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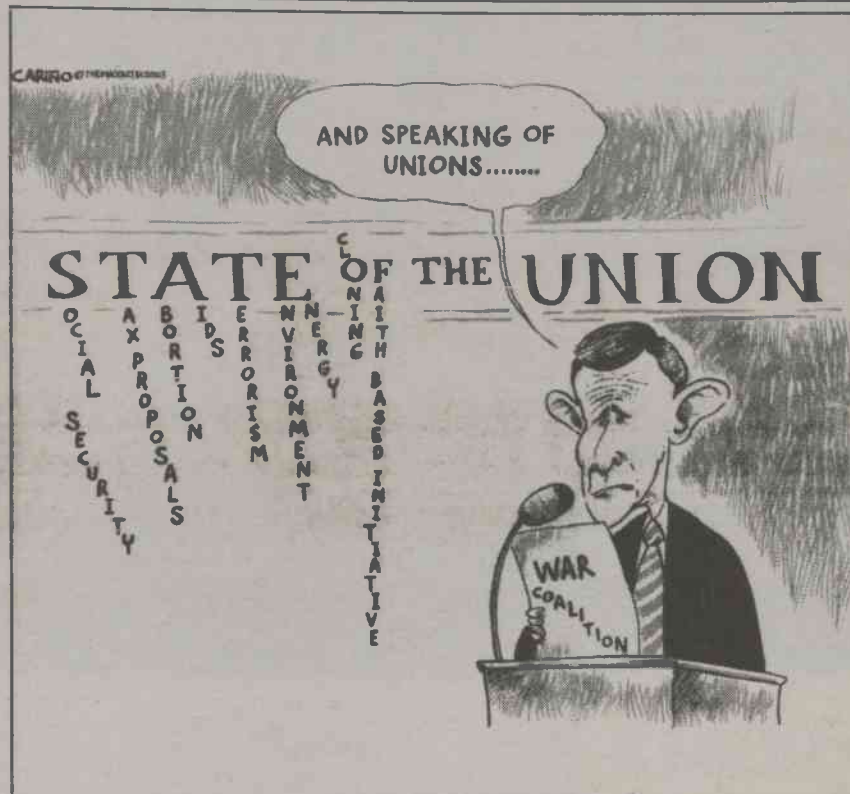
The Seahawk welcomes inquiries and encourages letters to the editor.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY**

The Seahawk encourages all readers to submit letters to the editor for possible publication. Please limit correspondence to 300 words. The Seahawk may edit letters for space. The Seahawk reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter. Libelous, false and misleading material will not be considered for publication. All letters must be signed by the author. Letters to the editor are the individual opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Seahawk staff or the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Letters can be submitted in person at the Seahawk office located next to the Bookstore, by mail at the Seahawk Newspaper, 601 S. College Rd. Wilmington, N.C. 28403-5624 or by e-mail at editor@theseahawk.org.

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# Seahawk Viewpoints



**LETTER TO THE EDITOR: DEAN CASAGRANDE**

On January 30, 2003, the *Wall Street Journal* published an open letter titled "United We Stand." The letter was signed by the prime ministers of Spain, Portugal, Italy, the U.K., Hungary, Poland and Denmark, and the president of the Czech Republic. These eight countries, all part of the European Union, support President Bush.

"Thanks in large part to American bravery, generosity and farsightedness, Europe was set free from the two forms of tyranny that devastated our continent in the 20th century: Nazism and communism," they said in their letter.

In addition, German voters have rejected Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democratic party, which has largely made a campaign by attacking the Bush administration and its potential U.S. war against

Iraq. Voters and opposition leaders flaunted posters saying: "The Red-Greens are finished," at the elections on Sunday, and for the time being they are. This is at a time when our own Democratic party at home seems to survive on criticizing what they make appear to be an isolated war-monger president; in the heated words of John Kerrey, democratic senator of Massachusetts, Bush's policy can be characterized in two words: "(as) blustering unilateralism." The evidence of 12 years and security-council resolution 1441 amongst other classified evidence is primary in Bush's decision-making, which may be partially unveiled by Colin Powell this week before the U.N. strength in numbers is only an after thought, and rightly should be. Fifty million Frenchmen can always be wrong.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR: RICKY MEEKS**

I would like to say that UNCW picked a great police chief. I have known Captain David Donaldson for the last few years and I am happy to see that Captain Donaldson has become Chief Donaldson. Students and the staff at UNCW should get to know the new UNCW Police Chief. Police officers have a hard job to do. They need your help. There are many days and nights we need

them also. It is alright to say "hello" and "thanks" to a police officer. Do not think about what a police officer doesn't do for you, see what they do for us. I don't know who goes to more UNCW ballgames your new Chief or myself. Good Luck Chief Donaldson and thanks for the great work of the UNCW Police Department.

## COLUMBIA TRAGEDY HITS EVERYONE IN DIFFERENT WAYS

The space program represents the strength and determination of our nation.

A tiny piece of many Americans died on the morning of February 2, 2003.

One would be hard pressed to find a person who, in their youth, did not aspire to be an astronaut when they grew up. Many people let that dream fall to the wayside, but for a select few, their dream became a reality.

For the seven astronauts on the space shuttle Columbia, their dream ended in a nightmare. NASA reports that the shuttle broke apart while traveling at over 18 times the speed of sound at an elevation in excess of 200,000 feet.

All across America people woke up to the horrific news of the destroyed shuttle.

The news was painful for those who listened on the radio, and even more disturbing for those who saw the images of the shuttle debris flash across their television screens.

This was not just the death of seven brave souls, but the death of a small part of many Americans and the country as a whole.

The space program represents the strength and determination of our nation. At a time when it was feared that a nuclear war with the Soviet Union could start at any moment, the space program was a bright spot, showing America's determination and power.

With the tragic death of those seven brave astronauts, America has been dealt a severe blow. Americans will keep in their hearts the brave men and women aboard the Columbia.

**This issue is dedicated to all involved with the NASA space program and the Columbia.**