

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

Keep politics out of the fight

Debate among Congressmen this week about the year's hottest media story typifies the re-election mindset: Find a sexy issue that guarantees exposure to the voters and run with it.

Questions surrounding drugs in American society have dominated the national media for months. Coverage of the scourge has been so prevalent that some journalists are wondering if the publicity is, as a July article in *The New Republic* asked, "discouraging potential users, or piquing their interest?"

This week, the interest of Congressmen has not only been piqued, but commandeered as a junkie is gripped while searching for his next high. On Thursday, the House overwhelmingly approved a bill that would, among other things, require the use of the military and reinstate use of the death penalty for certain drug-related offenses.

The uncommon hastiness with which proposals have been ushered through both the House and Senate raises doubts about whether this legislation is designed to catch crooks or attract constituents.

"That's my fear, that it's a passing fancy," U.S. Rep. Leon E. Panetta, D-Calif., said Wednesday about his

assessment of where the drug law issue could potentially go after Nov. 4 — trampled by the next issue bandwagon. The wave of what stories are hot and which ones are not ebbs and flows. Describing the nation's drug problem as the top deterrent to national security may sound melodramatic, but it is not an easily disputed viewpoint. The tremendous influx of drugs must be stemmed.

Patchwork measures passed in the heat of campaigns that throw money at the situation will not cure the "epidemic," as some people have labeled it. At least some of the programs being discussed are good ones, such as increased funding for federal and local drug enforcement and federally subsidized drug education programs.

But the validity of several suggested programs has come under fire. A Washington Post editorial Thursday rightfully questioned, for example, the proposed commissioning of a study of the relationship between drugs and highway safety.

More effective programs must be funded after the elections — programs that escape the Gramm-Rudman ax — if this blight is to be erased. Hysterics alone won't erase the threat posed by drugs.

A bad example to set

The timing is ironic. In the same week the State Budget Office has asked the 16 institutions in the University of North Carolina system to prepare for a possible budget cut, the office's manual is found to allow state employees to be reimbursed for free hotel rooms.

The issue surfaced when *The News and Observer* reported Thursday that A. Craig Phillips, state superintendent of public instruction, received 10 nights free lodging during a convention at Asheville's Grove Park Inn — and collected \$441 from the state to cover the "expenses." Nine other members of the state's Department of Public Instruction have also stayed in free hotel rooms while attending business meetings and then billed the state.

And it's all legal, since the State Budget Office switched from a reimbursement to an allowance system for state employee business expenses. Under the rules, an employee may collect \$32 per night for lodging, regardless of the actual cost.

Of course, situations arise when the system does not work to the

employee's benefit, when a \$32 hotel room might not be found. But that gives state employees, particularly those as high ranking as Phillips, no right to charge taxpayers for free rooms. Those complimentary rooms, by the way, are often given by hotels after a minimum number of lodgings are booked.

It's not the amount of money involved (about \$3,000) that is disturbing. But the attitude of state officials who would charge the state for lodgings they did not have to pay for is disconcerting. The fault lies not so much with the employees as with the budget rules, which practically encourage them to do so.

The rules are prepared by the same office which asked the UNC system to prepare a 3 percent budget cut for the upcoming fiscal biennium. Though officials said the request was made to identify "marginal programs," it created worries about possible cuts in income for the school system.

Maybe the budget office should look in its own guidelines for ways to identify "marginal programs" before turning attention elsewhere.

Tar Heel Forum

Diplomacy, not bombs for Libya

Keith Cooper
 Guest Writer

Although there are rumors in the media that President Reagan may order another attack on Libya in the near future, I oppose another American bombing of the country. I wish the president, for once, would allow common sense to dictate prudent and appropriate actions.

"The Great Communicator" has an amazing ability to capture and exploit the confidence of the American public. This time, he's used that ability to convince Americans that Libyan leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi is more dangerous and threatening than he actually is. The president is, in this respect, paranoid — which, in combination with his apparent senility, is dangerous. In my judgment, Reagan is one of the most dangerous men in the world, and his narrow scope on Libya and its unpredictable motives is in itself a threat to our national security and interests.

It is likely that Gadhafi is a dangerous man, but he by no means merits the attention Reagan's been giving him. Why is this country rapidly becoming the target of the Arab world? Unless the present leadership in Washington is soon replaced by leaders concerned with promoting peace and harmony for the sake of mankind, a bloodbath in the Mediterranean will become imminent.

