

Editorials

Bennett off base in saying students must give up cars, stereos

Walter Mondale and the Democrats were right. We were right. Last fall the Democrats were predicting the president would cut federal student loan funds, and *The Pendulum* reported that prediction.

Ronald Reagan's proposed budget cuts this year are not only limited to the poor, but to programs serving middle and upper-income Americans as well.

Among these cuts, which range from sewage treatment to library assistance, is a proposal to cut financial aid to college students. The most devastating of the proposed changes includes eliminating federal loan guarantees to students whose families earn more than \$32,500 while limiting the total amount of federal aid any student can receive to \$4,000 a year. Critics estimate that these cuts could affect half of all college students now receiving aid.

So, while the rich can afford the more expensive schools and the poor can get help, the middle-class is most likely to feel the blade. The new secretary of education, William Bennett (in retrospect an unfortunate choice as Elon's commencement speaker last year), is a tough-minded neoconservative who enjoys the support of people like Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C. The new secretary, within one week of his confirmation, clearly stated that he believes in limiting the federal government's role in education.

In his first press conference, Bennett was quoted as saying that if Congress approves the cuts, it "may require from some students divestiture of certain sorts—stereo, automobile, and three-weeks-at-the-beach divestiture." And he means it.

I get the impression that Bennett and the rest of the Reagan administration feel that college students are a burden on our economy. If passed, the cuts may force many students to attend state-supported rather than private colleges.

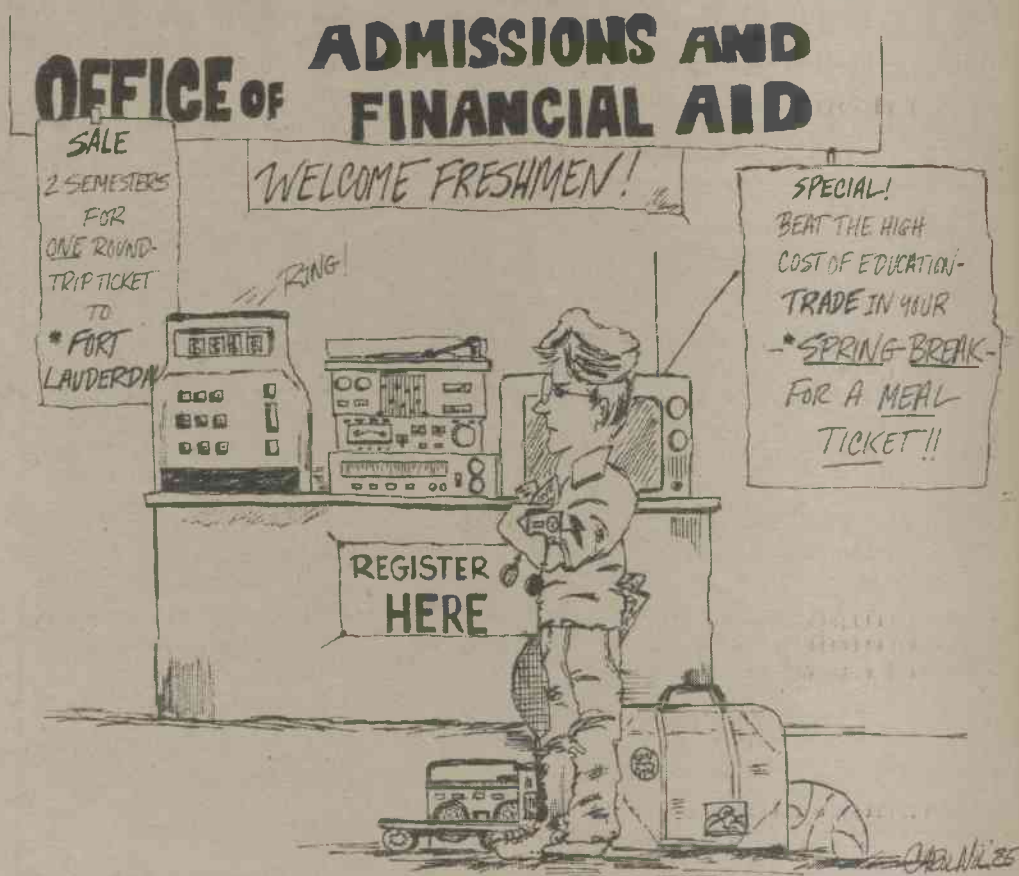
Even William C. Friday, president of the University of North Carolina system, said in a recent interview that if Reagan succeeds, many students will no longer be able to meet the high cost of attending private colleges. Friday also said that the bottom-line effect would be to "deny a college education to some students and to threaten the survival of some private colleges." On the other hand, Bennett contended that while these "college-cuts" might limit some students' choices of less expensive institutions, they wouldn't be denied a college education.

The government is trying to do everything it can to limit spending so as to reduce the national budget deficit. The Reagan administration reasons that the only way the recovery (which has been a great help in meeting the costs of college) can be saved is to get the deficit under control.

They're missing the point, though. Various groups have suffered for the deficit, while there exists the possibility of a \$263 billion national defense spending budget for 1986. This is a \$93 billion increase from 1980 and the deficit has grown accordingly from \$75 billion to \$200 billion over the past six years.

And wait. There's more. Reagan proposes to increase military spending to about \$400 billion by the end of 1988. This massive expense is responsible for our ever-increasing national deficit. And we—the college grads of the future—will pay for it. I resent being blamed for the national deficit and having people like Bennett, who said he believes his main function is to "talk a lot," tell students everywhere to "divest," because the Reagan administration has no idea of how to manage our faltering economy.

PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



Letter to the Editor

Prejudices should be forgotten

To the editor:

This past Tuesday evening I, along with a hundred or more others, attended a lecture given by Dr. Curtis Alexander. His topic was "African Historical Religions-Conceptual and Ethical Foundation for Western Religions." Dr. Alexander discussed the ancestral background of the African heritage. He has found that Egypt, with all of its ancient pyramids and artworks, is in Africa. He stated that what we, in today's society, feel about Africa and Egypt are misconceptions. He implies that we should think of these two separate societies as one.

I personally can agree with almost everything this man said, but I question his motives. Human society of today is going

through a great transition. We have made great advances in technology, but we have also created the nuclear bomb. This means that within a matter of hours our world could very well be destroyed. We have never experienced this fear at any time in the past.

In order to prevent this from happening, we have to work together. Not just our nation working together, but our world united as one. This is a dream, but a dream that I feel everyone really wants to become a reality. We can only have this reality when everyone is free of learned prejudices.

In Dr. Alexander's closing statements, he made a definite separation between blacks and whites. He informed us of the fact that Elon does not have a "black

history course" nor do we have "proper black reading material" in our library. It bothers me that a man of his intelligence is going from college campus to college campus, voicing opinions which tend to separate people. He could be a very powerful influence in spreading unity for people of all colors.

Ray Covington

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The Pendulum welcomes letters, limited to 250 words, from our readers. Longer materials 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. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, libel, good taste and accuracy. The deadline for submitting materials is 2 p.m. Friday. Our office is located on 102 Williamson Avenue, phone 584-2331 or 584-2476.