

Editorials

Good news eventually drives out the bad

Bad publicity has been a thorn in Elon's side in recent months. In April, 11 Elon College residents were arrested on drug charges. The arrests were widely publicized, probably giving the impression that drug use is common among Elon students. Then in May, two Elon students were charged with the beating of a 76-year-old woman who lived one block from the campus. Area residents were alarmed and frightened. And now, Elon faces even more negative publicity with last week's arrest and conviction of the campus security director, Allan Nowell, for sex crimes against minors.

All of this certainly reflects poorly on the college. And how the public perceives Elon is important to the college's future. Nothing can be done about what has already happened, but something must be done to help restore Elon's previously good reputation. It won't be easy because the bad inevitably outweighs the good in the public's memory.

Therefore, exercising responsibility in actions is in order for students, staff, faculty and administrators. The negative news will eventually be forgotten, especially if some good news comes to the forefront in the meantime.

In the last couple of years, the college has become more image-conscious than ever before. Advertising and marketing strategies have been developed to promote Elon as a place to get a good college education at reasonable cost.

All those efforts are jeopardized by events such as those of the past weekend. The college will have to keep plugging away to tell its own side of the story, often through its own means. It can't do anything about the daily news media's emphasis on the negative and bizarre (it is interesting that the campaign to improve the qualifications of new students has not been found newsworthy by any of the area media). At *The Pendulum* we try to present all the news, good and bad, about the college. We'd like to hear from you if you think we are emphasizing one kind of news over the other.

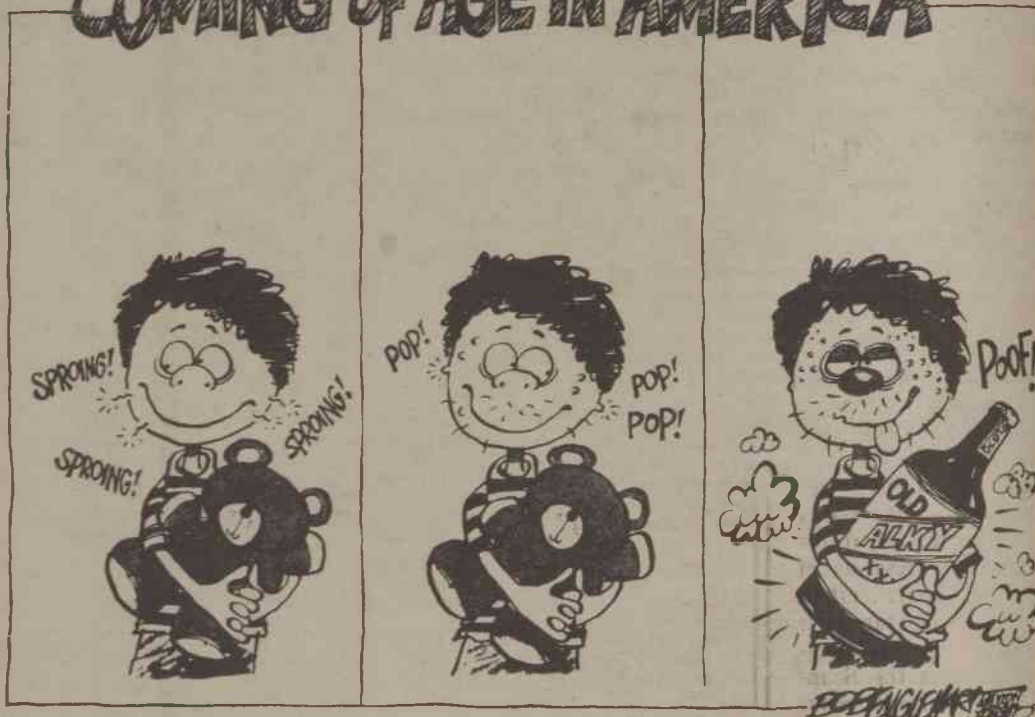
—By Jane Kidwell

Classrooms are too hot

While administrators have been working in air-conditioned comfort for the past week of 90-degree weather, students and teachers have been sweltered in the heat of classrooms with no air conditioning. The unbearable heat has made it difficult for students to concentrate and certainly for the faculty to teach.

We invite the administrators and the Board of Trustees to sit through one 55-minute class. Perhaps if they experience what most students and teachers are going through, they would be more willing to air-condition the classrooms, regardless of cost.

COMING OF AGE IN AMERICA



Adults should be allowed to drink

A citizen must be at least 18 years of age to join the military, to vote and in some cases to be tried as an adult in this country. But soon one will have to be 21 to drink alcoholic beverages in a majority of the United States, including North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland. Many state legislatures claim to have been "blackmailed" into raising the legal drinking age under pressure from the Reagan administration, which has threatened to withhold federal highway funds from states that do not increase the drinking age. While this economic and political pressure on legislators is understandable, it is certainly discriminatory to make it more difficult for these young people to get a drink legally.

How can a citizen be expected to risk his life in war on behalf of a country which does not even find him mature enough to drink alcohol?

How does the government think it can trust 18-year-olds to make wise decisions about voting for major leaders of the nation when it does not trust them to make wise decisions about drinking?

And how can the government expect a citizen of 18 to handle himself in adult courts when it does not believe he or she can even handle alcohol?

Our country's leaders are constructing classifications of adulthood. How did they arrive at these age levels? Isn't being an adult, being an adult?

What makes the drinking age more important than the draft age, the voting age and the age of legal prosecution as an adult?

No matter what age officials decide marks maturity, whether it be 18 or 21, it is there that all rights and privileges should be extended.

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The Pendulum welcomes letters, limited to 250 words, from our readers. Longer material may be submitted as option articles. All letters submitted must be signed, and a phone number given so that the letter's validity can be checked. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, libel, good taste and accuracy. The deadline for submitting material is 2 p.m. Monday. Our office is located in 102 Williamson Avenue, phone 584-2331 or 584-2467. This 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 regular terms except for the examination and holiday periods. The Pendulum is printed by The Burlington Daily Times-News.

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