I believe that the main reason Reagan and Gadhafi do not get along lies with the United States' allegiance to Israel. Reagan feels that his strong support for Israel is biblically justified. Is the Bible the reason so many people feel that Jews are the original inhabitants of Palestine?

If so, they should examine the book of Genesis. According to the passage, God promised the land of Canaan (or Palestine) to Abraham, ancestor of both Arabs and Jews. Moreover, the promise was made on the occasion of the circumcision of Ishmael, Abraham's older son and ancestor of the Arabs — before the birth of Isaac, Abraham's second son and ancestor of the Jews.

I do support Israel but, unlike Reagan, I believe the Palestinian Arabs have a right to self-determination and nationhood. This is the core of Middle East terrorism; Palestinian Arabs resort to terrorism because they, unlike Israel, lack the political institutions and efficacies to voice consol-

idated grievances. Palestinian terrorists, whom some scholars call "freedom fighters," want their grievances redressed. This is the only way to curtail terrorism substantially — bombing Libya is not.

Gadhafi only wants to unify the Arab world and promote solidarity. Simultaneously, however, the Reagan administration has its own selfish interest in the Arab world, namely economic gain in strategic areas, which only results in greater conflict.

Gadhafi will probably avenge the killing of his adopted daughter. As the honorable Jimmy Carter said: "If... someone had killed Amy, I would not have rested until her killer was punished." I might add that the reason Gadhafi is rather quiet now is because he is planning retaliation against American interests in Europe or against major American cities.

I am an advocate of peace — not at the expense of war, but at the expense of effective and much-needed diplomacy. Peace cannot and will not be achieved by staging bomb raids on Libya to demonstrate military superiority. The bombing of Libya just might culminate in World War III before the year 2000.

Whether there will be Armageddon in the Middle East may depend upon the leadership in Washington. So Ronald Reagan — who proved himself a terrorist by ordering military attacks on innocent civilians in Libya — should be dismissed from office. After all, he did violate the War Powers Act by ordering the bombing without adequate Congressional approval. Reagan has also frightened Americans to the extent that many are afraid to travel abroad.

Negotiations with Libya are vital to world peace and stability. John F. Kennedy, the greatest of American presidents, once said, "We should never negotiate out of fear, but

let us never fear to negotiate." Yet Reagan maintains that he has no intentions of negotiating with terrorists. Well, why does the president support Contra-terrorists in their quest to overthrow the Sandinistas in Nicaragua? Likewise, the president supports the terrorist Pretoria regime in South Africa, a country which oppresses blacks by denying them the opportunity and right to participate in the political structure and fate of the government.

Any future bombing would have serious repercussions, just as the April attack did. On the Wednesday after the bombing, for example, an American diplomat in Khartoum, Sudan, was shot in the head. The next day, two British citizens and an American CIA agent were kidnapped and executed. Nonetheless, in the wake of the attack on Libya, moderate Arab governments joined radical nations in condemning the American attack. Saudi Arabian officials said the attack "ran counter to all international norms," while Egyptian officials viewed the attack "with anxiety and deep concern."

Attacking Libya was not only an act of war, aggression and arrogance, but it obviously added more fuel to the fire of worldwide instability. Reagan's laughter and jokes of the bombing's aftermath can be equated to a fiddle-playing Nero's thrill of watching Rome burn.

Allow me to clear the air on who is actually the major perpetrator of terrorism in the Arab world. Syria is much more supportive of terrorism than Libya. Libya, in fact, has been the victim of terrorism, too. Fairly recently, Libyan diplomats in Beirut, Rome and Madrid were kidnapped. But because Syria is the Soviet Union's main ally in the Arab World and a vital part of Middle East peace efforts, Libya became the scapegoat.

Reagan should remember the proverb, "To err is human; to forgive, divine," and re-establish diplomatic relations with Libya. But Reagan is Reagan, so he probably won't. If that's the case, he should relinquish his position as president.

Keith Cooper is a junior International Studies major from Windsor.

