

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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Let hearing be held

Delays in grievance process bad for all

By now, many readers are probably weary of reading about the University police department. Stories come out every day about the latest stage of police officers' grievances against the department's hiring and promotion practices — and the stories have been coming out for well over a year. In the latest news, Officer Keith Edwards has had her grievance hearing delayed again, an inexcusable move taken by the state.

board opinion

N.C. Assistant Attorney General Lars Nance, representing the University, requested last Thursday that an administrative trial judge delay Edwards' Monday grievance hearing and dismiss the case. Edwards has taken her charges of discrimination in the hiring process to Step 4, the highest level of appeal for a state employee, even though other officers have dropped their complaints and even though this has taken up most of her time since 1987. In the meantime, the University looks disorganized and the police department seems too full of internal problems to operate effectively. It's time to get these complaints cleared up and move on to reforming the police department enough to stand up to outside scrutiny.

Today, one day after Edwards' trial was to begin, the judge will hold a pre-trial hearing on the delay and dismissal motions. Even if he allows the case to con-

tinue, the state has effectively delayed the trial for at least a day.

Nance said Monday's hearing should be delayed because Edwards' attorney, Alan McSurely, asked to subpoena 34 witnesses, many of whom Nance was not familiar with. That's a fair argument, but by now, the police department has received wide publicity of its problems, and nobody has taken this in hand and dealt with it quickly and effectively. Certainly, the case requires a fair amount of time to study the charges and compile a defense, but this only makes the state look as if it cannot defend the police department's practices. While that may not be the case in the least, it simply adds to the sinking reputation of the department. Members of the University community should be concerned about the effect these delays are having on the department.

While the state may have an equally substantial defense, it seems now that Edwards' complaint has a fair amount to back it up. It's time to let both sides be heard rather than moving to delay this and dismiss it outright. If Edwards really has no grounds to complain, let that come out in the hearing. If the case does not come before the judge, it will leave festering sores in the department and too many unanswered questions in the people the police are supposed to serve. Dismissing this case would be unfair to all affected by it, even those only indirectly affected. The state cannot let that happen.

The right ranking?

Poll may fool students and officials

UNC can start whistling the Carolina Fight Song over its ranking of 18th in a U.S. News and World Report poll — an advancement from last year's number 23! UNC can now flaunt its Carolina-blue face to all those skeptics who said the University is going downhill. The fact that top professors are leaving, the state Legislature spends our tuition on highway funds and the libraries' budgets are constantly being cut certainly doesn't mean anything.

According to 56 percent of the public universities polled, UNC comes in at number 18 among its peer institutions. Poll-takers were to judge universities on faculty strength, academic excellence and administrative and financial leadership and support. So let's examine how UNC holds up to these categories:

- Faculty strength. While many excellent professors remain at UNC, it is fair to scold the N.C. General Assembly for not attempting to retain more professors. According to 1986 figures, full professors receive a base salary of \$42,000 with a few benefits thrown into the package. At least 69 comparable universities pay more than this. How could UNC possibly be ranked ahead of those other 69 schools with more appealing pay? Maybe the other categories did it for UNC.
- Administrative and financial support. Well, the chairman of the Board of Governors does support university programs throughout the system, as shown by Roddy Jones' support for N.C. State University's Athletic Director Jim Valvano. But that was at State, not UNC. The University does get many donations from alumni, but too often they go toward such

projects as the Alumni Center. Unfortunately, much of the money UNC receives (or should receive) are not spent on the most necessary additions to the campus, such as the Black Cultural Center, for which students have campaigned for about five years.

The legislature and many administrators have given little support the requests from teaching assistants for a raise. And budgets are swiftly dwindling — this year, \$60,000 was slashed from the library's budget for periodicals. The entire library budget was meagerly

increased by 1 percent, despite hikes in book and periodical prices. No, this also does not seem to be the category for which UNC won the 18th slot.

- Academic excellence. This one is pretty tough to dispute. UNC annually has a challenging admissions pool from which to choose. However, despite the high quality of students, if the curriculum is not stimulating and challenging, students will inevitably suffer. Maybe student quality has stayed high so far, but if UNC keeps ignoring its other responsibilities, it will discourage students from attending UNC.

