

OPINIONS

Dear Mr. President: Why war with Iraq?

Letters to the Editor



Dearborn McCorkle
Columnist

Dear George,

You have been talking a lot about war with Iraq lately, and frankly, it really worries me.

I know you are a sensitive guy, and maybe the peer pressure is just too much for you. You must be under a lot of stress, with all the expectations of your father and his cronies.

After all, daddy was the one who started the Gulf War. He and his friends are even responsible for where you are now! Gee, George, did you ever really think you'd become President of the United States? Much less on your own? Of course not. So, it is only natural that you feel indebted to them. But, isn't there a better way to thank them? Maybe, send them a card, or have them over for dinner at the White House? I don't think war is the answer, George.

As Michael Moore said in his book *Stupid White Men*, Bill Clinton was the best Republican president the United States has ever had. You should strive to be more like him, George.

Fire your speechwriter, and hire Clinton's old one. Attend speech therapy for help with all those big words you have such a hard time pronouncing. And, most important of all, practice lying.

I know you are saying that you do lie, and you do it all the time. But, it's not very convincing, and people are starting to see through it. You will never be an effective president if you do not have the ability to lie with such complexity and sincerity that the entire country not only believes you, but heralds you as the best president in years before you are even out of office.

I know you are asking where all this is going. It is a lot of information and your poor brain must be straining to comprehend, so I will spell it out for you.

I know, George. I know why Dick is pushing you to go to war with Iraq, despite our allies' protest.

It's oil, George. It's oil and money, and it is not just coming from Iraq. It's coming from Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico as well. Old buddy, all that black gold just sitting there on preserved lands waiting for you and all your buddies to pillage and plunder.

You probably want to know how I know this about you, George. Well, frankly, it's easy. Your family is from Texas, and oil is their business. And, your supporters, both in the election (for a lack of better term) and now, are all BIG business.

Daddy, Dick and you have all sat on the boards of large, multi-million dollar oil companies, raking in the money from your combined exploitations.

Even Don Evans, the Secretary of Commerce, and Gale Norton, the Secretary of Interior, had direct ties

to the oil industry. Don't seem to remember all this? Let me refresh your memory, George.

Before becoming the "acting president" vice president, Cheney was the CEO of Halliburton, a billion dollar oil company. He left Halliburton with a \$34 million dollar retirement package.

If that isn't enough to make you choke on your pretzels, under Cheney's direction, Halliburton made \$23.8 million dollars worth of contracts with Iraq through two of its subsidiaries in Europe.

According to an article on sfgb.com, Cheney's company utilized subsidiaries in France, Italy, Germany and Austria so as not to draw undue attention to connections to Iraq.

These arrangements that might embarrass Washington and jeopardize lucrative ties to Iraq. Those arrangements pumped \$24 billion of petrol under the U.N.-administered oil-for-food program in 2000.

Assisted by Halliburton, Hussein's government will earn another \$1 billion by illegally exporting oil through black-market channels.

Wow, George! You know how to pick a president. (Excuse me, vice president.)

You ask how all this would affect your decision to declare war on Iraq? It's as simple as greed.

U.S. oil companies pumped money into Iraq this receiving money from Iraq in return.

But now, with your "War on Terrorism" underway, it wouldn't be very "American" to do business

with the Arab enemy, now would it? Of course not.

So instead, you declare war on Iraq claiming you are "pretty sure" Saddam is close to having nuclear weapons, and then, what happens? Oil prices increase allowing you and your cronies to do what you have wanted to for so long—drill in Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico.

And, of course, you would claim all this oil would be harvested in an "eco-friendly" manner and used for the good of American's oil guzzling SUVs. But, in reality, Americans would never see this oil, would they George?

No, it would be sold primarily to our Asian oil market and all your oil tycoon CEO buddies would get rich. And, we all know what happens when a good Republican, Texas boy like you help out your BIG business friends — you get more money and get re-elected.

But, it doesn't end there, does it George? There is one last detail. The fear of terrorism your administration attempts to strike in the hearts of Americans, not to mention the encroaching anniversary of Sept. 11, will further justify your unilateral attack on Iraq and the secret dirty business you plan to conduct as a result.

It all makes sense now, doesn't it, George? It is not the American people you are looking out for. It is not the fear of biological, nuclear or good, old-fashioned terrorism you are protecting the U.S. from. And, it is definitely not the attempt to curtail the human rights violations Iraq commits everyday.

