

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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Just do it

Chancellor should make decision on sculpture

Students commended Chancellor Paul Hardin last week when he responded within 24 hours to a request to remove "The Student Body" in front of Davis Library because of its sexist and racist overtones. Unfortunately, their pleasure was short-lived; the chancellor may have responded, but he did not decide, and it doesn't look like he will any time soon.

Hardin seems to be pursuing a strategy of delay-and-conquer. First he said he wanted to hear from students; student leaders immediately wrote a letter requesting the sculpture's removal, and the Committee Against Offensive Statues began its "lone protest." Then Hardin sent the matter to the Building and Grounds Committee to suggest possible new locations; CAOS responded with a list of five suitable sites. The student mandate and alternative locations are obvious, but where is Chancellor Hardin?

He seems to be delaying a decision by sending the Buildings and Grounds Committee on a goose chase to come up with possible sights for the sculpture when he hasn't even decided to move it. Deciding to move the sculpture and then asking the committee to come up with sites would be a logical sequence of events, but implying that the committee should make the decision in the first place is a cop-out. Further-

more, it seems unfair to have committee members call emergency meetings to come up with suggestions that may never be used. Granted, these suggestions will be in place and ready for action should the chancellor actually decide to move the statues, but to call an emergency meeting to discuss the second step of the process when Hardin is still on the first step seems ridiculous.

Hardin's apparent reluctance to take action is understandable—as with any tough decision, he won't be able to please everyone. If he pleases the students who want the sculpture moved, he may offend the donating Class of '85, other alumni and the artist. Moving the sculpture could also provoke accusations of censorship and cause negative media attention. Finally, the logistics of moving seven statues standing on steel beams cemented in a planter can't be easy to deal with.

This decision is Hardin's responsibility. His job is to oversee the operations of this campus from finances down to the simplest groundskeeping. He is entitled to delegate some of those responsibilities to other committees and administrators, but not such a complicated and important issue as the sculpture. It's time to stop juggling the options and make a decision. — Jessica Lanning and Kelly Thompson

No proof needed

Campus alcohol abuse must be taken seriously

Thursday is traditionally a day when students look forward to frequenting Franklin Street watering holes, mixers, keg parties and/or all of the above. It's the celebrated one-more-day-to-go day right after the mid-week hump. But today should not be traditional; it should be exceptional.

As part of Alcohol Awareness Week, the Delta Squad is sponsoring Zero-Proof Day to raise awareness about the prevalence of alcohol abuse on campus, a bold move in light of students' heavy use of alcohol. People are asked to pledge a 24-hour abstinence to confront abuse problems and to show support for the effort.

Unfortunately, many people dismiss the impact alcohol has on its users and especially its abusers. That is what makes today important. Alcohol abuse is widely accepted and most often viewed as a harmless form of relaxation or part of social culture. People don't think twice when somebody says he is going out to get "smashed," "trashed" or "toasted." But alcohol abuse is certainly not harmless. As Chancellor Paul Hardin said last week, "It is the most

significant single contribution to sexual harassment and date rape from the standpoint of the aggressor and the victim."

It is easy for people to repeatedly abuse alcohol if it has never damaged them personally. But a tragic event should not have to happen to make abusing alcohol less attractive. Taking precautions, such as designating drivers, is not always enough to avoid trouble. Rape and other sexual crimes, for example, are impossible to plan against, and abusing alcohol only weakens immunity.

Using and abusing alcohol are two very different things, and the goal of Zero-Proof Day is not necessarily to discourage use. Whether or not a student uses alcohol, support for Zero-Proof Day acknowledges the danger of abusing it, no matter how frequently or infrequently one drinks.

While sexual crimes on campus alarm everyone, alcohol abuse is not a widespread concern. The inconsistency of that logic is frightening. It's time everyone in the University community took the problem more seriously. — Elizabeth Murray

Editorial Policy

The Daily Tar Heel's board opinion editorials are approved by the majority of the editorial board, which is composed of the co-editors, opinion editor, forum editor and three editorial writers. Signed editorials do not necessarily reflect the entire board's opinion. The Daily Tar Heel has three regular staff columnists who write once a week. Their opinions also do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

The Daily Tar Heel

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Printing: Village Printing.

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The Daily Tar Heel is published by the DTH Publishing Corp., a non-profit North Carolina corporation, Monday-Friday, according to the University calendar. Callers with questions about billing or display advertising should dial 962-1163 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Classified ads can be reached at 962-0252. Editorial questions should be directed to 962-0245.

