

Cigarette companies kill like worst criminals in US

To the Editor:

Your money and your life! That has been the proposition posed to America by the worst criminals to ever hit this country. The crooks are cigarette companies who have for decades after decades marketed highly dangerous and deadly products that they have claimed to be harmless.

The recent revelation that the major companies knew of the great dangers of cigarette smoking and remained quiet was not surprising to me at all, but just a mere drop in the bucket of many things in our society that are both hazardous to your health and costly to your pocket.

We shouldn't just point the blame at the cigarette companies, because our wonderful government knows what's going on within every profitable industry. So, who does America turn to for help? I know who, the great gatekeepers of our society, the media, right?

Well, sometimes yes, but in this case- no! Especially when some things are so well covered in bureaucratic red tape that your best investigative reporter can only come up empty and then of course there is the fact that the media runs on advertising and the tobacco industry is a billion dollar

LETTERS

To The Editor

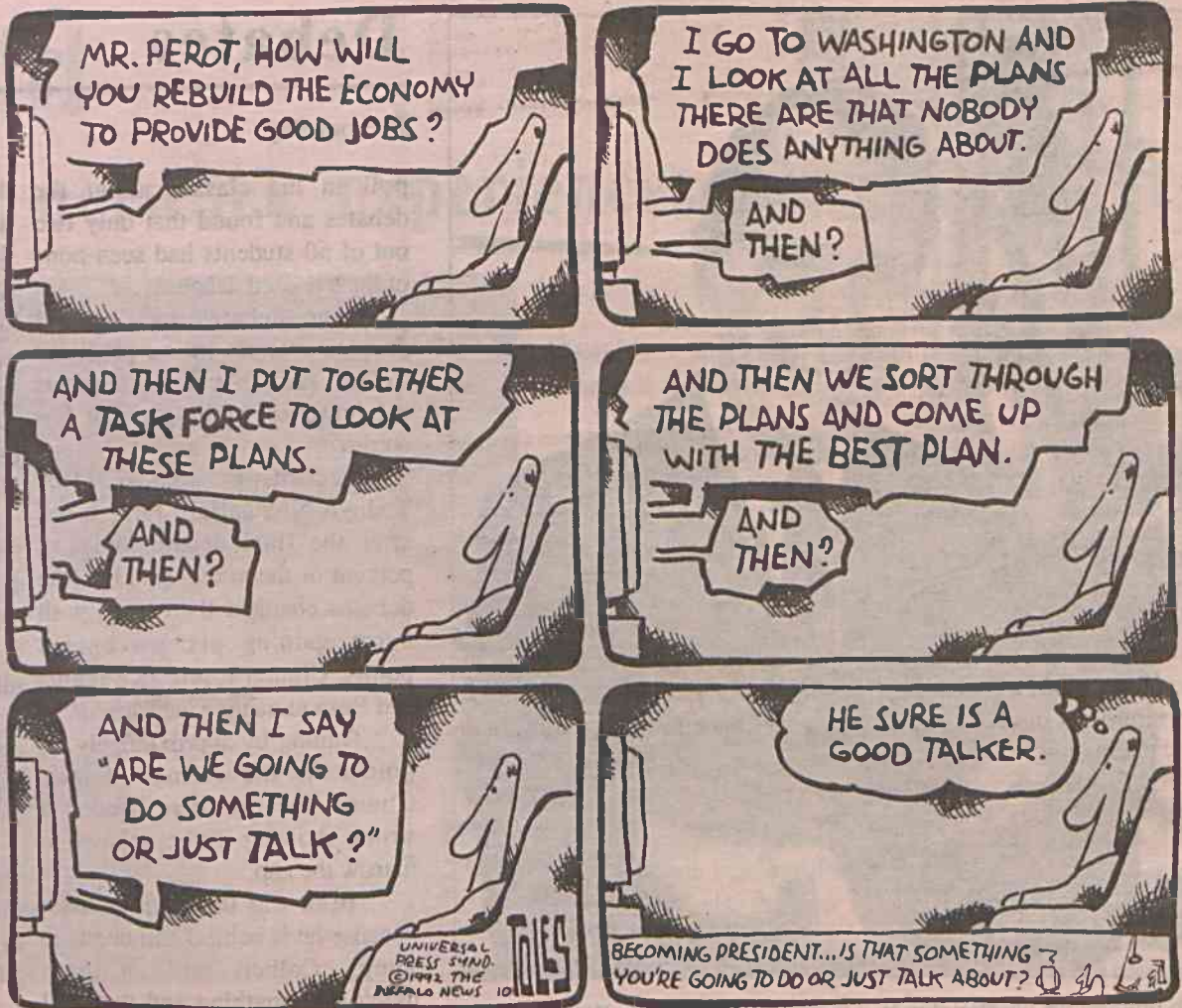
business-need I say more?

