

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Reader,

As you probably have noticed by now, THE LANCE looks a bit different from last issue. We are now doing our own typesetting which should save us \$\$\$ in the long-run. Although the columns are not justified this time they will be in the next issue of THE LANCE which is scheduled to appear in your mailbox on December 8th (If the god of deadlines and viva-rin answers our prayers).

At times a few newspaper requirements or editorial policies have to be clarified and now is such a time. Perhaps, by being so concerned with other areas of the paper, I have overlooked a few basics such as the printing of THE LANCE's editorial policy. I will do so now.

- 1: All articles must be typed or word processed with 1" margins.
- 2: All articles must be signed. Anyone wishing anonymity must consult the editor.
- 3: All signatures to op/ed pieces will be verified by the editor in order to protect the interests of the newspaper and those of the signed author (s).
- 4: The editor has the right and the responsibility to verify quotes in the interest of presenting the news which is to be reported in as fair a manner as possible.
- 5: The use of unedited profane expressions is usually not permitted; however, each such use will be individually considered and judged on its context and contribution to the article.
- 6: All articles should reflect an attempt to properly use inclusive language.
- 7: THE LANCE reserves the right of editorial freedom as governed by responsible journalism.

I hope a few questions have been answered by the printing of our editorial policy. Remember that THE LANCE is your newspaper. Feel free to submit an article, artwork or photos at any time. You have until the end of the spring drop/add period to work up an internship if you are interested in becoming a staff member and receiving credit for your work.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,
Heidi Jernigan
Editor

The Lance

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The opinions expressed on these pages are not necessarily those of THE LANCE, the college or the student body, but are of the signed individuals. All editorial remarks are the responsibility of the editor. THE LANCE welcomes and encourages responses to the material in this publication, but reserves the right of editorial freedom as governed by responsible journalism.

Three Minutes with Buck Tredway

By Buck Tredway

(Editor's Note: This columnist is rumored to write with a pen in one hand and a knife in the other so if you're easily offended please keep plenty of band-aids on hand.)

With surplus cheese and ketchup adorning so many American tables this Thanksgiving, it is only fitting that they will be serving up lame duck in the White House. Unfortunately, the traditional turkey would be just as applicable.

The Republicans lost control of the senate in the recent election and my faith in human nature has been renewed. Obviously there are still some people in this country who remember Richard Nixon and how he raped the country over ten years ago. I had an overwhelming sense of deja vu while watching Reagan speak about the Iranian arms deal.

On countless occasions "Tricky Dick" (Nixon) went on television, looked the American people in the eye, and lied through his presidential teeth. Reagan must think that we are all stupid. The current president has a long, checkered history of saying things that simply aren't true.

Latest in the "I'm the President so I don't Lie" department: The United States ships arms to Iran three times during the past two years and hostages are released shortly thereafter. But Reagan wants to assure us that the United States did not trade arms for hostages.

Reagan claims that only defensive weapons and spare parts for "defensive" systems were shipped to Iran in minute quantities while sailors and cargo haulers in ports all over Europe report massive amounts of weapons and spare parts passing through their hands bound for Iran from the U.S. and Israel.

Perhaps the most damning pieces of evidence are reports of spare parts for the F-4 phantom jet being shipped to Iran aboard Dutch trading vessels. The F-4 is a supersonic warplane which can hardly be described as simply a "defensive system," and it is capable of rearranging an awful lot of furniture. The only two countries on the face of the earth who fly the F-4 are the United States and Iran. Who is the President trying to kid?

The American people have always been fairly gullible. We want to believe what our leaders tell us, but when the President of the

United States concocts such an outlandish and unbelievable story, we need to start reexamining the amount of power and trust we place in the hands of our elected leaders.

For more than a year, the Justice Department has been arresting, prosecuting and convicting dozens of weapons traders, describing them as "brokers of death." Now the United States falls into that category.

When American hostages were taken at the U.S. Embassy in Teheran in 1979, the Carter administration issued an executive order banning arms shipments to Iran. Ronald Reagan, our honest, respected and esteemed leader chooses to ignore the Arms Export Control Act, which have never been rescinded.

This sets up an obvious double standard and makes it almost impossible to prosecute people for conspiring to sell arms to Iran. According to the November 16 issue of the *Raleigh New and Observer*, 17 persons are currently being prosecuted on those charges in the state of New York. "Any prosecutor who appears before a jury has a credibility problem," says an assistant U.S. Attorney General in Philadelphia, according to the *Observer*.

Presidential spokesperson, Larry Speakes, who is obviously tired of shoveling the President's cattle droppings and is reportedly looking for a job outside the government, says, "The President, while he is certainly not above the law, has the powers because he is the highest elected official in the land." In other words, folks, the President of the United States can do anything he wants with impunity. Comforting isn't it?

Eugene Hasenfus was just convicted of terrorism and delivering arms to enemies of the state in a Nicaraguan court and sentenced to 30 years in prison. Who else are we going to supply arms to? The South Africans? Angolians? Martians? It doesn't take a genius to figure out what happens to all these weapons. Just look at what Vietnam is doing to Thailand with American arms.

Iran is on a list with such illustrious nations as Libya, Syria, and North Korea, who are said to export terrorism to other countries. The President will have a lot more explaining to do (or stories to make up) when Americans or their allies start getting killed by American arms supplied by Iran. How can he possibly justify his actions in this case?

I hope Reagan slept well after his Thanksgiving dinner. The rest of us probably had trouble sleeping knowing that our government has given weapons to perhaps the most fanatical leader of any country in the world.