

THE PENDULUM

Volume 29, Issue 18

February 26, 2004

www.elon.edu/pendulum

If it matters to you, it matters to The Pendulum.

Countywide drug bust nabs 49 high schoolers

Steve Earley

Copy Editor

Forty-nine Alamance County high school students and nine others of high school age were arrested on drug charges Feb. 4 as the result of a six-month undercover operation by local law enforcement.

The bust was the largest ever conducted in Alamance County schools and the first to involve all six high schools, said Randy Jones, director of public information for the county's sheriff's department.

Burlington and Graham police departments also took part in the operation, in which undercover officers enrolled at the high schools and posed as students.

Charges included selling or intending to sell marijuana, cocaine and various prescription drugs.

"Our hearts go out to the young people and their families who have been caught in the web of the drug culture," Superintendent Jim Merrill said in a statement released the day of the bust. "We wish it were not so in our schools and in our community, but we will take whatever steps necessary to assure the safety and well being of our students and staff."

Merrill requested the assistance of law enforcement in combating the system's drug problem after administrative reports and parent and staff surveys suggested drug and alcohol use in schools was an increasing concern.

Students were arrested at every high school except Western, where, Jones said, word got passed around that there was an officer posing as a student.

"That's one of the risks you take," Jones said, adding that all eight undercover officers involved were accused of being an officer at one time or another.

Among those arrested was Eastern

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Award-winning newsman visits campus

Ashley Feibish

News Editor

Former war correspondent and ABC "Good Morning America" anchorman Steve Bell is on campus this week serving as the Visiting Professor of Leadership.

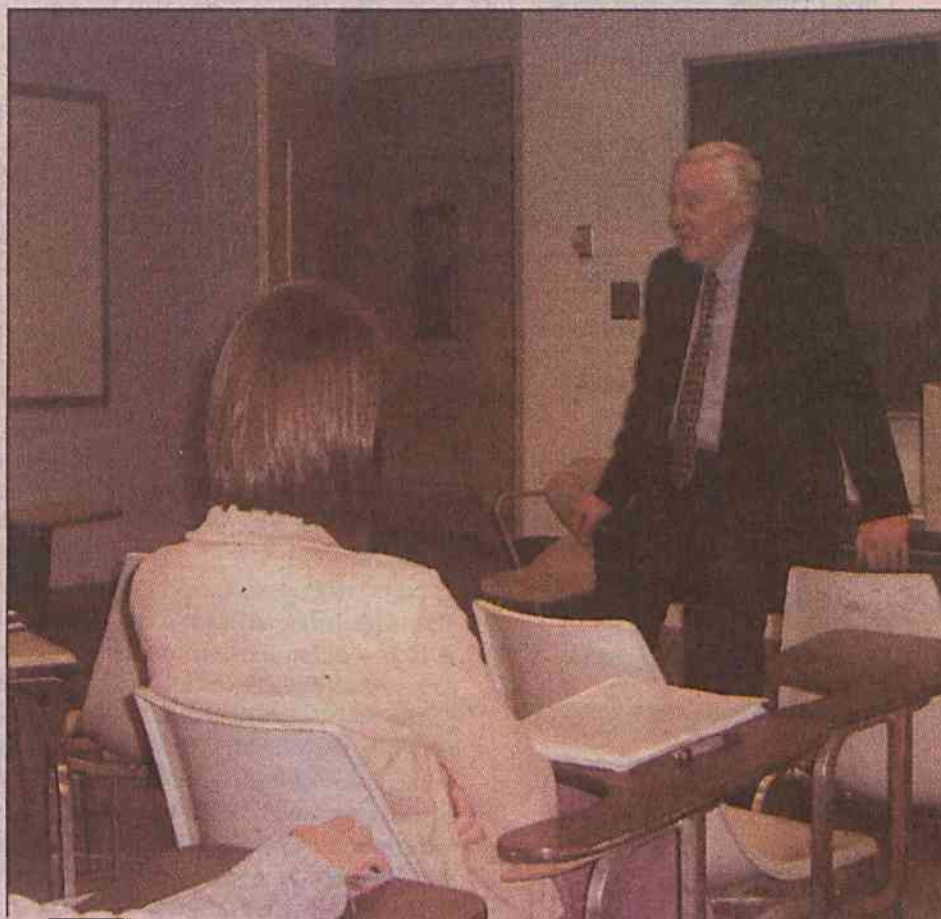
Bell arrived Tuesday night and will be on campus until Friday. His schedule allows him to interact with students and faculty throughout the day during his stay. In addition to his lectures, Bell will visit communications classes, members of the Isabella Cannon Leadership Program and meet with faculty members.

Rex Waters, assistant dean of students, said many people are responsible for bringing Bell to campus. Students and faculty submitted nominations and requests. Ultimately, Gerry Francis, provost and vice president for academic affairs, Nancy Midgette, associate provost and President Leo Lambert chose to bring Bell to campus.

"They (visiting professors) have to be able to come and stay for an extended period. That's one of the key components because we want them to have multiple interactions on campus," Waters said.

Senior Dan Hanson will be the liaison between Bell and the school during his stay.

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Ashley Feibish / Photographer

Visiting Professor of Leadership Steve Bell spoke to Laura Roselle's Media at War class on Wednesday. Bell will visit several classrooms during his time at Elon in addition to giving his public lectures, the second of which will be tonight at 7:30 in Whitley Auditorium.

University prepares for bypass construction delay

Jay Dorne

Asst. News Editor

Construction plans in Alamance County have changed, delaying completion of a new highway bypass that will provide an alternative entrance to the university.

Elon officials had been planning for the interchange to be completed in time move-in day in the fall, according to Gerald Whittington, vice president for business, finance and technology. He said that the university is using the extra time to consider further transportation options.

The delays have been a result of inclement

weather and problems with contractors throughout the past two years, according to county transportation officials.

"Since last year it's been considerably wet, which is abnormal for the construction seasons," said Donnie Huffines, resident engineer for Alamance County. "We are behind schedule, but are making efforts to catch up and progress."

The interchange is part of the Western Alamance loop, a state-funded construction project designed to connect the northern and southern regions of the county. When completed, there will be a four-lane bypass con-

necting US 70 and Kirkpatrick Road.

A separate construction project in the area surrounding Cook Road will allow access to Elon by way of University Drive. This project, which has been an estimated cost just more than \$24 million, has two major parts, according to Mike Nunn, transportation manager for the city of Burlington.

US 70 will connect to Westbrook Avenue, a section that Nunn said will be finished by 2005. The more complicated section will connect Westbrook and the existing University Drive with a bypass over Haggard Avenue.

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P14: What are Elon students planning to do over spring break?

P22: Men's basketball team takes on UNC-Greensboro Saturday.