

## The Pendulum

Serving the Elon College community

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The Pendulum, founded in 1974, is published by Elon College students each Thursday during regular school terms. The Pendulum welcomes your opinions, with letters limited to about 250 words, if possible. Letters must be signed and a phone number given for verification. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Monday.



A squirrel grabs a bite for lunch

Photo by Scott Lansing

## All quiet on liberal front

### Defense bashers have practically disappeared

Isn't it amazing that ever since the invasion of Kuwait the defense bashers have practically disappeared. Only weeks before, many in Congress were discussing ways to carve up the defense budget. Then reality set in.

Man has for millions of years, resorted to violence when he has felt provoked, threatened, or, in Saddam Hussein's case, just got a little greedy. The fact that the Soviet threat is all but over does not mean the end of armed struggles. There will always be a need for the military.

The billions of dollars spent on the defense budget over the past 40 years was paid off when the walls came down on the "iron curtain." Without firing a single shot, without losing a single life, the United States (and NATO) defeated its most deadliest enemy. Within weeks after the "liberation" of Eastern Europe, people began calling for a "peace dividend." It seems that some people believe that there was never going to be

**Pat Hobin**



another war, never going to be another greedy dictator.

Currently, Saddam Hussein controls about 20% of the world's oil. If he had been allowed to occupy only a couple hundred of miles into Saudia Arabia, Hussein would have had about 40% of the oil. This would have meant blackmail to most of the industrial nations. Keep in mind that Hussein had used chemical weapons in the past and should have nuclear weapons in a few years. These are the main reasons for the massive build up in the Saudi desert.

Now even some of the most liberal members in Congress have thrown their support into behind

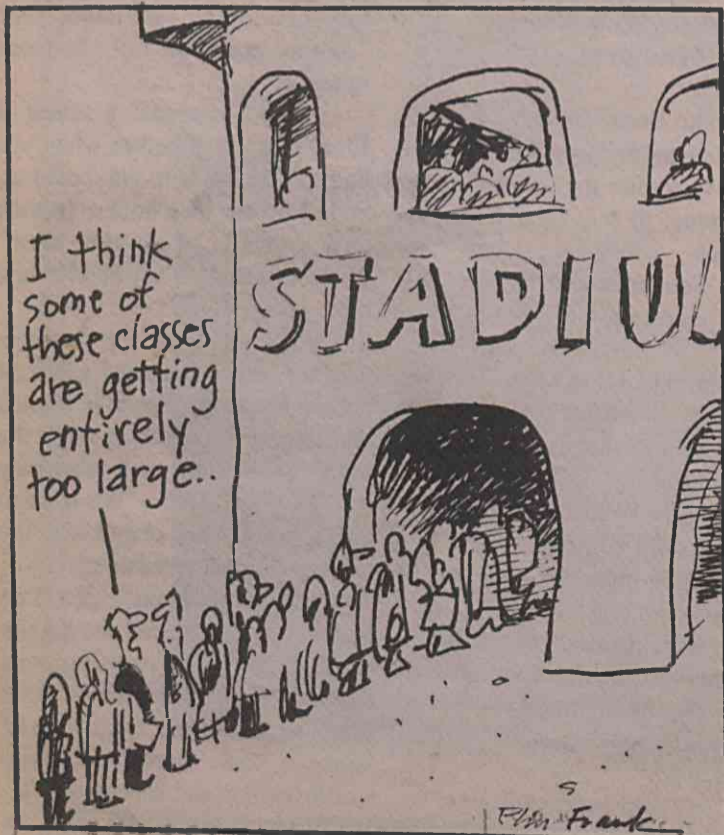
the defense of Saudia Arabia. Alan Cranston, who has rejected many weapon sales to the Saudi military in the past, was shown on a CNN report at a Saudi airbase agreeing with the need for more weapon sales to the Middle East. Could this mean the Conservatives were right after all? It is a scary thought to think what may have happened to Saudia Arabia if the defense budget had been cut back as much as some members of Congress wanted.

There are going to be some tough decisions to be made in Congress this year. The budget and the deficit are going to be difficult to handle with our presence in Saudia Arabia. Maybe people realize what a well trained, well equipped military can do. I only hope that our Allies will begin to assist us. We have bailed Europe out of two crises this century already. It's about time for them to help themselves.

Remember to wear your red, white and blue ribbons.

### Frankly Speaking

*by Phil Frank*



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