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Special session could clarify role in Middle East

Aug. 2, 1990, I was relaxing in a hotel room in Los Angeles, Calif., watching television, when Charles Kuralt interrupted "The Price is Right" for a special report. Iraq had invaded Kuwait. How terrible, I thought. Then I put on my bathing suit and went downstairs to the hotel's jacuzzi.

A few days later I returned to the East Coast. Gas prices were sky-high, and the public was pretty infuriated about it. The reason for high oil prices: Iraq had invaded Kuwait. How terrible, I thought. President Bush had already committed U.S. troops to Saudi Arabia, and I hoped the situation would resolve itself quickly.

Nov. 8, 1990, three months later. President Bush commits 200,000 more troops to the Middle East. A friend's sister, who recently married a Marine, finds out that her new husband may be headed to Saudi Arabia. The pizza delivery man tells me there's a chance that he may have to go. And the local television stations break my heart showing short video clips of U.S. servicemen sending their regards to family members in the States. The one that really got me was the soldier who asked his wife if she had a girl or a boy.

U.S. legislators, both Democrats and Republicans, have been calling for a special session of Congress after Thanksgiving to discuss the purposes of U.S. involvement in the Middle East. A session of Congress prior to January, when Congress reconvenes, won't tell Americans anything else they don't already know about the Middle East. However, it is necessary in checking the president's power for starting a war.

The reasons for American involvement in the Iraq-Kuwait conflict changes daily. The last explanation given by Secretary of State James A. Baker was that the U.S. was protecting American jobs. Ahhh, yeah. Whatever you say. However, some of the other reasons the United States is intervening in the Middle East are:

- (1) the 1,000 Americans estimated to be held hostage by Saddam Hussein, at strategic sites in Iraq and in hiding in Kuwait
- (2) the fact that Iraq has the capability to produce a rather crude atomic bomb. Pretty

Kimberley Maxwell Strictly Business

scary, I say. Taking out Iraq militarily no doubt would include destroying its nuclear potential, which could be completed within five years.

(3) Iraq's extensive chemical warfare potential. Saddam Hussein had no qualms using chemical warfare in the war against Iran, so American troops won't be any different.

(4) to protect the world's oil supply
 (5) to stop "naked aggression"

(6) to crush the "bad guy" in the Middle East. Okay, so we've got six reasons America is involved in the Iraq-Kuwait conflict. What else can Congress bring out into the open? Not much. Besides, there are two counterpoints that weaken two justifications.

As for stopping "naked aggression," it is important to note that Sikkim, a small country on the Tibet/China border, was invaded by India in a situation similar to Kuwait's. The world's reaction: who cares? I didn't read about it in the news, did you? Sikkim wasn't defended the way Kuwait has been. What's so significant about Kuwait?

Also, about crushing the bad guy in the Middle East, there are plenty of other bad guys still hanging around. Remember Libya's Khadafi? And Syria's President Assad, our ally temporarily, wouldn't mind being in Hussein's position. He only opposes Hussein because they are rivals for power in the Middle East.

In my opinion, President Bush has handled the conflict very well thus far. However, Bush has other motives in the Middle East, motives that he's not going to share with the American public for the fact that he can't show his strategy to the world. Then it wouldn't be a secret.

Some Americans may think that the country should trust President Bush. True enough, he's not going to do anything that will ruin him politically. He waited to announce the increased troop deployment until after elections so the issue wouldn't affect Republican candidates. He wants to maintain his popularity, both for a

possible re-election move or for historical reasons. No president wants to be labeled as an ineffective, weak leader until the end of time. However, to ensure the country that the United States doesn't put its foot where the dog's been, a Congressional session will be to the country's benefit.

Checks and balances, which ensure that no political branch has more power than another, are a vital part of the Constitution. Congress' main concern with the Middle East conflict goes back to the Vietnam Conflict, when Congress never officially declared war on anyone. But U.S. troops still fought and were killed and injured, even without the normal checks and balances between the executive and legislative branches. Congressmen are concerned about American lives and the executive branch's power.

After Vietnam, Congress passed the War Powers Act, which mandates that presidents notify Congress 48 hours in advance before sending U.S. troops abroad where there is a possibility of hostility. The troops can only stay for 90 days unless Congress authorizes their presence. The legislative branch hasn't challenged this resolution, but the tide is turning towards an attack of Iraq, not just defending Saudi Arabia.

Unfortunately, a Congressional session will play into Hussein's hands. There undoubtedly will be some dissent at the possibility of a war. Delaying a military strike will help Hussein break up the alliance the United States has created with Arab nations, especially since the alliance is so tentative and conditional.

Ideally, a Congressional session would foster debate, but the public already knows why troops are in the Middle East, or as much as the president will tell. Read my lips: There will be no new information. But a Congressional session will check the president's power and avoid a potential Vietnam Part II.