So, where does that leave the American victims (excuse me) American citizens. It leaves us with record number cigarette smoking related deaths each year and a blurry future. America has serious heart problems, emphysema and no health insurance to pay the bills.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but didn't the good old cigarette companies clean up their act when the surgeon general cracked down on them. Of course not, but they did spend millions of dollars to make the cigarettes look healthier and when they did have an opportunity to market a safer product, decided against it because it would have been admitting their cigarettes were dangerous.

Just maybe I've been a little too harsh on the cigarette companies, because nobody is forced to smoke and many people do make an honest living off of tobacco, but does society have the right to know what it is getting in to. I would like to think so.

Dan Ridley



Student calls for racial unity at Elon

To the Editor:

Here at Elon College the African - American students express a dire need for change. We as students want our vote to be heard by the Elon College community. In all essence, things will no longer be as they once were.

We cannot have a change if we continue to separate ourselves. If we do not join forces, we will never be heard. It is time for us, the new generation, to start to make a difference, not as individuals, but with support of all our sisters and brothers. We have shown that we here at Elon are very powerful. All we have to do is come together and increase

that power and we will rewrite history forever.

Change cannot happen if we do not express our opinion. In order for us to have an impact on the Elon College community, our voice must be heard, united and strong.

Someone recently told me that we have nothing to prove to the Elon community. True, but we have much to prove to ourselves; that we as a people, united, can work together towards a common goal. We might not all get along, but we should drop our differences to come together as one.

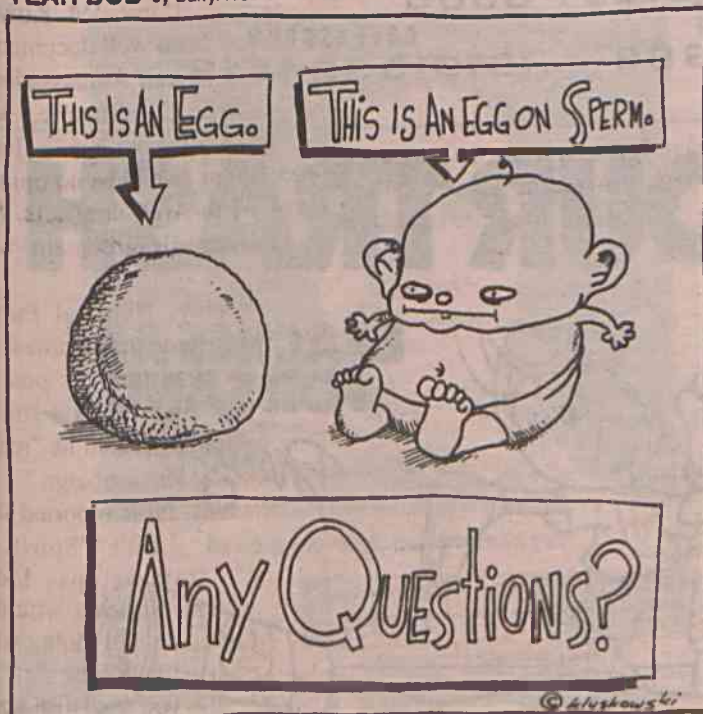
Through becoming a united front, we owe it to our great

ancestors; who if it wasn't for their unity and strength we would not even be at Elon! We owe it to our sisters and brothers at home, who look upon us to change the world. We owe it to our unborn children who will expect us to guide them toward the spiritual harmony that our great ancestors once had. We owe it to our souls to live up to the potential that has been implanted in each of us. It is now time for our collective voice to be heard, to let it shock the world, as the mighty lion's roar has shocked the motherland.

No one loves our heritage as much as I do.

Ajamu Khalil Ekulona

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You're smart enough to know the difference between perestroika and glasnost.

And you're still smoking?