

'KISS  
ME,  
KATE'



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ANGIE LOVELACE | Photographer  
Cotton ginner Wes Morgan talks about the components of a cotton gin.

## FROM DIRT TO SHIRT

North Carolina farmers  
push higher green standards  
for clothing industry



ANGIE LOVELACE | Photographer  
Cotton farmer Ronnie Burleson, right, describes the cotton plant, while junior Molly Strayer examines a bloom.

## Late night BioBus proposal prompts discussion

Marlena Chertock  
Reporter

As senior Dan Miller promised in his Facebook group "Late Night BIOBUS," he has written a proposal and met with members of the administration to talk about possibly extending the time the BioBus would run into the night.

So far, more than 1,000 Elon students have joined the group, which aims to improve student life and safety through nightly BioBus transportation.

"Essentially, 1,000-plus students supported this idea without any means of advertising other than word-of-mouth," Miller said. "That is nearly 20 percent of the student body of Elon."

He said this is proof a late night BioBus "will be used to its full potential."

"Last year, SafeRides had 12,139 requests for transport. Only 64 percent (7,844) of callers were actually transported," Miller's proposal said. "The remaining 35.38 percent chose not to pursue that destination, or decided to walk or drive themselves to where they needed to go. One must also take into consideration those who chose not to even call SafeRides because they knew the wait was too long."

Miller said he believes the solution would be to run the BioBus from 10:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., in addition to SafeRides and E-rides. He is suggesting a one-month trial period of the BioBuses at night.

Senior Kimberly Duggins, director of SafeRides, said she hopes instead of competing with a possible late-night BioBus, the programs could work together to help solve the issue of drunk driving on campus and to help keep the community safe.

She said she doesn't see the implementation of a late night BioBus having any negative effects on SafeRides.

"We will still be here for students when they need a ride home, and that's not going to change," she said.

Miller said the goal of the Late Night BioBus is simply to support SafeRides and E-rides by providing more service to more students.

But there are some challenges that might come with running the BioBuses at night. Miller said potential issues could be bus cleanliness, drinking on the bus, transporting intoxicated underage students and funding.

He has tried to address these issues by coming up with potential solutions, such as having trashcans on the bus, forming a cleanup crew to work after 2:30 a.m. and prohibiting open containers on the bus.

He also suggested charging students \$1 to ride the bus so a profit can be made.

But, these proposed suggestions have not yet been decided upon.

Last week, Miller had a meeting with key Elon figures such as Smith



ANGIE LOVELACE | Photographer

Elon students and community members traveled on an Elon BioBus to New London, N.C., for the Environmental Forum Cotton of the Carolinas Harvest '09 Tour. On the trip, participants learned about cotton farming to better understand what goes into making a T-shirt.

Angie Lovelace  
Reporter

In today's globalized economy, some argue people have lost sight of where their products come from. In an attempt to reconnect, a local T-shirt company has transformed the typical business model by introducing complete product transparency in the textile industry for the first time.

On Oct. 31, 30 Elon students and community members filled an Elon BioBus to capacity and traveled to New London, N.C., to attend the Harvest '09 Tour. As part of the Elon Environmental Forum, this trip focused

on Cotton of the Carolinas, a collaboration between farmers and manufacturers, producing conventional cotton T-shirts that, "from dirt to shirt," are produced solely in the state of North Carolina.

TS Designs, an eco-friendly T-shirt company in Burlington, launched the Cotton of the Carolinas line last year as a supplement to its organic cotton line to reconnect with the local economy, drastically reducing the transportation footprint of a cotton T-shirt.

Making their products transparent, TS Designs aims to improve the relationship between consumers and producers by making product

ingredient lists public and searchable.

The purpose of the Harvest '09 Tour was to create 100 percent product transparency by introducing the consumer to the entire production chain of a cotton T-shirt, said Eric Henry, president of TS Designs.

Students from five North Carolina universities, along with community members, totaling more than 60 people, were met by the cotton farmer and the cotton ginner at the Thurman Burleson & Sons Farm.

"We've become a society where we think our food comes from the grocery store, our gas comes from the gas

pump and clothes come from the mall," Henry said. "We've lost connection to where our stuff comes from."

Participants met with Ronnie Burleson, a cotton farmer, who spoke about his experiences in cotton farming in North Carolina. Burleson, a third generation farmer, has been farming in Stanley County, N.C., his entire life.

"A lot of people just have no clue what cotton is, what a cotton plant looks like, what a cotton farmer has to go through, so its kind of like you've enjoyed this product all of your life and now you find out really, this is how it's

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