Editors of U.S. News and World Report admit that any survey such as this cannot be accurate because many other factors should be considered. But students, the administration and the legislature may still be fooled by the high ranking, and that would be wrong. UNC must continue to strive for excellence and improvement. A beautiful campus and a nationally-respected basketball team simply cannot be enough for UNC to make the ranks. — Jennifer Wing

The Daily Tar Heel

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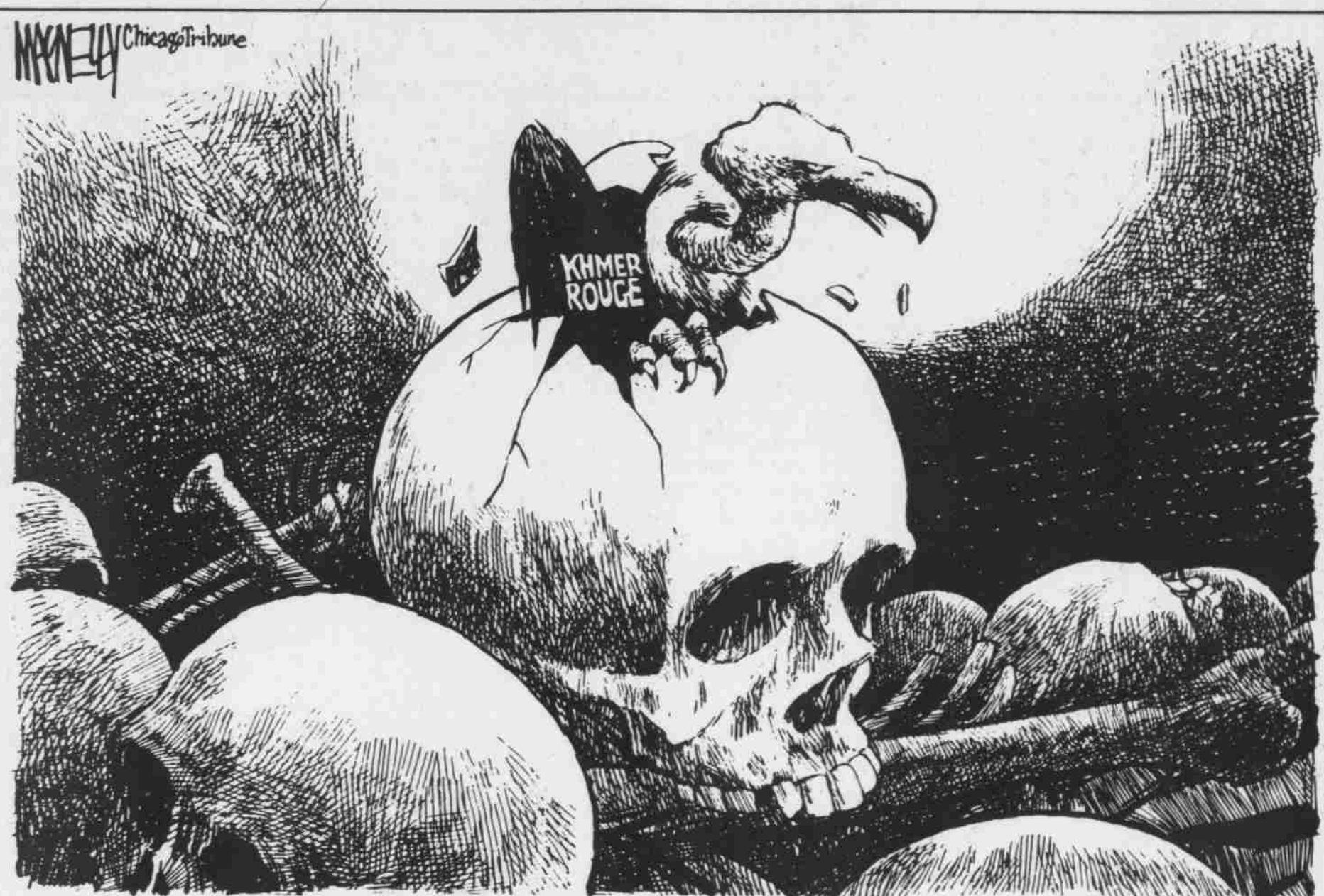
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Rebirth.

Noriega beats the Bush leaguers



Chris Landgraff
Staff Columnist

On yet another pressing issue, George Bush still has not taken decisive action. During the brutal crackdown in China, he chose to remain cautious, perhaps wisely. When Colonel William Higgins was reportedly murdered in the Middle East, he again opted for inaction. Despite his promises to present a successful, innovative war on drugs, he came up with a shaky, underfunded program. No tangible harm to the Bush administration can be traced to these indecisive stances it has taken, but last week's misadventures in Panama dealt the administration a damaging blow.

