

Editorials



Grief scenes have no place in news

Body bats, limbs strewn among rubble, soldiers mangled and covered with blood, and families torn with grief and pain — photographs of such scenes sprawl across newspaper pages and magazine covers. They leave very little to the imagination. Since the bombing of U.S. Marines in Beirut a few weeks ago, newspapers and magazines have seemingly strained the limits of good taste with so many grotesque and pathetic photos of the tragedy.

The shots expressed the reality and the emotions of the situation, but one wonders whether editors believe audiences crave blood, tears and dismembered limbs. Do we need such gore to realize the impact of death and disaster?

There have been too many scenes of families grieving at funerals over the loss of their sons.

Including pictures of persons in mourning is a total invasion of privacy, an injustice to those who are captured on film during one of the worst moments of their lives. Only a better sense of journalistic ethics would re-define such intrusions as not being newsworthy.

Surely we can realize the shock of a tragedy like Beirut without being exposed to excessive and unnecessary portrayals of loss. Magazines and newspapers expect to profit financially from such coverage. Perhaps they should look beyond their pocketbooks and into the hearts of those who are "caught in the act" of grievance and try to cover more important matters — like why we are in Lebanon or Beirut in the first place.

Letters to the editor

'Library socials' need to be changed

To the editor:

It can be the dullist day since you've been at college: no one to talk to, no one to play with, only a little bit of studying before classes tomorrow. Or you can be feeling more pressure than you think you can handle, more research or more cramming than you'll possibly be able to get through within a night. So you head to the library with the intention of giv-

ing studying the old college try! You know — really working.

Have you ever noticed that to everyone in the library everything is funny? Never is a conversation more engaging, never is a magazine more informative, never is someone else's term paper more interesting. And what's more, everybody in there is doing just what you're doing, and it sure isn't studying.

There is nothing wrong with

a little bit of healthy socializing, but the library isn't the place to do it. Something needs to be done; we need to have at least one place to work, one place that will always have a constant study atmosphere.

Either the library should be restored to the building it was intended to be, or it should adopt a happy hour where quarter draft can be sold behind the front desk.

Sabra Best

Squirrel abuse protested

To The Editor

You know who you are. There is a veritable army of you out there on Elon's campus, armed with sticks, rocks, and other blunt objects. You patrol the cobblestone walks and scout the lawns for that most threatening of animals, the squirrel. I just wanted to let you know that your efforts to impress us females, and the rest of us with a not-so-well developed killer instinct have certainly been successful on me.

Oh, you are such men! Your ability to frighten, injure or even kill an animal only one fiftieth your size, with only a swing of one powerful arm and a hefty rock, is a true measure of your virility. It is a tribute to your superior intelligence that

you can outwit a baby squirrel by shaking it out of a sapling tree, or trapping it between three of you, and all pelting it at once. How clever of you!

It must be deeply satisfying to stand over an unconscious or dead squirrel, knowing you are the reason this benign and defenseless animal lies before you. Why don't you mount its little head above your mantlepiece, as a monument to your hunting prowess and your masculinity? Then everyone would know who you are.

After all, you perform a valuable service. A creature that does nothing but gather acorns deserves to be terrorized. It is certainly insufficient that they amuse us by their antics of paired play, scampering after each other beneath the Oak

trees. They should be the outlets of our stored frustrations and aggressions as well. So, be proud of yourselves, squirrel-hunters!

And to those of you who have never participated in the pursuit of this big game animal, but have stood by and watched, laughed or even clapped for the hunters, I also say, congratulations. For it is through your encouragement that the sport remains so popular. You, too, should be proud of yourselves.

So one day, if you happen to be lying unconscious or dead on the ground because a creature 50 times your size has just clobbered you with a rock the size of your head, don't worry. You can be happy in the knowledge that you clobbered your share of defenseless animals in the same manner. Be proud, squirrel-hunters, be proud of your great achievements!

Judy Tunney

Petition — Continued from P. 1

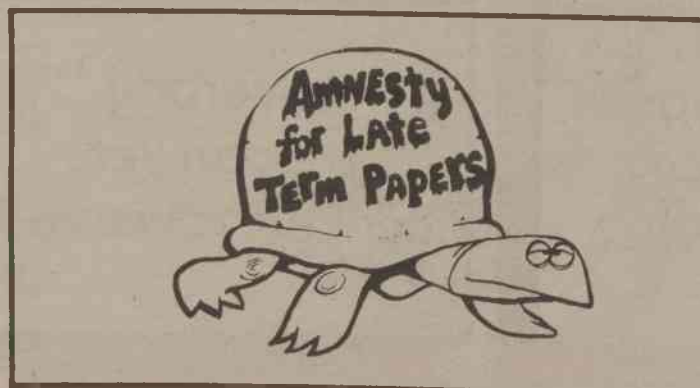
In other action:

— Hetzel told the board that applications were being accepted for director of the \$750,000 Community Development Project to improve 42 homes and resurface streets in the Morgan Place subdivision of the town.

— Bateman reported that only a few technical details remain to be agreed upon for a new cable television franchise with Cablevision of Alamance County. Cablevision has asked the board for authorization to

provide 42-channel service to the town based on the same kind of franchise it has with the city of Burlington. Bateman said he expects the remaining differences to be resolved "in a few weeks" so that the board might be able to vote on the new agreement at its December meeting.

— The board learned that it will have to increase its contribution to be Law Enforcement Retirement System because the state has decreased its contribution.



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The Pendulum welcomes letters, limited to 250 words, from our readers. Longer material may be submitted as opinion articles. All letters submitted must be signed, and a phone number given so that the letters validity can be checked. Editors reserve the right to edit for length, libel, good taste and accuracy. Our office is located in 208 Long Student Center, phone 584-2331.

The paper is published by the Communications Media Board of Elon College. Founded on October 14, 1974, as the student newspaper serving the Elon College community. The Pendulum is published each Thursday during the regular terms except for examination and holiday periods. The Pendulum is printed by The Burlington Daily Times-News.