

# Editorials

## Press leniency

### Iran coverage is "sugarcoated"

When the Watergate scandal was big news in Washington, the press did not hesitate to report any and every insinuating tidbit of information they could get about top-ranking officials who were involved. However, this has not seemed to be the case with the recent Iran scandal, or "Irangate."

President Reagan is living up to his image of the "teflon President." Recent headlines rarely refer to his possible involvement in illegal arms sales to the Iranians or the diversion of funds to the Contras in Nicaragua. Instead, the press has been "sugarcoating" stories which concern his part in the scandal.

During the Watergate scandal, Nixon was bombarded by bad press. His committee to re-elect the president was referred to as CREEP by the press corps. All presidents who run for re-election have a committee to re-elect the president, but none had had such an acronym attached to their committee as Nixon did.

Nixon did not get along with the press as well as other presidents had and he suffered the consequences. Two reporters from *The Washington Post*, Woodward and Bernstein, are good examples of how hungry reporters were to get the "scoop" on Nixon and members of his administration.

However, Reagan does enjoy a good relationship with the press. This has helped him tremendously during the Iran scandal. Although the public realizes his possible involvement in the arms deal with Iran and funding for the Contras, they (public) are still not faced daily with sensational headlines of the events concerning the scandal. Headlines have been relatively straightforward and unrevealing.

Nixon was wrong to cover up the Watergate break-in. However, what he did was not a danger to national security. Selling arms to Iran does endanger national, as well as international, security. Reagan and his administration need to be examined closely--and that includes by the press. As was said in an editorial in *USA Today*, the press is not acting like a swarm of sharks--as Reagan suggests--but, rather like a school of jellyfish.

By Michele Lashley

## Frankly Speaking

by Phil Frank



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## Student disagrees with Elon's image

To the editor:

Just about every picture I've ever seen of Elon on television or in the newspapers shows Scott Plaza. It's very nice, and it portrays a particular image of Elon.

I watched the construction people work on the new fine arts center during the summer. It, too, will look very nice.

But if I were taking pictures of Elon, I'd include one of the Best Western Motel. That's where many males have spent their freshman year here. I'll bet a lot of students are wondering how many beds could fit in a building the size of the fine arts center.

I can understand why many townspeople are upset over the

proposed rezoning to allow construction of student apartments. These people probably think the college has an obligation to provide enough housing. I think they're right. I'll bet that if Elon tried hard, it could find funding for a new dormitory. And it would probably look just as nice as the rest of the campus.

My mother told me that she thought Elon has a very pretty campus. It better be, for the kind of money we students are putting into it.

Don't get me wrong: I like going to school here. I plan on graduating from Elon. I just think they take too many pictures of the wrong things.

These pictures don't express

many things about student life here. How about the cafeteria? How about the lack of entertainment for students? (I've seen every movie they show in the Long Student Center six months ago, and the Game Room is great if you like Pac-Man, which I did in the eighth grade).

The pictures don't tell how students drink, they get arrested, how if an outdoor concert is held, it will be shut down; how if people have a party, it will get broken up. Such pictures might suggest that it's easier to get arrested at Elon than to have fun.

Phil Hobaugh

## KA fraternity article shows bias

To the Editor:

This is in response to the article written about the Kappa Alpha fraternity in the Nov. 13 issue of *The Pendulum*.

In all of the classes we have taken, we've learned that, when reporting, the reporter should reveal both sides of the story and never editorialize. The only positive notes in the entire article were those that were made by the national KA organization and a KA pledge. Although these were

positive aspects, each was followed by negatively insinuating comments.

We feel that the KA chapter is being used as an example. Yes, hazing is wrong. But, the fact of the matter is that they were charged with what might have happened and not with what actually took place.

Elon has always strived for the Greek system to work as one, but now it seems as if they are singling out one fraternity from the

Greek system. If we were working as one, then all Greeks would be supporting those members of the KA fraternity!

We feel that by suspension it's unjust that 17 brothers' and pledges' education is being jeopardized by the unfairness and ignorance of the Elon College Judicial Board.

Patti Staddler  
Beth Thompson

## Poor attendance prohibits getting better bands

To the editor:

On Nov. 21, Fetchin' Bones, a band that has been featured in *Spin* and *Rolling Stone* magazines and on MTV's "I.R.S.: The Cutting Edge," played here at Elon. All we can say is that it's very pathetic how people say Elon offers no worthwhile activities for students. Do these people take the time to glance at bulletin boards? It's clear that the majority really don't care who or what comes to Elon. The low attendance at this event should be embarrassing to all students.

How in the future do we expect to get bands to play here if we

can't get support from the student body? Anyway, those are the people who missed a truly great concert or rare and unique quality.

Nancy Blumenthal  
Sharon Paul



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