose from a wide variety of topics to discuss in their classes, we challenge *all* of them to address racial diversity as one of those topics.

Elon 101 is another opportunity to introduce incoming students to multiculturalism, as a majority of freshman choose to take this course.

It is our assumption that these requirements are not currently in place for two reasons. First, neither of our Elon 101 or Global Studies classes discussed these issues at significant length.

Second, as co-teachers for Elon 101, we feel that issues about racial diversity are as important as registration and campus involvement. Rather than being listed as a recommended topic, this dialogue could easily be incorporated as a part of the core curriculum.

Final Thoughts:

Ebon: "As Elon continues to thrive as an academic institu-

tion, I feel it is vital that the college reflect each aspect of our world. Providing students with the opportunity to interact with people from various cultural groups can only add to the enrichment of the education we receive at Elon. If we can compete with other institutions in areas like technology, quality of education, and even athletics, surely we can do better when it comes to issues of diversity. I look forward to a time when faculty, staff, and the student population is more racially diverse. As a senior, I hope to return to Elon College within the next five years and see marked improvement in this area."

Brian: "It is a college's responsibility to its students to provide opportunities for academic growth, cultural growth, and personal growth. All three types occurring at Elon, as in other institutions of higher learning, should include diversity and other related topics. Therefore, it is Elon's responsibility (including faculty, staff, and administration) to its students to encourage, educate, and allow diversity and racial understanding to occur and to recognize that in not doing so we are encouraging ignorance amongst our campus population. My question to you is: Does this encouraged ignorance, in turn, encourage racism-no matter what the level? You decide."



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The purpose of *The Pendulum* shall be to inform and entertain the Elon College community. *The Pendulum* shall be a forum where all members of the college community are able to express their ideas and opinions.

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EYE IN ELON



Members of the Elon Community celebrated the warm weather during Fellows weekend by racing boats on Lake Mary Nell.

photo by Lisa McChristian