P.S. Have a happy Thanksgiving, and all non-vegetarians, eat some turkey for our soldiers in the Middle East.

Kimberley Maxwell is a senior journalism and political science major from Marietta, Ga.

READERS' FORUM

Church gatherings will commemorate deaths

To the editors:
 Few of us think of being at a University as a politically dangerous situation, but ... One year ago this Friday, a death squad entered the campus of the University of Central America in San Salvador and executed six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter. Apparently they were GUILTY — of the Gospel. All six were members of the University community, including the president and vice-president, the head of the sociology department and the head of the Pastoral Institute.

On Friday, Nov. 16, at 7:00 p.m. EST (6:00 p.m. CST, etc.), at chapels and campus churches across the country, there will be prayerful gatherings to commemorate the sufferings of these and all the Salvadoran martyrs. The Newman Parish at UNC invites all of the University community to join us briefly that evening, fittingly the last evening of Human Rights Week, to honor those who have suffered the ultimate violation of human rights so their witness may not be forgotten.

JIM STASHEFF
 Professor
 Mathematics

Mandating insurance is a preposterous idea

To the editors:
 Acting reasonably, the University will nip in the bud the preposterous idea of requiring students to purchase a University insurance policy. Until they do dispose of that idea, however, I encourage students to protest it.

There are as many different reasons that a mandated policy would not serve the students as there are students at this institution. The most important reason is that to mandate a University insurance coverage would violate the students' rights to choices concerning their personal business. University-mandated insurance has nothing to do with the purpose of the University: to educate, not to insure.

Although I am not thoroughly informed on the coverage and services of the University's insurance options, I am under the impression that they offer very good coverage at a cost lower than any other that I've seen. The UNC Student Group Insurance Subcommittee should more aggressively market their services to make students more aware of the insurance policies; just to force them on students in order to keep premiums lower would not at all serve students.

Many students find satisfactory coverage elsewhere. Single students often may be covered under their parents' policies at little or no additional family cost. Married students often can receive coverage under spouses' policies, either through the workplace or privately. In fact, there are many reasons that make sharing a policy important, such as the family policy that assures a student wife that if she were to become pregnant the resulting medical costs would be covered in the family policy.

Students as a whole cannot be served with one or two blanket policies that are mandated. A college education takes only a few years of one's life; many students are faced with family or financial pressures that make the possibility of having to drop out of school at any time. Insurance coverage, to fully serve one's needs, must be

more permanent and dependable than just college attendance. On the other hand, insurance offerings must be flexible enough to serve the varying needs of students and families whenever the need is present.

Education is an important part of life. Insurance is just as important, although many people are fortunate enough not to have to turn to insurance benefits. Each individual student is the decision maker who knows best what will serve his needs and the needs of his family. The two choices of education and insurance ought not to be a package deal!

The answer to lowering premium costs by having more clients is not to mandate students to be clients. Instead, the UNC Student Group Insurance Subcommittee should consider other options like increased marketing efforts.

Students have full lives and many responsibilities. We are here to be educated, not to be forced consumers of unwanted and unnecessary services.

HOLLY KOZELSKY WEAVER
 Junior
 Journalism

Cancellation shouldn't be viewed as affront

Editors' note: The following is a letter received by Campus Y Director Zenobia Hatcher-Wilson.
 Dear Ms. Hatcher-Wilson,
 It is with great regret that I must inform you that Mrs. Winnie Mandela will not be able to travel to the United States during the week of Nov. 12.

Please take her prior indicated acceptance of your invitation as an expression of her respect for your support and endeavors. For reasons beyond her control, however,

she is unable to come at this time. It is our hope that the disappointment that you may feel now will not prevent us from working together in the future. Let me assure you that Mrs. Mandela is aware of the immense efforts that have gone into the preparations of your Human Rights Week activities. Her absence should not detract from the legitimacy of your goals or the nobleness of your commitment to the achievement of human rights universally.

Mrs. Mandela's office would put the highest priority on any future opportunity to visit your school, neighboring institutions and community, should you so desire.

All of us in the ANC who have communicated directly with Evelyn Toliver are impressed with her competence that far exceeds her youthfulness. We extend our sincere apologies to her. We hope that this disappointment will not in any way dim her enthusiasm or that of the other students who have worked with her.

THEMBA VILAKAZI
 Chairperson
 African National Congress,
 U.S. Region

Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticisms. We attempt to print as many letters to the editors as space permits. When writing letters, please follow these guidelines:

- If you want your letter published, please sign and date it. No more than two signatures please.
- All letters must be typed and double-spaced.
- Please include your year in school, major, phone number and hometown.