

THE PENDULUM

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Going Loko

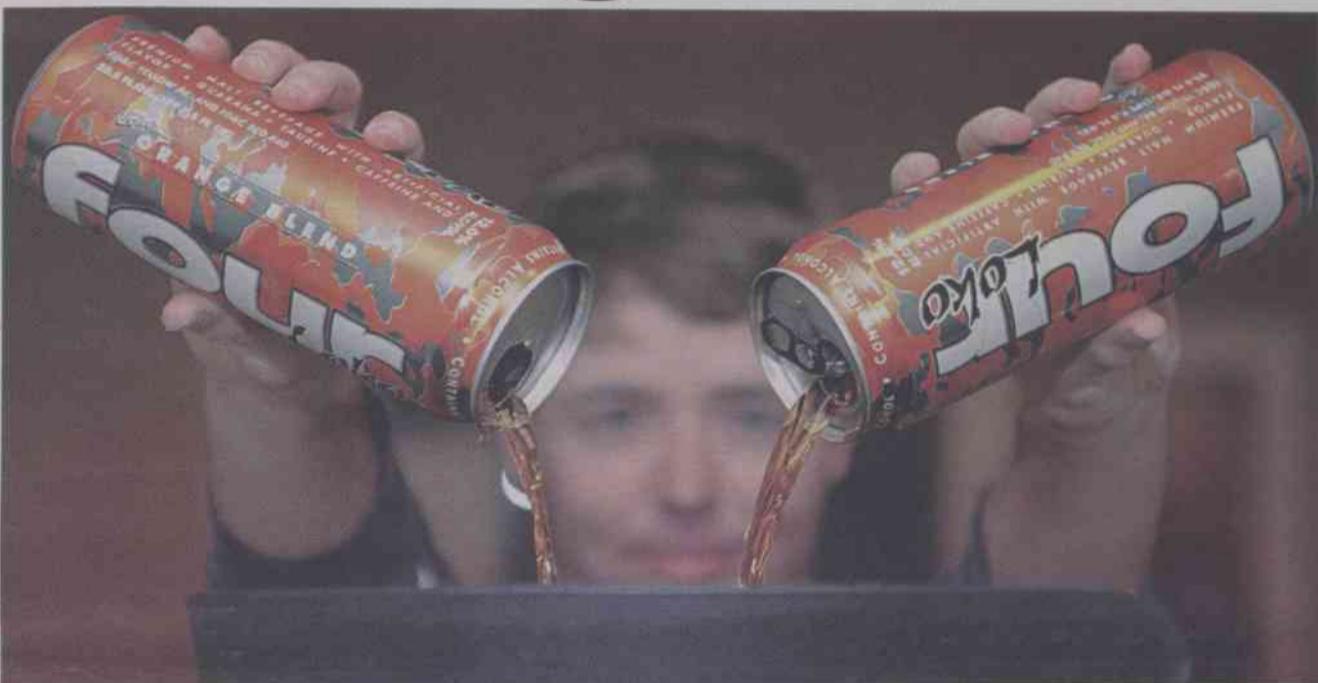


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LINDSAY FENDT | Photo Editor

FDA moves to ban popular alcohol energy drinks nationwide

Gabriela Szewcow
Design Chief

Four Loko has quickly become all the rage on college campuses, but the Food and Drug Administration is trying to bring a stop to these popular alcoholic drinks infused with caffeine.

The FDA acted Nov. 17 to remove alcoholic energy drinks from shelves nationwide. North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue said she is on board with the ban in a statement released Wednesday.

"I called for these alcohol energy drinks to be pulled from the North Carolina market because there are serious questions about the health risks of these products," she said in the statement. "The North Carolina ABC Commission will be prompt to apply the FDA's decision to its rules that protect North Carolinians."

According to the L.A. Times, manufacturers of Four Loko volunteered to remove the caffeine from their products and remove the beverages from stores by Dec. 13. Manufacturers also said they would pull their current beverage blends from the shelves. The

L.A. Times reported that the FDA was hoping to clarify as early as the morning of Nov. 17 that caffeine is an unhealthy and unsafe supplement to alcoholic beverages.

