

# Editorials

## What Reagan's cuts will mean for Elon

By Loukia Louka

In last week's editorial (where the subject was limiting federal student loans) I focused on student divestiture and maiming the middle-class if Reagan's proposed budget cuts become a reality. Maybe I shouldn't bring it up again, but I have to. A very serious account of what these budget cuts would mean to a private college like Elon needs to be examined.

What will happen if these college cuts go through is that Elon will have a very hard time attracting students to their side. Face it. Without a lot of the federal loans and financial aid currently needed by Elon students, many future prospectives will lean towards state-supported schools.

Elon then will not be a very attractive choice for many students and will more than likely result in a drop in admission standards because recruiters will have trouble side-stepping the question of "What kind of financial aid can I get?"

In the 1984-85 academic year, Elon students will receive \$2,445,000 in federal loans and aid. Of this, \$1,526,000 is National Direct Student Loans. Also, \$145,000 is supplementary Educational Opportunity Grants and \$513,000 in Pell Grants. Cutting along these lines will definitely mean problems for Elon. This could mean that thousands of students will have to drop out or put their college education on hold.

Also to ask is whether or not President Fred Young will get the type of students to enroll here that he spoke about last fall. Young wants, by 1989, to have "motivated" students that will be ranked at the top of North Carolina's private colleges.

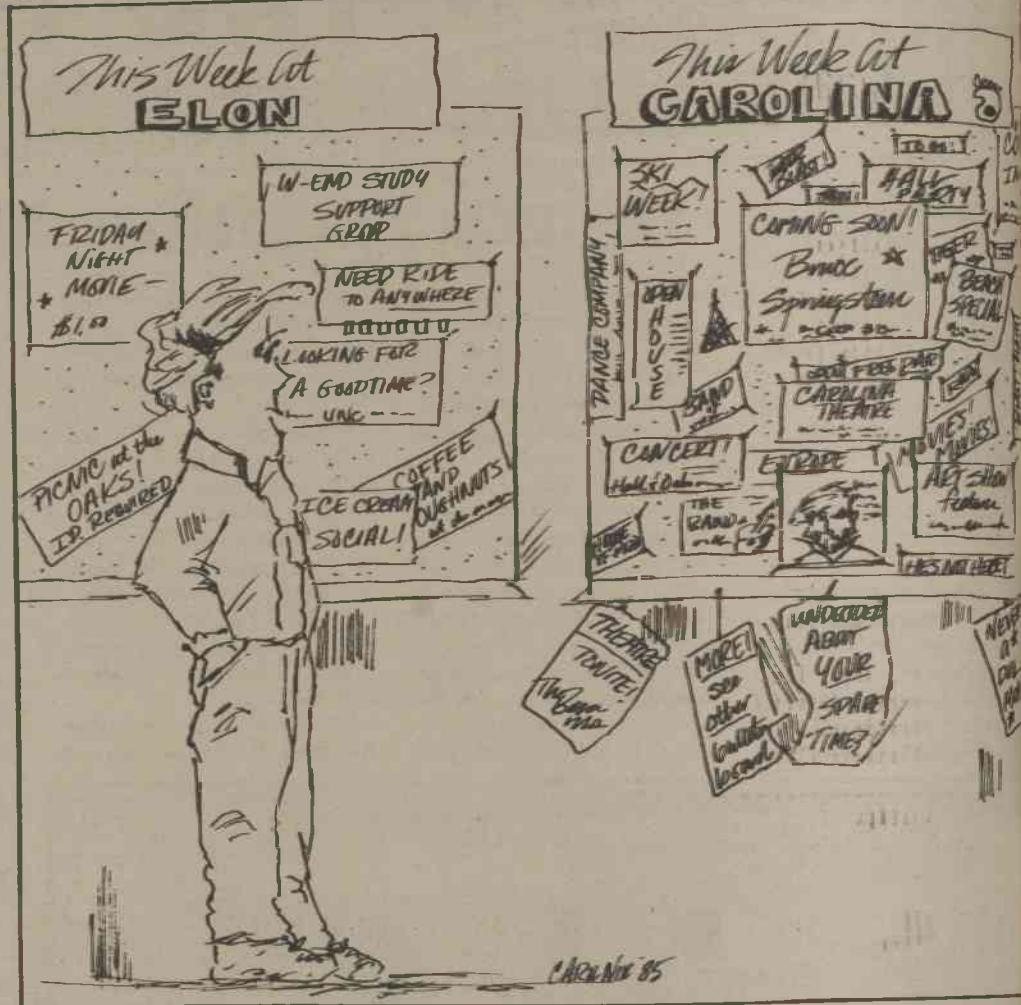
That is hard to imagine, considering what is facing students today. I can't say its true for everyone, but a majority of the students I talk to on a daily basis say that there's "nothing to do at Elon. I'm bored." People complain about Elon's choice (or lack of) for entertainment. So here. I have to bring in the example of concerts and what their absence will mean for Elon.

Last week, I watched the Grammy awards and saw all the stars glittering, winning awards for songs all of us know the words to. Then I thought about The Tannahill Weavers, a Scottish band that played here a few weeks ago, sponsored by the Lyceum and the Student Union Board. I'm sure that the people who attended that concert enjoyed themselves, but the bottom line is most of the people who went to see The Tannahill Weavers probably wouldn't have been there if it hadn't been required of them through some act of bribery known as extra credit.

When you think about it, there really aren't very many activities besides these Lyceum-type events, which though culturally superior, are excruciatingly boring. SUB, which is an organization responsible for bringing guest speakers, forums and special events to Elon, has been experiencing serious internal problems since last semester.

Among the loss of some of their key members was the resignation of Drew VanHorn, in January, coordinator of student activities. His position has been filled (temporarily) by East Area Coordinator Jonathan Whaley. Even so, Whaley is only a temporary answer who has to look over the East Area first and then SUB's problems.

SUB needs a full-time coordinator and people who are knowledgeable about entertainment and the music industry to bring the best that Elon can afford. especially since we will be looked at on that level by prospective students if Reagan's proposed budget cuts go through.



About three years ago, Elon had the chance to capitalize on an offer to have the Stray Cats perform (this was before they became famous) for \$1,500. SUB turned them down and the next go around, the group was going for \$15,000. Spending that kind of money on a concert is a definite no here, since the college seems to prefer safer, quieter events that are culturally enriching.

In an editorial I wrote last September, I cited several facts about Elon and concerts: the last major group to appear was the Little River Band in 1980, in 1981 Elon turned down an offer from Pablo Cruise for \$25,000, and last August, NC State University administered a new policy banning hard-rock groups—a move that some feel unconstitutionally limits freedom of expression.

Elon's "policy" on rock concerts has been vague over the years: fear of vandalism and financial depletion have both been cited as excuses in favor of small-time bands and guest speakers.

What before was only seen as a threat to freedom of expression and apathy for students, should now be seen as a way out for Elon. Elon may have to break out of their "safe" attitude concerning events to help attract prospective students. If and when financial aid cuts come to Elon, what else goes on here—athletic events, concerts, performances, special events may become a big deal to someone who will be investing four years of their life here. If Elon would begin developing those areas now, there may not be as much of a problem in the future.



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