

Award-winning journalist William Blum to address Elon

Speech titled "Expanding the American Empire Under the Cover of the War on Terrorism"

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Reporter

Author William Blum, a vocal opponent of political parties, will address Elon students, faculty and staff at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 7 in Whitley Auditorium.

His discussion, titled "Expanding the American Empire Under the Cover of the 'War on Terrorism,'" will cover his opinions on the American government

"(Blum) is an expert as a journalist, and I think that he has a different view point than a historian might possibly have," said Christina Nemcik, assistant professor of history.

Blum has studied CIA interventions in Latin America and therefore has a personal perspective on the region, Nemcik said.

Blum is an opponent of established parties, such as Republican or Democrats. He said he is "bored with the international campaign."

Blum said he prefers Ralph Nader

because he thinks Sen. John Kerry is no better than President George Bush.

Blum said he became dissident toward the U.S. government in 1967 when he resigned from the State Department because he did not agree with the Vietnam War. He then went on to create, and become an editor, of the Washington Free Press until 1969.

"If the Washington Free Press were still produced, the newspaper would point out the great shortcomings of both the presidential incumbent and candidate," Blum said.

Blum has a history of investigating the American government.

In 1997, he received an "Excellence in Journalism" award from Project Censored, an organization dedicated to educating people about independent journalism. The article for which he won the award uncovered information on how the United States gave Iraq the materials to make chemical and biological weapons.

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—William Blum, journalist

He has published three books. "Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Interventions since World War II" will be sold at his speech. He has also written "Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower" and "West-Bloc Dissident: A Cold War Memoir" (2002).

Though Blum has traveled to Europe and South America, he grew up in New York and did not see Manhattan until he was 12 or 13.

"My neighborhood was my world," Blum said. "I didn't know anything else."

The New York native now resides in Washington, and he said the differences

between the two cities are easily noticeable. "If you live in politics it would be different, but I am an outsider of politics," Blum said.

Blum encourages students to read part of his books before his visit. He said he wants to get involved in good discussions.

"I hope in the question-and-answer session people come who have opposite views than me," Blum said. "I enjoy when people who are opposed to my point of view come to ask questions."

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Breaking through the bubble

Jeanne leaves behind yet more damage in Florida

Hurricane Jeanne, the fourth hurricane to hit Florida in six weeks, added \$6 billion worth of damage to the nearly \$12 billion total estimated from Charley, Frances and Ivan. This total beats the \$15 billion tally from Hurricane Andrew that hit the Panhandle state in 1992, the world's costliest natural disaster at the time. At least 79 people have been killed by the four storms in Florida.

Recent polls show Bush ahead in the Buckeye state

Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry has campaigned in Ohio 17 times. And on Monday, President George W. Bush returns to the Buckeye State for the 26th visit of his presidency.

Such areas of southwestern Ohio have been a Republican stronghold for decades and gave Bush large majorities that helped build his victory against Democrat Al Gore in the state in 2000. Ohio, along with Florida, is Kerry's biggest and best opportunity to dent Bush's advantage in the race to get the needed 270 electoral votes. Ohio provides 20 of those votes. At the moment, Bush is up by 11 percent.

Kenya urges other nations to protect the lions

Kenya is one of the African lion's biggest champions. The Kenya Wildlife Service is pushing a plan to give the African lion maximum protection under a U.N. body that governs trade in endangered or threatened plants and animals. The proposal will most likely face opposition from other nations. However, the lion population has declined by more than 50 percent.

Security officials still fear fall attack

Although no additional or specific information has been received, officials at the Homeland Security Department believe they have no choice but to act as though an attack is in the works. There's still a general concern about an attack in the fall that could be timed toward the election, according to Roger Cressey, NBC News Terrorism Analyst. Many tactics are being planned to make sure the United States is prepared.

Texas names first black high court chief justice

Wallace B. Jefferson, a descendant of slaves and the first black member of the Texas Supreme Court, became the court's first black chief justice Tuesday.

Gov. Rick Perry appointed Jefferson to replace Tom Phillips, who stepped down earlier this month after nearly 17 years as chief justice to become a law professor in Houston. Eleven other states, including six others in the former Confederacy, have had a black chief justice.

O'Brien to take over for Leno

Jay Leno and NBC on Monday chose the 50th anniversary of the first "Tonight Show" to set a special date for the 55th — when Leno, current host of "The Tonight Show," will step down and Conan O'Brien, host of "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," becomes the fifth host of the television institution. NBC was anxious to announce the transition in order to keep O'Brien from switching networks.