Drug conference

To the editor:
 Cocaine — it's a CON! Make the connection. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, CHAPS Health Services, Inc. and The Justice Foundation of North Carolina are sponsors of the Cocaine Connection Conference on Friday and Saturday at Hotel Europa in Chapel Hill. (The conference began Thursday.) Highlights of the conference will include renowned speakers from the sports and medical field, including Mercury Morris, former Miami Dolphins football player; Mike Helms, former Wake Forest University basketball standout, imprisoned on cocaine charges; Omar Aleman, Miami Drug Enforcement Agent; and Dr. Donald Jacinski, with NFL drug testing.

The conference's main objective is to educate and raise the awareness level about the growing use of cocaine in the Carolinas. For some years, cocaine has been "the drug of choice" for the wealthy and social elite, but it has now invaded all segments of our society. How is it affecting our young people, our future leaders? Drugs in sports — how do I know someone is a user? These and many other questions will be answered.

The conference's education goal is composed of a triangular model — treatment team (medical professionals), educators (health officials, teachers, coaches, counselors), and law enforcement. It is the advisory committee's intention to provide the conference participants with necessary resources to establish drug programs throughout the state. Only when North Carolini-



Letters

ans acknowledge that a drug problem exists in their very own communities can steps be taken to conquer it.

STEVE ZORN
 Senior
 Interdisciplinary Studies

Embarrassment

To the editor:
 I am embarrassed. I am not embarrassed that I went to UNC, and this is not addressed to most of you reading *The Daily Tar Heel*. But I think you do know what I am talking

about — Aug. 31, 1986, Franklin Street.

I was there the night we won the NCAA Championship and turned Franklin Street blue. That was fun — we were celebrating and everyone knew it and partied with us. But that Sunday night was ridiculous and disgusting.

Yes, I realize you were protesting the loss of a time-honored tradition and right, but if you are too immature to control yourselves, you are certainly too immature to be trusted with the dangerous drug. I disagreed with the new law upping the drinking age, at least until I saw you on the news. You showed me that the

law might be right after all.

I was also there in 1980, when several thousand university students were massacred in Kwangju, Korea, for a considerably less violent protest against the loss of another right — their right to vote in a free election. You have all just shown me the difference in your priorities.

I am embarrassed. I hope you are, too.

MARY HUNTLEY-WAGNER
 Fayetteville

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THE WEEK

A collection of notable quotes for the week ending Sept. 12, 1986

NATIONAL/ INTERNATIONAL

"What we did is, we caught somebody — a Soviet diplomat in the United States, a person attached to the U.N. — spying. We arrested him. We will proceed under U.S. law. And then a few days later a newsman who was going about his business as a newsman was arrested on trumped-up charges."

Larry Speakes, White House spokesman, on Nicholas Daniloff, an American

reporter in Moscow whom the Soviet Union has accused of spying.

"No act of violence or aggression could have been so inhuman, so insane, so cruel."
 — Jak Veissid, legal adviser to Istanbul's chief rabbi, about the slaughter of 21 people in a terrorist massacre at Istanbul's largest synagogue last Saturday.

"I knew the end was coming when the lights went dark and I pushed the children down on the floor and covered them with my body."

Zeba Hamid, a passenger on Pan Am Flight 73, which was hijacked last Friday in Pakistan by four Palestinians. The hijackers killed 15 people and injured 127.

STATE/ LOCAL

"(He was) a man of great compassion and deep human understanding. His leadership as chairman of the board of trustees and his role as a political leader in the state clearly manifest his great qualities of service to his fellow man."

William C. Friday, former president of the UNC system, about Skipper Bowles, who died Sunday at 66. Bowles led a fund-raising drive for the Dean E. Smith Activities

Center that earned \$38.5 million.

"I could care less what they do in their bedroom. We all have sexual preferences, but should we have to pay for someone else's?"

— Anna Critz, Students For America vice chairman, explaining why the SFA is circulating a petition to have students decide about CGLA funding.

AND SO FORTH

"I was told that I was possessed by a demon."

William Yarbrough, a junior RTVMP major from Clemmons, about his "unique" style of dressing.

"I was not mad. I was determined that they weren't going to get away."

Marcia Sparliez of Michigan, who, when she returned home recently and found three burglars in her house, chastised them so strenuously that they returned her belongings and waited on the couch for police to arrive.

Compiled by Editorial Assistant Nicki Weisensee, a sophomore journalism major from Laurinburg.