Conflicting news reports still abound a week after the attempted coup of Panamanian Maj. Moises Giroldi Vega to displace strong man, dictator and accused drug trafficker Gen. Manuel Noriega, but one thing is painfully clear; the Bush team was absolutely out to lunch.

Overthrowing Noriega might not be desirable. It would be nice to bring him to the United States to face drug trafficking charges, but clean way to do that exists — U.S. military intervention could result in the loss of incalculable lives. It is also not clear what would happen once someone deposed him. Civil war in Panama could easily ignite between the new leaders and the pro-Noriega forces — this type of situation is never cut-and-dry. But that's why the bureaucrats and policy makers are paid big salaries to analyze these situations.

The travesty of last week's coup attempt is not that the United States chose not to intervene and back up the rebels with U.S. firepower. Rather, it is the process by which that decision was reached that should alarm those who have placed these "leaders" in charge of such important matters.

At this time last year, Bush promised voters he would work for the removal of Noriega (despite his previously established ties to the leader). Six months ago, he implied support for a coup by saying he would "love to see the

leader removed" by rebel forces.

A brief description of the events leading to the coup show the inadequacy of planning among Bush, the National Security Council, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the defense secretary and the secretary of state. (Notice that no one was looking for Quayle.)

Last Sunday night, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell were notified by Giroldi's wife that a coup was going to take place on Monday if Noriega did not go to his headquarters. Giroldi had met with two CIA officers on Sunday and expressed concern about the Panamanian Army's Fifth and Seventh Companies. He wanted guaranteed sanctuary for himself and his family, and he wanted the U.S. military forces in Panama City to block three streets to prevent pro-Noriega reinforcements from reaching Noriega's headquarters. Giroldi's wife did not leave a phone number at which the major could be reached.

By Monday morning, Bush officials met to discuss what action they could take. They knew Giroldi was a high-level Noriega official, but intelligence reports showed he helped suppress a previous coup attempt. Cheney was afraid the whole thing was a setup.

The rebels did not attempt the coup Monday, giving U.S. officials more time to decide on appropriate action. It isn't clear whether U.S. intelligence agents were supposed to gather more data on such questions as the likelihood of the coup, the possibilities of success or whether the rebels would be democratic. No one outside of the White House can be quite sure what they were doing. All we know

for certain is that there was mass confusion in the Oval Office.

Giroldi's wife called Washington Monday night to say that the coup would take place on Tuesday even if Noriega went to his headquarters. Sure enough, Noriega's compound was seized the next morning. U.S. officials decided to close off this country's military bases, partially blocking the route of Noriega's reinforcements, but not preventing the Seventh Company from getting to the compound. In fact, even as U.S. observers saw a Panamanian military plane on the runway and watched military trucks cruise past the U.S. embassy, no one warned the rebels — who were reportedly detaining Noriega — of Noriega's reinforcements.

Shortly after noon, it was announced that the rebels had Noriega under control. Minutes later, two rebel representatives went to Fort Clayton to ask for U.S. help in delivering Noriega. Apparently, the U.S. military commander in Panama was given permission to take custody of Noriega if this could be done peacefully. Unfortunately, this extremely conservative decision was made too late, as the coup collapsed about 2 p.m.

Bush's lack of planning is analogous to a dog chasing a car. If the car stops, the dog doesn't know what to do with it. Similarly, despite all his talk about wanting Noriega out, he had no clue about what to do once he was presented with the opportunity.

If the United States has such an interest in Noriega's downfall and extradition, why were no contingency plans drawn up in case of a coup? Why didn't U.S. intelligence know how easily Giroldi could successfully seize power? Why was the CIA not included in any of the meetings between high-level members of the Bush administration? What will happen when the stakes are higher and a quick decision must be made? Unless the next three years are nothing but smooth sailing, we could be in trouble.

Chris Landgraff is a junior political science major from Atlanta, Ga.

Readers' Forum

Protesters should have stayed to learn

To the editor:
Wednesday I attended a lecture by Arnoldo Ramos, a representative of the Salvadorian FMLN/FDR national liberation fronts. As I walked down the long hall on the second floor of the Union, I saw a crowd of people holding signs in front of the door to the lecture room. My first thought was that the Institute for Latin American Studies was welcoming Mr. Ramos with a bit of flair, but as I got closer, I saw tombstone-shaped signs with anti-FMLN slogans which were, ironically, reminiscent of CIA Action Committee signs!