As of Nov. 17, West End Station was still selling Four Lokos at the bar and has been since the beginning of this school year. Owner Josh Ezrine said he was not notified of the ban, and no one told him to stop selling the drinks at his establishment.

Neither Sandy's Bar and Grill nor The Fat Frogg sell Four Loko or any other alcoholic energy drinks. The Kangaroo gas station still has Four Lokos in their store. But employee Catherine Murell thinks they shouldn't.

"I feel very strongly that they should ban these drinks," Murell said. "I have kids that are old enough to drink and it worries me. The studies have shown that teenagers can't handle them and I think they need to be pulled off the shelves before it's too late."

Elon students straddle the issue. Even students who have been negatively-affected by caffeine are wary of the ban. "I'm definitely sensitive to caffeine

because I was hospitalized last year after I consumed too much caffeine from coffee," junior Emily Stanchi said. "So I am definitely for the ban because I understand how dangerous they are and the effects they can have on the body. It's just unfortunate because at the same time, they taste so good."

Senior Tom Waterman also recognizes the complexity of the ban.

"It's an issue where you want to have control but you don't want to ban. You have to find that medium so people don't go outside the lines or limits to get it," Waterman said.

Susan P. Lindley, the executive assistant to the vice president for Student Life and dean of students at Elon University, agrees that a happy medium needs to be found.

"I don't know that the federal government has the responsibility to ban a drink," she said. "I think that a clear warning explaining how much alcohol and caffeine a drink contains would be a better place to start."

With additional reporting by Ally Lord, Jesse Jacobs and Katie Koch.

With No. 1 rank, study abroad aims to expand

Christine Everett
Reporter

After holding onto its top status in the area of student abroad and global learning, representatives from the Isabella Cannon Centre for International Studies say they've been making 100 percent accessibility to study abroad programs a top priority.

The ICIC seeks to raise more scholarship money, make programs more suitable to students' majors and develop innovative programs that will facilitate the increase of student accessibility.

"We are working to identify those factors that keep students from studying abroad," said International Programs Advisor Bill Burress. "Some factors that we have identified include finances, academic requirements and involvement in campus activities including athletics."

Junior Taylor McKee is one of the many students who has taken advantage of the diverse opportunities the study abroad program provides.

McKee said she believes the study abroad application process is fairly straightforward and that the ICIC is helpful in assisting the procedure.

"Studying abroad is simply a great experience, I cannot express that enough," McKee said. "The lessons you learn, the friends you gain and the places you see are incredible."

Although she studied in London, McKee experienced other cultures as she traveled to Scotland, France, Germany and Sweden during the 2010 spring semester.

According to Burress, the ICIC is committed to expanding study abroad programs to countries with emerging economies, such as China and India in the future. Additionally, it is working to expand programs in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa.

"We are always exploring innovative programs to meet the needs of Elon students," Burress said.

ICIC partners with the university to offer a variety of financial assistance to students wanted to study abroad. The ICIC offers Isabella Cannon Need-Based Scholarships,

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Elon man arrested after threatening to kill wife

Anna Johnson
Managing Editor

After remaining missing for several hours, the Elon man who allegedly pointed a gun at his wife and threatened to kill her was arrested Wednesday night.

Mark Douglas Murrell, 42, was arrested at 8:30 p.m. at 212 Cedar St., Gibsonville, an Elon police press

release stated.

The arrest stemmed from an alleged domestic assault that took place earlier that day at Brookside Mobile Home Park at 660 Manning Ave., Elon.

At 10 a.m., Murrell allegedly pointed a handgun at his wife and threatened to kill her. His wife was able to escape and called 911 from a neighbor's house.

She told police that she believed

Murrell was still in the household and had possession of two weapons.

Elon police, Elon University Campus Safety and Police and Gibsonville Police Department surrounded the home and attempted to make contact with the suspect.

In conjunction with the Burlington Police Special Response Team, tear gas was deployed and the police officers entered the home. Murrell was not in

the residence.

Murrell's wife was escorted to the Alamance Family Justice Center to obtain a Domestic Violence Order. Warrants for assault on a female, assault by pointing a weapon, communicating threats and not allowing (a person) to call 911 were issued for Murrell.

Incident and arrest reports had not been released at the time of print.