

Editorial

Rhodes Stadium offers chance for Elon community to strengthen school spirit

The pinnacle of school spirit is almost upon us- are we ready? As our administration, organizations and community get ready for Rhodes Stadium's grand opening, we must ask our student body- are we ready support the Phoenix?

Will we cheer, tailgate and stay for the whole game all while remaining sober? Will the game be a place for Phoenix fans of all ages, or will we slaughter our stadium with drunken behavior and plummeting attendance at halftime?

Elon and its advisors have always provided students with a sense of community and pride. It shows in our landscaping, our study abroad programs, College Coffee and convocation. It is our turn to show Elon how proud we are to be here, and how thankful we are of these gifts that accompany our education.

As students, we have the opportunity to watch Division I football in a state of the art facility with our family and friends, to be entertained by a laser light show and a nationally-known comedian,

and to eat more barbecue sandwiches than Hursey's produces in a year. What are we waiting for?

This September, let's prove to Elon that we appreciate everything we have here. Let's show the administration that we know how to support our school and have good clean fun without passing out from dehydration or drunkenness.

Let's practice low-risk drinking habits that Elon has been emphasizing so heavily since an unfortunate incident several weeks ago. Let's support the football team, show some school spirit, and while we're at it, some common sense.

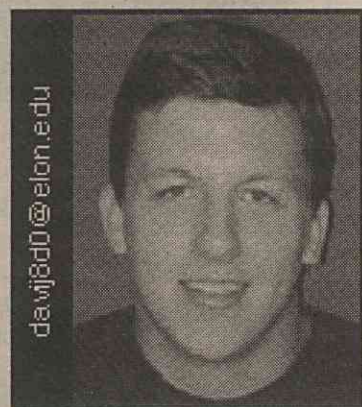
Why not let the students have their money: *It is theirs isn't it?*

Josh Davis
Opinions Editor

Senators received a fund proposal from one of their biggest askers in recent history last Thursday at the Student Government's first weekly meeting. Given the recent monstrous changes in the Residence Life system beginning this fall, a generous "donation" or appropriation of student activity fees from SGA's 2001 carry-over account seems feasible.

Even if the amount proposed is \$8000 dollars, less than half of the nearly \$17,000 dollars SGA has set aside for student funding requests, what other organizational event, aside from last year's semi-successful Phoenix Phair, could so effectively use such a daring allocation of funds?

Much confusion arose Thursday over senators' displeasures with past residence life experi-



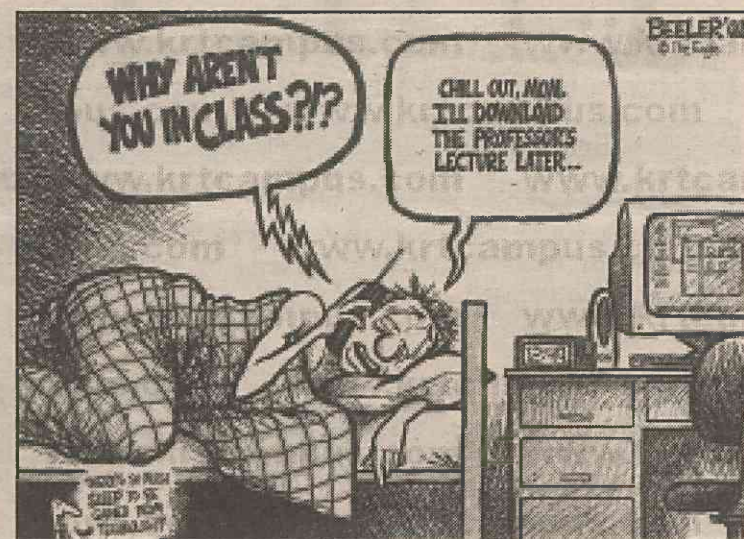
ences. Both Dean Blackman and Shana Plasters of Residence Life made clear that if passed the \$8000 dollars would go strictly to hall programs. There are now more than 2,000 students living on campus. If this money were given to Residence Life, that would average \$4 per student. Or according to SGA Residence Life representative Brian Feeley, "little Phoenix Phairs".

This article is not a response to the SGA's decision to table last Thursday's consideration of

Residence Life's proposal. Although to some attendees, it was obvious that some senators had little knowledge of the new system, and buying time to learn more on the issue seemed like a good idea.

What is important is that readers of this article let SGA know how they feel about the issue. As representatives of the student constituency, senators have a responsibility to answer student's concerns.

Tonight at 7:30 p.m. SGA will most likely bring the issue back into discussion, and I expect anyone in the Elon community with a concern for the budgeting of on-campus student programs to be there. Do you like the idea of having funding for programs? Do you like spending your money on things you like to do? Talk to your class senators. Make sure they know how you feel. It is their job to listen. And it is our job to encourage them to vote for this proposal.



KRT Campus

Colleges, communities can reduce binge drinking

KRT Campus

Too many college students will toast the new school year with a shot and a beer, and then a few more.

Small wonder binge drinking is a top concern of their parents, with 95 percent considering it a serious threat and 85 percent partly blaming easy access to alcohol on and around campus, as an American Medical Association survey shows.

A rite of passage has become a major health threat. Several alcohol-related campus fatalities have occurred in recent years, including a University of Michigan student who celebrated his 21st birthday by downing 20 shots in 10 minutes.

Binge drinking hurts academic achievement and makes students more prone to sexual assault and other violence, suicide and unprotected sex. Still, nearly half of college students say they binge drink, usually defined as downing four or five drinks in an hour. Students most likely to binge are

white, under 24 and residents of a fraternity or sorority. The share of frequent binge drinkers is rising to nearly 1 in 4 students.

More needs to be done on campus, in communities, and at home. The ease with which underage drinkers can get alcohol must change, as must the social norms that make binge drinking cool, especially among young white males.

Colleges can eliminate alcohol-industry sponsorships of athletics, ban alcohol sales at athletic events, increase alcohol-free social events on campus, and encourage tavern owners to end cheap-drink specials for students. Communities can control high-density alcohol outlets around campuses. Tavern owners can make sure drunk patrons aren't served and ID carding is thorough.

Finally, students should see - from their peers - that there's nothing cool about getting sloppy drunk and acting the fool.

The views and ideas expressed in Opinions are not necessarily those of The Pendulum, its staff, or Elon University.