

Editorials

Jury decision in Klan trial is injustice, setback for state

Earlier this week, for the second time, a federal jury acquitted nine Ku Klux Klansmen and American Nazis of guilty charges that stemmed from a 1979 incident where they shot and fatally wounded five Communist Workers' Party members in Greensboro.

This decision has provoked special interest and media groups into complete outrage over the not guilty verdict. And, as expected, Glenn Miller, leader of the Carolina Knights of the KKK is walking around calling his group "heroes," who acted in "self-defense," according to Tuesday's *Greensboro Daily News*. He went on to say that the verdict was a "great victory for the KKK and for all patriotic anti-Communist, freedom-loving Christian people."

This country prides itself on freedom of speech and expression, but when is there too much of a good thing? Does the freedom of speech also mean

the freedom of expression, to the point of stifling opposing factions in whatever manner they deem necessary?

This entire situation is an example of men whose beliefs are based on political extremism. Furthermore, they were so illogical in their beliefs that the KKK felt they had to even the score by showing an incredible amount of violence.

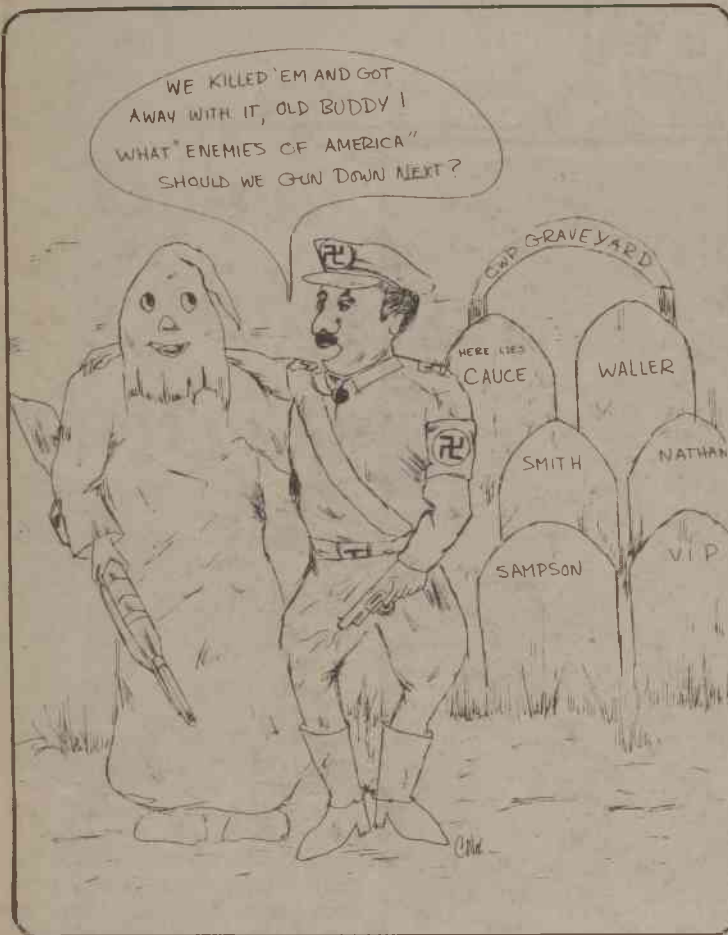
Should there be mitigating circumstances over the killings of five members of the Communist Workers' Party who were just another group, demonstrating their beliefs. Where does the blame fall?

Certainly, it is not being suggested that the jury is to blame. As part of the American judicial system they would most assuredly be acting in the most conscientious way to sift through to truth and justice. However, look at the jury. They were six women, six men, all white, over 40 years with a lower-to-middle income. This sug-

gests that the jury was made up of people who were not particularly informed about these activist groups.

In 1979, the charge was first-degree murder and the verdict was not-guilty. This time, the charge was violating the civil rights of demonstrators. The charge in itself is vague. This civil-rights charge requires that racial motivation on the part of the defendants be shown. So at the confrontation between the two groups, it is a question of ideal circumstances verses racial circumstances.

Where do we go from here? The Klansmen and Nazis are walking the streets, regardless of videotapes and photographs showing certain defendants carrying weapons and firing at the opposing group. The verdict is a definite set back for the state of North Carolina. It shows that racism is alive and well instead of becoming a thing of the past.



Letters to the editor

Spring Fling dance best in Elon history

To the editor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank SUB and compliment them on a fine Spring Fling dance. I don't think students, in general, have been taking the time to show their appreciation for the excellent extra-curricular activities this organization has been responsible for. The dance last Saturday night was a prime example of what hard work and cooperation can accomplish, and all SUB members deserve a hearty round of applause.

The dance was a tremendous success due to the selection of an absolutely fantastic band called The Mighty Majors. Playing an upbeat mix of popular dance and boogie tunes, The Mighty Majors rocked the wallpaper right off the wall. The concluding song, called "Party Train," prompted the formation of a 75 person train that

proceeded to chug around the circumference of the dance floor. The music ended at 1 a.m. and left a bunch of tired dancers still wishing for more.

The tropical refreshments of the evening were supplied and served by BACCHUS to the great appreciation of all.

This dance, by every measure, was one of the best in Elon's history! The large attendance by students was a pleasure to see. I hope future dances get the attention and involvement that truly set the Spring Fling dance apart from the rest. I congratulate all SUB members on a splendid activity expertly executed.

Doug Sorrells



Editor's note: The SGA also sponsored the Spring Fling Dance. They should be equally commended.

The bright side

Anticipation

Used to be that everyone looked forward to Friday because it was the start of the weekend. Then Thursday became the day to look forward to because it signaled that Friday was close behind. Now, some even are starting to look forward to Wednesday because

that is "over the hump day". We're waiting to see what Tuesday will become.

Stamp act

Remember when stamps were 5 cents, then 15 cents and now 20 cents? The least they could do is make them taste better.

Escape

Now that spring and summer are approaching, advertisements in newspapers and magazines are abundant for trips, cruises and resort stays. Some are even directed towards college students.

One such ad says: "Get away from it all — only \$599.99." Most college students can't even afford to get away from SOME of it.

Spring Fling Weekend a complete success

To the editor:

I would like to praise the Student Union Band (SUB) and the SGA for a superb weekend of events. A fantastic first for Elon, was the showing of *Risky Business* outdoors at the new area. It was especially cool to lay on blankets amidst one's friends. The atmosphere was heightened by the great number of people who turned out. Friday night the concert by States in Jordan Gym was great. It was especially enjoyable for the guys who were watching all the girls on the front rows "bobbing around." The comedian, Jack Gallagher related to the students' jokes about the fine aspects of college life partying.

The weekend was brought to a fantastic height by the Spring

Fling Dance. The music put on by the Mighty Majors was perfect to dance to. Songs such as "Party Train," "Jump," and "Shout" really got people dancing.

Another round of applause goes to BACCHUS and the bartenders who served the drinks. The weekend wound down with a ice cream pig-out in Harper Area.

I am glad to see that the students are finally going to the events presented with more student participation and assistance; next year will be much more successful than ever.

Once again, thanks to all those who helped out with the weekend.

Robert Morabito

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