

Editorials

U.S. wisely retaliates against PLO hijackers

Last week, four Palestinian terrorists hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro. There were 97 passengers aboard the ship during the two-day ordeal, including a dozen Americans. Leon Klinghoffer, an American who was confined to a wheelchair as a result of suffering two strokes, was shot in the forehead and his body dumped overboard. Reports from the ex-hostages reveal that the hijackers had shuffled passports of the American passengers to compose a "death list," with Klinghoffer being No. 1.

The four gunmen surrendered after making an agreement with Egyptian officials to transport them out of the country. But Thursday night, before the terrorists reached their destination, their plane was intercepted by United States Navy jet fighters and forced to land in Sicily after leaving Egypt. The men were arrested upon landing.

Mohammed Abbas, who accompanied the terrorists on the plane, was released in spite of a warrant issued on Friday by a U.S. federal judge charging Abbas with piracy, conspiracy and hostage taking aboard the cruise ship. Italy refused to hold Abbas on grounds of insufficient evidence, deeply disappointing the U.S. State Department, which apparently believes that Abbas was the mastermind behind the hijacking.

Although "friendly" countries like Egypt and Italy have not exactly been cooperating, the U.S. has made an attempt to combat terrorism. There has been much criticism about President Reagan saying so often that he was going to retaliate against terrorists and then essentially doing nothing but talk. And there will certainly be criticism about this effort to curb terrorism.

What everyone must realize is that terrorist activity is difficult to deal with because of the involvement of innocent people as pawns or hostages. Innocent lives will nearly always be endangered in retaliation attempts. Fortunately this time there were few innocent people involved except for the Egyptian flight crew.

One might argue, however, that we still had no right to endanger that flight crew. But realistically, the crew probably had matters under control within the plane as part of the agreement to get the hijackers out of the country.

Reagan wisely saw the situation as a chance, with good odds, to take action against the terrorists. Perhaps the success of this mission will help curb the ever-increasing terrorist attacks against United States and its allies.

-By Jane Kidwell



Police chief commends all for parade

To the students of Elon College:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend those involved in the Elon College Homecoming parade for a job well done. It was very evident that many hours of planning had gone into the event. The "spirit" of Homecoming could be felt and seen by the actions of the students and faculty prior to, during and after the event. This department

has also received positive remarks from several of the townspeople who were in attendance.

Problems arising from the parade were minimal, consisting of traffic congestion from school buses and tractor-trailers traveling the two main roadways. It is the feeling of this department that the event was such a total success, breeding school spirit not only on

campus, but also in the community, that we are already making plans on how to eliminate the traffic congestion for next year's Homecoming parade.

Again, many thanks for a job well done.

Dan W. Ingram
Chief of Police
Elon College

Professor disapproves of advertisement

To the editor:

Outrageous! That is one of the more subtle and respectable adjectives I can use to describe your decision to run an ad titled "Writer's Block Cured" on page 7 of *The Pendulum*, Oct. 10, 1985. I am appalled at *The Pendulum's* lack of responsibility demonstrated by carrying an advertisement for ready-made term papers. While you are at it, why don't you see if you can teach students how to get hold of test banks, answer keys and other "educational aids"? I am aware **Peanuts® by Charles Schultz**

that such term paper catalogues are available and advertised in many national magazines and newspapers. But for a college newspaper to carry an ad for them in unconscionable.

Like many other colleges, Elon is in the midst of a movement that is trying to emphasize the importance of critical and analytical thinking. The research/term paper is one of the major tools being used to accomplish that goal. We attend workshops on writing across the curriculum, devise strategies to get students to begin papers early in the semester, hold personal conferences with

students about their projects, read and reread rough drafts so that they can be resubmitted, prod and plead with students, and use a variety of other techniques to develop this most important of skills. And you have the audacity to undermine all of this by running an ad promoting ready-made term papers.

Have you thought about the possible consequences of promoting such a "service"? First of all, using ready-made term papers is plagiarism and therefore a violation of basic college code. Aside from the ethical and moral implications, if a student gets

caught using such a paper, he or she will at the least receive an "F" for the paper and possibly face expulsion from school. Second, this practice is a disincentive for students to do serious work and is unfair to those students who are serious. Further, I doubt that parents are thrilled when they read that their child's college newspaper advertises ways on how to cheat his/her way through school.

Please exercise a little more caution and some common sense in your selection of advertisements and think about what the consequences of your actions

might be.
Laurence A. Basiri
Assistant professor of sociology

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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.

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