

American government is brain dead

By GRANT LONG

As I have written in my early works this year, most Americans continue to look at politics in an increasingly cynical manner. If you were to ask the majority of the American population what was going on in Washington, they couldn't tell you what was going on in Capital Hill, but they would know that the Washington Redskins are having a remarkable season.

Which is why I ask myself, is politics in America a lost social science or is it just dead? To answer that question we must examine the political system we live under, also look at the people who run that system, and what problems plague our country. Then we must ask ourselves, does American politics have a pulse or are we just waiting for rigor mortis to set in?

First off, I can say American politics are highly ineffective because of all the bureaucratic red tape that is involved. As most people know, there are about a million government agencies which have to sort through and enforce the laws that the Congress passes.

The DMV is just one of these many agencies and most people know from experience how bureaucratic this agency is. Who enjoys spending half a day in the DMV getting a driver's license or those personalized tags that you want for your car or filling out 18 different forms just to get a little

piece of laminated plastic telling you that you can drive. The sad thing is that this is at the state level, and government is even more bureaucratic at the national level.

For example let's look at the Environmental Protection Agency. Sure it's their job to take care of the environment, but it's getting harder and harder to enforce environmental changes when it is so expensive to correct them. It cost billions of dollars a year to focus in on environmental changes such as clean air and water, not to mention fighting against toxic waste and nuclear energy. All these costs continue to mount, but the money needed to make these changes is not on the rise. All this makes the EPA a token government organization.

The environment is also brought up in a lot of political discussion, but nothing is being done to preserve it. Clinton and Dole are chasing the White House, but what are they doing about the water we drink and the air we breathe? In 1994 Congress passed NAFTA which allows U.S. companies to move their operations places like Mexico and pollute their environment, but moving the problem to another country is not a solution.

Another thing that is wrong with the government is that it was set up for the rich and not the poor, but before you disagree with me just let me prove my point. Just think about who made up this form of government —

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people like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Alexander Hamilton. They were during their time some of the richest people in America. They set up the government to protect their land interest, not out of concern for the people. Sure you read the constitution and you have the right to freedom of speech, religion, and the right to bear arms, but how much else of the Constitution applies to your everyday person?

The justice system was even set up to protect the rich — case and point O.J. Simpson. If our founding fathers had everybody in mind when they wrote the constitution then why did women have to wait until 1920 to vote, why did slavery exist until the Civil War, and how come the American Indians — who were here centuries before the Pilgrims ever landed on Plymouth Rock — were not officially recognized as citizens until 1924?

All this has rolled over into modern day politics, because our founding fathers wanted it that way. The government has gone through many changes since 1776, but it did not become a true government for the people until Franklin D. Roosevelt's great society. Until 1933 all the government did was collect taxes, build roads, and deliver your mail, but as the Depression hit the nation so did bigger government. It grew under Lyndon Johnson's in the

'60's and suffered under Reagan in the '80's.

Before we all congratulate Reagan on his presidency, let's look at how he harmed our economy. First, he cut taxes across the board, but he shifted the tax burden upwards instead of giving the poor a tax break like he should have. In 1981, America was the biggest lender nation in the world; in 1986 we were the largest debtor nation, thanks to Reaganomics.

Reagan's economic policies created a huge national debt that our grandchildren won't be able to pay off. The election of George Bush in 1988 did nothing to help the problem.

When Clinton came to the White House in 1992, he vowed to fix America's economic problem, and with what he had to work with he did a pretty good job. He did raise taxes, but the tax increase helped the economy, which is flourishing right now. Clinton had many goals when he came into office in 1992, but he couldn't get much done in Congress because the members of his own party were against him.

So what does the American public do to help him out? In 1994, they gave him a Republican Congress which just adds to all the gridlock already in Washington. So before anyone criticizes Clinton's presidency, just look how much support American voters gave him.

Another thing that is bad about American politics is that if you do not belong to a political group or if you're not able to contribute

to a politician's campaign fund, they treat you like someone who has caught the Ebola virus. These days ordinary people can't get politicians to talk about legislation that affects them. Politicians are just concerned about all the money they can get from Political Action Committees, which basically just raise money for campaigns. They do this instead of finding shelters for the homeless, feeding starving children, giving tax relief to those who need it, and improving education and increasing student loans.

We now know that the American political system we live under is in a coma. More and more people are getting fed up with all of the bureaucratic mumbo jumbo. The reason I say this is because the system seems like it is helping those who can afford it instead of those who need it. If America is supposed to be a great country then why are people starving, why are people unemployed, and why do politicians take care of the people who can donate to their campaign fund but fail to represent the people who put them where they are and pay their salaries?

Government has become about putting things off and finding temporary solutions to problems instead of permanent ones. That is why we have our founding fathers to thank for the mess that we are in because that's the way they designed our government. As far as I am concerned, government is brain dead and on a respirator — and we should pull the plug.

SGA article misleading

Dear Editor:

I am writing to you in reference to an article in the N.C. Wesleyan College *Decree* newspaper published on Oct. 18.

The article "SGA proposes fall allocations" written by a Mr. James Bell may be misleading in the last section of the article. It states, "Some clubs were completely cut from this year's SGA budget proposal. Clubs like Student Radio, Student Republicans, psychology, and the freshman class failed to receive any money at all for the fall 1996 semester."

This information is misleading. These clubs were given the opportunity to receive funds in the given time constraints that are outlined by the SGA constitution and by letters and memos sent to these organizations by the officers of the Student Government weeks before the budget deadline.

Letters to the Editor

Student Radio, College Republicans, the Multiculture Awareness Organization, and the Freshman class failed to submit a budget. The Psychology Club decided to not submit a budget.

All SGA-recognized campus organizations, except the individual Greek organizations, can petition SGA for additional funds if needed from the Student Government Contingency Fund.

I do thank *The Decree* for the continuous support of the SGA and for its coverage of our meetings.

Scott C. Cuvillo
SGA President