A friend of mine was among the protesters, and from him I learned that this was a College Republicans protest. "Fine," I thought, "this will make things more interesting." The real surprise came when, instead of listening to Mr. Ramos and then asking some tough questions, most of the protesters took their signs and left. Somehow, that didn't seem to be the intelligent move. I had come with a neutral mindset to hear Mr. Ramos and to learn more about the current situation in El Salvador. It seems to me that a person who would take the time to make a sign and to greet an important speaker in such a rude way would, at the very least, stay on to hear what the man had to say.

By leaving, these protesters arrogantly implied that they had nothing to learn from this man, who is a Washington representative for these groups in his country. After all, the presentation was entitled "Prospects for Peace." The protesters might be interested to know that Mr. Ramos' focus was on a new willingness on the part of the FMLN to engage in open

negotiations with the Salvadorian government, without preconditions. This in itself represents a major shift in the FMLN's position. This message made me wonder even more why the protesters didn't stay. It seems that they would welcome such a message. Perhaps they were afraid that Mr. Ramos would challenge their pre-existing perceptions of the Salvadorian situation, or perhaps this was just one more example of the narrow-minded attitude which seems to pervade this campus and American politics in general.

Please do not think, though, that I fault this hardy band of protesters. After all, as we all know, communists like Arnoldo Ramos are evil, American presidents never lie, the CIA is a bunch of home-grown boys who would never do anything mean and — my personal favorite — America is always right! Is anyone listening?

DEREK WHITAKER
Sophomore
International Studies

Republican alarmed at group's actions

To the editor:
Once again, the College Republicans have shown their inability to promote thoughtful and intelligent dialogue on UNC's campus. Their sophomoric method of protesting Arnold Ramos' visit and the recent poster satire are embarrassing examples of this. If Republicans were a political minority in this country and had little social and political influence, these tactics could be excused as attempts to get attention. This is not, however, the case. As campus representatives of the group that currently wields political power, the College Re-

publicans give the impression of being self-righteous thugs.

Speaking as a lifelong Republican, I have become increasingly alarmed by the vulgar, simplistic ideology of the College Republicans. Those of us who would rather think than chant don't share their views or approve of their methods. Perhaps someone will take the recent actions of these young brown-shirts as a challenge to form a new group of campus Republicans who can successfully participate in the political discourse on this campus.

MAGGIE HAWORTH
Graduate student
Library science

Homosexuals should not boycott bar

To the editor:
In regard to Jean Dobbs' letter ("Discrimination surfaces at local bar," Oct. 4), I was both amused and angered to learn of the owner of On The Hill's attempting to discriminate against gays by discouraging their admittance at the door.

I am amused that the owner believes that his employees can identify every gay customer on sight. If it were so easy to identify homosexuals, our's would be a very different world. Much to his chagrin, this confused man is allowing admittance of hundreds of gays and lesbians who are not identifiable by any special markings. In fact, they look just like anyone else walking down Franklin Street. At least one out of every 10 customers in this or any other establishment on any given day is gay. What this man is accomplishing is a discrimination against heterosexual or homosexual persons who dress in a way that could be described as radical or progressive (this description

fits many a black clad youth with earrings in Chapel Hill).

My amusement at this man's ignorance was mixed with anger. My impulse was to call on the campus community to boycott On The Hill and close the place down. However, a better idea occurred to me. Why not give this guy his worst nightmare incarnate? Every gay and lesbian person in Chapel Hill should become a regular at On The Hill. Stage a sort of "dance-in" and, in the process, create the largest "gay hangout" Chapel Hill has ever seen. CGLA should plan an "On The Hill" night. Pay the cover — meet the dress code — just go!

I know, the owner profits from this. But, it is better to make him one very unhappy entrepreneur than face the alternatives. We could accept the status quo (discrimination) and let him get away with it. We could attempt to close him down with a boycott. But, more likely, he would be replaced with a similar person, who would open another WASPish hangout. So why not seize this opportunity to create a gay/lesbian dance spot here in Chapel Hill. It sounds better than driving to Durham or Raleigh, doesn't it?

LISA LANIER
Graduate student
Law

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- All letters must be dated and signed by the author(s), with a limit of two signatures per letter.

- All letters must be typed and double-spaced, for ease of editing.

- Most letters run from one to two pages, but longer letters may be run as guest columns.