

Media preoccupation with Gulf crisis may slight other news

By JENNIFER DAVIS
Staff Writer

As the crisis in the Persian Gulf continues, the U.S. media may be reducing coverage of other important national and international issues.

"Reporters prefer to cover nice, juicy crises like the one in Iraq, instead of ones like the S&L crisis, which has been going on for nine years," said Melissa Johnson, a journalism teaching assistant at UNC.

Some critics say that the emphasis the media has placed on Iraq is due to its international significance, giving it

precedence over other world and national occurrences.

William Keech, a UNC political science professor, feels that the media has been distracted from the factional fighting in South Africa, the Soviet dissolution and the German unification by the Persian Gulf crisis. However, he added that this distraction was caused by the possibility that future events in Iraq may escalate into a war.

"It's hard to avoid covering it (the Iraq crisis) when there is a genuine risk of war," he said. "Good papers are giving us good information about these other

events, too, but that coverage just falls short to that of the Iraq crisis."

Reed Irvine, chairman and founder of Accuracy in the Media, believes the media have over-emphasized the Iraq crisis for monetary reasons.

"People are not interested in the gore in South Africa; they want to know what's going on with Americans in Saudi Arabia and with their gas prices," he said.

He said editors based their emphasis and their coverage on what they considered of interest to their audience. If an issue or event is not of concern to the

American people, the media will not cover it.

"That doesn't sell newspapers or increase the ratings for a television program," he said.

Newsweek, a major national magazine, has had a story pertaining to the Persian Gulf crisis on its past six covers. The magazine denies that it has not given other important occurrences proper coverage.

"It (the Iraq crisis) has been on our last six covers, but the magazine has a great deal more inside," said Diana

Pearson, Director of Communications for Newsweek.

In the past, when major events consumed the attention of both the American media and public, the repercussions of a lack of coverage of important events were felt later when those occurrences gained more attention.

Adam Powell, a spokesman for the Gannett Center for Media Services at Columbia University in New York, said the United States would suffer, especially politically, from the media's lack of concern for other issues.

"People will wait until times like

these to slip in news that could damage them," Powell said. "They know their story will be on page nine instead of page one. There is no question that significant political stories are being under-reported. This will give incumbent candidates in the upcoming election an edge because of the reduction of free media."

Phil Meyer, a journalism professor at UNC, disagrees that the over-emphasis has been damaging, saying that the occurrences in the Persian Gulf have incited in Americans much more interest in foreign news.

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Reputation

its reputation on the academic awards won by professors, who are considered experts in their fields, but the University may lose these professors to other schools.

Newhouse said, "In our department, we have some very distinguished educators that could be easily lured away by outside universities, and that's scary. Duke could easily raid this University right now."

Gilbert said that if budget cuts continued, the University would lose its best educators.

"Those faculty that are the very best are going to look elsewhere," he said. "I think, over this year, when they go to meetings they are going to let themselves be available to other offers."

Lowery said the College of Arts and Sciences eliminated 22 permanent faculty positions as a result of the 3 percent budget cut made this summer.

Gillian Cell, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said the University would use private donations to compensate for the budget reductions.

"The college does have resources

from the Arts and Sciences Foundation that aren't affected by the cuts that we have used and will continue to use for faculty retention and hiring," she said.

Newhouse said reductions of faculty positions within departments hurt the credibility of the curriculum.

"When you have a large department, you have more expertise on a particular subject," he said.

The University's math department has been understaffed for the past 10 to 15 years, Newhouse said. Before the budget cuts, department officials were making efforts to improve the staff-to-student ratio, but these efforts now are postponed until more money is available.

"With the budget cut, it has stopped that process," he said.

Gilbert said the damaging effects of hiring freezes could make a difference soon. "Because of the hiring freeze on teaching positions, we could very well be undermanned next year and we have the highest enrollment this year."

Joe Templeton, chairman of the chemistry department, said the uncertainty of the budget situation made re-

cruiting new faculty members difficult.

"It's difficult to recruit at this moment because we don't know what kind of package we can offer a prospective teacher in our department," he said.

Newhouse said faculty recruiting must be handled delicately. Concerning a prospective recruit for the math department, Newhouse said, "I'm afraid to tell him what the current situation is because I'm afraid it would kill him."

Templeton said the University should not compromise quality when replacing professors. Not only must the University find quality replacements, but it also must consider the amount of research funding good faculty members bring to the department, he said.

