

Liquor by the drink supporters consider initiating special election

Sam Parker
Senior Reporter

Although voters will not see the matter on their ballots in this year's election, both business owners and town officials are still considering the idea of adding liquor by the drink to local menus in the town of Elon.

Jeff MacKenzie, owner of The Fat Frogg, said alcohol-related policies were not permitted on the ballot for the 2010 November election. He said Because of this, businesses are being forced to wait another year until the November 2011 election in order for the issue to be considered by voters. In an attempt to avoid the long wait, MacKenzie said the individuals who support the concept of adding liquor by the drink to local restaurant menus are considering the possibility of a special election.

"We have some other people in town who want to pass this as well, and we, together, are finding out how we need to make progress, which we think would come through a special election," MacKenzie said.

Mike Dula, Elon's town manager, said board members have not held formal discussions regarding the matter recently, but some individuals have voiced their opinions on the idea, and a special election is possible.

If the Board of Aldermen votes to hold an election, the Board of Elections will schedule one in 60 to 120 days after they receive notification from the town, Dula said. He said if voters then approve the liquor by the drink matter, then qualifying town businesses can apply to the state for licenses.

MacKenzie said his next step in the



Business owners in the Town of Elon, including Fat Frogg owner Jeff Mackenzie, are still working to get liquor by the drink approved, and it might be in the form of a special election. Alcohol-related issues were not permitted for the November 2010 ballot, so the issue has been pushed back.

process is trying to gauge public opinion by communicating with Dula and Jerry Tolley, the town mayor. He said one of his primary focuses is getting public opinions on whether they would support or oppose the matter.

"The town's positions on special elections, unless it pertains to something that the people feel really strongly about one way or the other, result in a lot of people not voting," MacKenzie said. "So, we're trying to figure out right now if a special election would work for us."

Dula said board members have heard from citizens about their feelings on the matter, but there has been no formal process established to date.

Aside from considering the opinions

of Elon town residents, MacKenzie said he is also thinking about the views of Elon University students because the new policy would influence residents and students alike if it were to be approved.

"I think one of the issues that people in general don't understand is that having liquor by the drink is not going to promote more drinking by the students," MacKenzie said. "We want to get it for the college students, absolutely, but the reason to get it is not so we can sell massive shots to students."

Elon University dean of students, Smith Jackson, said the institution has not voiced an opinion on the matter regarding support or opposition.

"I don't have a position on the question

of whether or not to allow liquor by the drink in local restaurants," Jackson said. "Of course, I always want those establishments who serve alcohol in any form to do so responsibly and for students to make wise choices. The decision is up to the town and its residents to decide."

But MacKenzie said the issue stretches further than issues related to university students. He believes Elon is losing revenue to businesses in other towns by not selling liquor in local restaurants.

"We feel that Elon in general is losing revenues to surrounding communities, because realistically, Elon's probably only one of the little hamlets left that doesn't have (liquor by the drink)," Mackenzie said.

School of Business makes top-300 list

Janae Frazier
Reporter

The MBA program of Elon University's Martha and Spencer Love School of Business was recently named to The Princeton Review's "Best 300 Business Schools" for 2011. The program made it in the top-5 of two categories, as it was ranked fourth for "Best Administered" and fifth for "Best Campus Facilities."

Mary Gowan, dean of the School of Business, said she is thrilled about this recognition, but not surprised. The business school was recognized by Bloomberg last year as having the No. 1 part-time MBA program in the south and No. 6 in the nation. Gowan said she knew the school would be included in the Princeton Review's top-300 list, but she says it is nice to get a new honor with "Best Facilities."

"Appearance and maintenance are important at Elon," Gowan said.

Elon's Zero Deferred Maintenance Program makes sure buildings are kept up at all times, and because of this, the business school is a friendly environment for students, said Gowan.

Regarding "Best Administered," Gowan said the business school has a "secret weapon" — Judy Duhlberg, MBA Program Coordinator.

"(Duhlberg) makes sure the student has a seamless experience," Gowan said.

Duhlberg makes sure students

can navigate class selection, registration and graduation.

Gowan also said that Art Fadde, director of graduate admissions, works closely with students to make sure they have a great experience. Fadde works with students when they first show interest in the business school.

Gowan said Bill Burpitt, director of the MBA and executive education programs, frequently has focus groups with students to make sure the school is being proactive in meeting the students' needs.

According to Gowan, the business school is also strong because of the board of advisors.

"The board provides guidance, wisdom and financial support," Gowan said.

With the business school being accredited by Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, Gowan said the business school is constantly looking on how to improve.

Gowan has been dean of the business school since the fall of 2007 and said she's seen many improvements since then. The faculty has a five-year strategic plan that includes creating local and global citizens and securing the future of the school. Gowan said that as a result of this plan, there are new majors and minors at the undergraduate level.

Gowan says the recognition establishes the fact that the school is doing the right thing. Gowan said it does not stop here.



The front of the postcard for the "Dear Hillary" campaign sent to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Students encourage Secretary of State to take action in 'Dear Hillary' campaign

Aiming to increase U.S. presence, assistance in the Congo

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

As a part of the "Dear Hillary: Campaign for the Congo" project, students gathered Tuesday night in Moseley to send birthday greetings to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, urging her to take action in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo by fully enforcing public law 109-456.

This law committed the United States to take an active role in establishing peace and security in the region and was signed into law on Dec. 22, 2006 by former President George W. Bush.

According to David Gagne, a sophomore who helped to coordinate the event at Elon University, along with junior Keyona Osborne, said it was meant to call attention to the use of rape as a weapon of war.

According to a press release from the founder of the campaign, more than 5 million people have been killed

and tens of thousands of women have been raped since war broke out in the Congo in 1998. While a cease-fire was ordered in 2002, foreign militias have maintained a violent presence in the area.

"We believe that ending the violence in the East Congo, which is greater than any conflict since World War II, should be a foreign policy priority for the United States," the press release states. "As the most powerful woman in the world, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton must use her influence to stop the suffering and slaughter."

Gagne said the film "The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo" was also shown at the event.

The goal of the campaign, which took place among student groups, non-profit organizations and community groups around the country, is to send 10,000 postcards.

The campaign's blog is also encouraging participants to send Facebook and Twitter message to Clinton.