The war on Iraq is to pursue the interests of you and your oil baron friends.

Yes, remember, George, we are onto you. We see through your lies more and more everyday. God, help us if you send us into war. I have a feeling the American people won't forget you, and it won't be all the good you have done for our country that they remember.

Your dedicated dissident,
Dearborn McCorkle

An alternative solution to the budget cut crisis

Dear Editor:

In times of financial crisis, as we are facing at UNCA, we ask ourselves what is truly important. In essence, we make a value judgment of what is worth continuing to fund and what is not.

As both sides of the spectrum continue to fight over the validity of the future six percent budget cut that most departments will have to face, we have to understand that the budget cuts are necessary for the survival of UNCA. However, I would like to submit an alternative solution as opposed to the flat six percent cut.

First, the entire arts and ideas department should be done away with. In terms of utility and usefulness, the arts and ideas department produces very little, but boring and uneventful, lectures pertaining to issues that have minimal relevance to the world we, as UNCA students find ourselves in.

Having said that, I want to state clearly that if it were possible, all of the departments at UNCA should remain intact. In other words, I am not anti-arts and ideas; however, I am trying to look at this extremely critical issue with the interests of UNCA as primary.

The idea is that wasteful spending

of resources must be completely minimized. For instance, the time has ended when professors can spend thousands of dollars to hire a lecturer who does nothing, but bore the audience into a death-like state.

Secondly, I would propose some sort of alternative referendum that would allow for the allocation of the current funds from the previous bond referendum to be routed to UNCA's deficit management. A second referendum would be required, since the first referendum was primarily for the improvement of the grounds and facilities.

Third, whatever course the leadership at UNCA decides to take to weather the massive budget cuts, we should support the decision of the chancellor and those who work directly for him. I, as a student, trust that the chancellor of UNCA will place the interests of the student and faculty body as first and foremost.

We are about to face an extremely critical time, and if we are not united, our divisiveness will destroy us. We have no doubt that we will persevere and with God-almighty, perhaps, the situation will not be as terrible as the forecasters might predict.

Avi Mechanic
Senior, economics

Students, welcome back, from the vice president of SGA

Dear Editor:

Welcome back, everyone.

To all returning students: it is good to see you all again! Somehow, the summer slipped by all too fast, and we find ourselves at the start of yet another semester.

First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone (individuals, student organizations, faculty and administration) for their actions in reaction to the impending state budget cuts last spring.

Many of you became directly involved in protecting UNCA's public funding by contacting or telephoning your state representatives. Many more of you took the initiative to inform yourselves and others about the possible implications of these budget cuts.

However, believe it or not, the state legislature has yet to approve any budget. Please, students, continue to stay involved by watching the news for any state legislature developments. This issue is still undecided, and can still impact UNCA dramatically.

Second, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new students, both freshmen and transfers. I hope that all of you will enjoy your time here and find your home at UNCA.

Once you have settled into your classes and college life, I encourage all of you to become active on campus and in the neighboring com-

munity. College is for learning new things, and Asheville is small enough that it is fairly easy for students to get involved in just about every conceivable activity.

Seasonal intramural teams, varied student organizations and clubs, open drama productions, *The Blue Banner*, Underdog Productions, Undergraduate Research and our Student Government Association are just a few possible ways to become involved. Moreover, I encourage every student to find an advisor or mentor on campus to help plan your educational track. I highly recommend everyone participates in study abroad programs, work internships and the wide variety of academic courses offered that make this a true liberal arts education.

All of these opportunities are open to you here, but you must pursue them actively. This is your education; so take responsibility for it, and take everything you can from what UNCA has to offer.

I look forward to seeing each of you around campus in the coming weeks, so feel free to wave hello or swing by the student government offices (DH 211 - near the bookstore) if we can help you in any way.

Brian Cain
Student Body Vice President
Senior, interdisciplinary studies

The Blue Banner welcomes submissions of letters and articles for publication. Letters should not exceed 300 words. Letters for publication should also contain the author's signature, classification, major or other relationship with UNCA. Sorry, we will not accept submissions of anonymous letters to the editor.

The deadline for letters is noon on Tuesday. If you have a submission, you may send it to *The Blue Banner*, Karpén 244, One University Heights, Asheville N.C. 28804 or to banner@unca.edu. Please include your name, contact information, classification and major/position.

Blue Banner Editorials

The Blue Banner introduces the Fall 2002 editorial board:

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