"When a faculty member represents several hundred thousand dollars of overhead (research funding), replacing that professor at the same level can prove quite costly," he said.

The budget cuts should not have an immediate effect on research services in the department, Templeton said. "We have about \$7 million in grants that fund our research."

Harry Gooder, faculty chairman, said the inflexibility of the University's budget is the source of the budget crisis.

"The biggest difference is the majority of other institutions have much more budget flexibility than our system," Gooder said.

Wayne Jones, associate vice chancellor of business and finance, agreed with Gooder. "I guess we may not be the most restricted, but we are close," he said.

UNC Chancellor Paul Hardin has recommended in the past raising student tuition to increase flexibility in University spending. The additional money would go directly to the University rather than the state's General Fund.

Gooder said the University of Michigan operates on a budget with the kind of flexibility that UNC's budget needs and similar to that proposed by Hardin.

"From what I understand, the University of Michigan gets one single check from the legislature and then determines the budget appropriations of the university," he said.

Chuck Hawkins, financial manager for the general investment and auxiliary funds at the University of Michigan, said that he was pleased with the budget flexibility.

The individual departments and schools at the University of Michigan distribute the state-allotted funds, Hawkins said.

"Our allocation process of the General Fund is done internally," he said.

Jones said the N.C. General Assembly allocates funds to the University

according to purpose codes, such as instruction, research, academic and physical support.

"The whole budget-management process is much easier without an allotment process," Jones said.

Hawkins said the University of Michigan received more money this year for its budget from student tuition and fees than ever before.

"Student fees have ended up supporting us more than state allocations," he said.

Art supporters protest trial

From Associated Press reports

CINCINNATI—About 150 people demonstrated for freedom of expression Monday outside a courthouse where an art gallery and its director went on trial for showing Robert Mapplethorpe's sexually graphic photographs.

About 50 police officers patrolled on foot, on horseback and on motorcycles outside the Hamilton County Municipal Court, where jury selection began for

the misdemeanor obscenity trial of the Contemporary Arts Center and its director, Dennis Barrie.

Some people lay in the street, briefly halting traffic. No arrests were made.

The case has become a rallying point for artists, First Amendment activists and people who believe the indictments are part of a wider effort to intimidate homosexuals.

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Election

are due Thursday by 5 p.m. in Suite C of the Union.

Kathleen Benzaquin, associate dean of student affairs, said the students would be elected for a one-year, trial basis. The committee will discuss possible commencement speakers and the overall planning of the Bicentennial events.

"I think it will work well because it is so focused," Benzaquin said. "It's a good way to identify a group of students to come together for the same purpose."

The following students are candidates for chairman or chairwoman of the Bicentennial Class:

Tim Allen was a member of his high school's Honor Society and an officer of the Beta Club in Louisville, Ky. He said he likes to express his opinions and wants to understand better the University's operations.

"The committee will be voicing opinions on what the Bicentennial Class should do, and then inform other freshmen of what's going on," he said.

Culley Carson said he participated in committees at his high school in Connecticut that had similar goals to the Bicentennial Committee.

"It's important that we get these things (for the Bicentennial) planned early. A lot of time and energy has to be

put in to make the event the best we could possibly want."

Cheryl Gasperson was senior class president at her high school in Asheville. She said she would consider it a privilege to represent the freshman class as Bicentennial Chairwoman.

"I think it's important that we have some input on how (the Bicentennial) is going to be planned," she said. "This is something I really want to do."

Russ Helms said the Bicentennial is an exciting event that would promote the Class of 1994 and the University.

"We can also use the Bicentennial as publicity to make a larger endowment fund for the University, which will provide more funds for UNC," he said. "It will also attract good students—we can use this to promote that as well."

Kevin Moran said he held a similar position last year as anniversary committee chairman when his high school in Windsor, Conn., celebrated its 75th anniversary.

"The Bicentennial should be a big extravaganza — it's a time for celebration," he said. "But we shouldn't celebrate by ourselves. This university has been serving the country for 200 years. We can make it a fun year and really do some good at the same time."

Nancy Sabarra, from West Palm Beach, Fla., said she was involved in several student government activities at UNC, including the Student Government Reform Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee.

"I'd like to get all the freshman and all the students at UNC pulling together for one activity," she said. "I can add to the activities with my past experience."

Holly Williams said her credentials for the chairmanship include student body vice president and Speech and Debate Club president at her high school in Charlotte.

