

Editorial

Local media have missed "little Elon"

When former Prime Minister of Israel Ehud Barak visited campus last week, the local media picked up the story. One station covered the story on several newscasts. In one, they asked the question: "How does little Elon get someone like Barak?" They treated Barak's visit like it was a once-in-a-lifetime event. For the station that has missed Elon for the past few years, we encourage you to open your eyes. Elon continually hosts today's greatest leaders, historians and authors.

In the past few years, such well known world leaders as Queen Noor of Jordan, former President George Bush, consumer advocate Ralph Nadar, former President of Poland Lech Walesa and Pulitzer-Prize winning historian David McCullough have graced Elon's

campus. This series of amazing speakers will continue as Jane Goodall is scheduled to speak at Honors Convocation and Walter Cronkite, the next spring.

For a long time, Elon has been a hidden treasure in North Carolina. Natives often ask where the school is located, yet you ask people from out-of-state, and they know exactly what you're talking about. In a state that has such great public universities, Elon has always been in the shadows. We're tired of not being recognized for what we are.

We can't help but wonder if the local media are following the lead of the national media. After recent attention in such media greats at the New York Times, USA Today and Time magazine, are the local media just now catching on? Shame on you, Elon is in your backyard.

Elon's presence as a competi-

tive university may have yet to be solidified, but it's demand is growing steadily. In just the last five years, enrollment has soared. Applications start flooding admissions in September for the following year. Elon is becoming *the* school in the South to go to for a liberal arts education.

The school has also gained national attention for its study abroad and internship programs, its faculty/student relationships and its new student orientation. With all this, the school is still continually looking to expand.

Plans for the next several years include an academic village, a new business school and the development of more masters programs. "Little Elon" has some gigantic goals, and if history is any indication of the future, the school will only continue to improve.

To everyone out there who ever had doubts about Elon: Don't underestimate our school; we'll only prove you wrong.

The views and ideas expressed in Opinions are not necessarily those of The Pendulum, its staff or Elon University.

Media killing us since attacks

Cameron DeJong

Columnist

While reading a news Web site, I came across a headline that read, "How Prepared is Your City?" The headline was for CNN.com's report on American cities' preparedness for a potential terrorist attack.

Is this news that should be printed on a web site for everyone, including terrorist networks, to see? Or has the media gotten so far out of hand with giving out information that it gives out that they are going to be the group responsible for the next terrorist incident on our soil?

It all goes back to the days after September 11. News sources, with one known exception, would reveal the location of our President and other high officials in our country. The excep-

tion, Fox News, publicly announced it was not wise to disclose certain information, as it was only going to enhance the capabilities of various terrorist groups.

The problem with news organizations is that they want high ratings and will sacrifice a lot for them. People are naturally attracted to interesting news items, and American citizens are the type that wants to know everything about everyone. This includes the location of various officials and the lack of security in some cities.

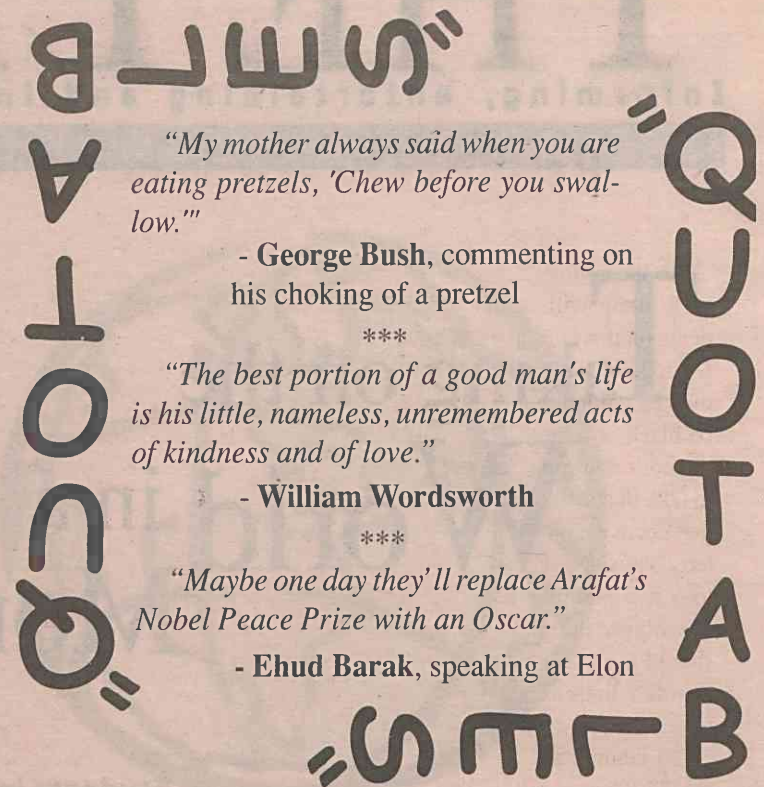
Fox gets their ratings with Bill O'Reilly. MSNBC gets their ratings with Chris Matthews. Apparently CNN doesn't have a personality to draw in ratings, so they potentially reveal the results of a study that does not need to be publicized to the world.

I would encourage the media, whether it is on a local or national

level, to think twice before printing information that is eye-candy to terrorists around the globe. If we want to be protective of citizens, we need to recognize that since we were children, most of us were taught that wants and needs are two different things. While some of us may want to know all things about every city, person, town, state, nation, dog and cat we must realize that we do not need to know it all.

I close by encouraging all Elon community members to stay out of the following cities; Oh wait, could there be a terrorist reading *The Pendulum* this week? Unlike some news outlets, I'd rather be safe than sorry.

What do you think?
Tell us.
Pendulum@elon.edu



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7012 Campus Box
Elon, NC 27244
Newsroom: 278-7247
Fax: 278-7246
E-mail: pendulum@elon.edu

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