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The Press on the Press

[Editors' Note: Following the publication of the Ellsberg Papers and the uncovering of the Watergate scandals, the press has been under constant fire. Almost no area of newspaper rights and responsibilities has remained unexamined, and the role of the student press in no exception. Cavalier Daily Editor-in-Chief Majorie Leedy and Managing Editor Scott Weisenberger discuss their views on student journalism in an interview with Declaration Executive Editor Chris Schroder which was transcribed by Assistant Editors Barbara Connolly and Bucky Green.]

LEEDY: Lenny will do some research, or ask his editorial assistant to do some research. Then he'll come back and we'll talk it over. On a number of occasions it has taken a couple of hours. We've spent entire days or entire weekends talking about a particular editorial. Lenny usually writes the editorial and Scott and I both edit.

DECLARATION: So do you vote on policy, or operate on a consensus basis?

LEEDY: Well, it's more of a consensus view. We don't usually vote although my vote with another Managing Board member's could override the other

DECLARATION: You put the Elkins story on the AP wire. Do you feel that with a story like that it is your obligation to send it to other newspapers? Is it more of an informational service? Why was that decision made to put the Elkins story on the AP wire?

LEEDY: That's an important story for the University community; it's a story that other newspapers would be interested in and that people would be interested in. The decision to put the story over the AP wire, we considered, was really no different from the decision to print the story and once we decided to print the story we found no legitimate reason not to send it over the wire.