"Our freshman class has a chance to stand out," Williams said. "We don't want to become seniors and wonder what happened. This is the perfect opportunity to unify the class, even at a school as big as Carolina."


LOCATION	TIME
Student Union -- All students	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Chase -- On-campus students	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Upper Quad -- All students	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Davis -- Graduate students	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Law School -- Dist. 1 students	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Campus Calendar

TUESDAY
1 p.m.: Career Planning and Placement Services announces that the National Security Agency will hold a group information session in 211 Union.
3 p.m.: The Study Abroad Office will have an information session about study abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark at the Study Abroad Office in the basement of Caldwell Hall.
3:30 p.m.: The UNC Entrepreneurs Club will meet in 211 Union. All students interested in working for themselves should attend. Join us now or work for us later!
6 p.m.: UNITAS class will be discussing the role of "Woman" as an "Other" in today's society. Lecture and discussion based on selections from Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* and from Adrienne Rich's "Diving Into the Wreck" and "On Lies, Secrets, and Silence." Until 8:30 p.m.
The Special Projects Committee of the Carolina Union Activities Board meets in 301-A Woolen Gym.
6:30 p.m.: Carolina Fever will meet in 100 Hamilton. We'll be discussing the Blue Blitz/State game, so please be there! A volleyball game will follow the meeting, so you can also get a non-revenue requirement out of the way. Be there!
7 p.m.: The Tar Heel Recycling Program will meet in 205 Union. Come help us prepare for Recycling Week, Oct. 7-12. Area coordinators and committee leaders, please come to the Steering Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. also in 205 Union.
7:30 p.m.: The UNC Popular Culture Study Group will hold a meeting in 220 Union. For info, call Carrie at 967-8901.
The UNC Surf Club will have its first meeting in the South Gallery Meeting Room of the Union. For information, call Matt at 932-3881.
The UNC Fishing Club will meet in the Pit. The focus of our meeting will be the fall trip and the next outing. Of course, various permutations and derivations will follow. All interested come to the meeting. Be there! Aloha.
AED Premedical Association will meet in 224 Union. Come find out about new MCAT structure and study tips.
The Student Government Tutoring Program offers free tutoring in MATH 22.30 and 31, French 1-4, Spanish 1-4, ECON 10 and STAT 11 and 23. Come to third floor Greenlaw until 9:30 p.m.
8 p.m.: Sigma Theta Alpha, the coed service fraternity, a division of HOSA Inc., invites all interested in a health career to come to our meeting in 209 Union. Open to all future health care leaders.
The Black Cultural Center and Community Church will sponsor a task force meeting: practical solutions to campus racism, at the BCC.
The UNC Young Democrats will meet in 211 Union. This will be an organizational meeting for the upcoming voter registration drive. All are welcome!
11 p.m.: WXYC FM 89.3 will play the new album from The Lemonheads, *Lovey*, in its entirety with no interruptions.

ITEMS OF INTEREST
The Black Student Movement is holding their first "Umoja" Series dinner Thursday, Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. in Lenoir Dining Hall's North Dining Room. To sign up for the "Shades of Gray" discussion/lecture, pay \$3 at the BSM office today. Dinner will be catered.
Everyone attending the UNC/N.C. State game this Saturday is asked to wear blue and make the game a BLUE BLITZ! Carolina Fever members are reminded that they will not receive a ticket for this game if not wearing a blue shirt (preferably a Fever T-shirt). Shirts are still available in the office.
The Executive Branch of Student Government announces that applications for the Bicentennial Class Committee are available for interested freshmen in Suite C of the Union. Please stop by and find out more about this exciting opportunity. Applications are due Thursday, Sept. 27 at 5 p.m.
The 1991 Yackety Yack, UNC's yearbook, is now accepting applications for various positions. Come by the office, 106 Union, and fill out an application. Applications are due Thursday, Sept. 27.
Campus Elections for Districts 1, 2, 3, 16 and 18 will be today at various poll sites. Union poll site: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
The Undergraduate Honor Court reminds all freshmen of upcoming training sessions about UNC's Honor System in the residence halls. Freshmen attendance is mandatory.
The University Counseling Center is offering a Black Graduate Women's Support Group for African-American female graduate and professional students at UNC. For info or to sign up, call 962-2175.
UCPPS announces that the Foreign Service Written Exam will be held on Oct. 27. Deadline for receipt of application was Sept. 21. Applications are available in 211 Hanes.
GPSF has information on the in-state tuition application process. See the bulletin board outside Suite D of the Union.

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