

CHRISTY'S

CORNER

CHRISTY
KIMBALL
News Editor

I recently read about Attorney General John Ashcroft visiting Raleigh on Saturday September 6. There were many protests accompanying his visit. Many people are unhappy with the USA Patriot Act, which was signed by President Bush on October 20, 2001. It is thought to infringe upon our civil liberties. Berkeley, CA and Ann Arbor, MI were the first cities to pass resolutions regarding the endangerment of its citizens' civil liberties by the Patriot Act. Four cities in Massachusetts, Cambridge, Northampton, Amherst, and Leverett, did so shortly after. Carrboro, located in North Carolina did so as well.

Safety vs. Civil Liberties

Police in Portland, OR said they would not cooperate with the FBI in investigating Middle Eastern students, the reason being that Oregon state law prohibits questioning immigrants not suspected of a crime.

The Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003, dubbed Patriot II although it has not been passed yet, it seems to be causing more outrage. Patriot II is reminiscent of imaginary witch hunts such as McCarthyism, the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and the entire reason for the civil rights movement.

Under this act, Americans can have their citizenship revoked if deemed to have contributed "material support" to organizations thought to be "terrorist" by the government.

As the law is now, you must declare that you no longer wish to be a citizen or commit an act such as attempted overthrow of the government. The new act will "infer" that you no longer want to be a citizen. Legal permanent residents from foreign countries

would be instructed to build a huge database of citizen DNA information for "detecting, investigating, prosecuting, preventing, or responding to terrorist activities". If you refuse the cheek swab used to gather DNA, you can be fined \$200,000 and serve a year in jail.

Authorities can wiretap anybody for 15 days and watch internet usage without a warrant.

Secret arrests will be specifically permitted.

Police officers can be granted legal immunity for performing illegal searches, they just have to say they were carrying out orders. Your government can spy on you on behalf of another country including dictatorships.

How is it that civil liberties and safety are not a package deal? If this act is passed, the U.S. might be

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could be deported without criminal charges or evidence if the Attorney General deems them to be a threat. Even minor, non terrorist offenses could warrant the aforementioned actions.

Use of DNA evidence in recent years has been an important component in court cases, it now might be used as evidence against everyone in or outside of the courtroom. The govern-

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allegedly safer but not the epitome of freedom as thought previously. We might be safe from terrorism from outside countries, but would we be safe from our own government. The freedom of speech could be in essence eliminated too. Could disapproval of an action our country takes be deemed "terrorist"? It is difficult to know if this act and possibly others to follow will completely contradict all rights given to us by the Constitution. Freedom is the what Americans pride themselves on and what immigrants came here for. What will America represent if this is no longer true?

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed but may be published anonymously. The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length and/or offensive content.

Community Calendar

Aerosmith and Kiss will perform Saturday, September 20 at the Alltel Pavilion at Walnut Creek. Call Ticketmaster at 834-4000 for tickets and for more information.

Parmalee will perform with Clear and Creamy Velour at Lincoln Theatre on Saturday, September 20. Tickets are \$6 at the box office on the day of the show.

N.C. PrideFest 2003 begins this Saturday, September 20. Events will be held in Durham and Raleigh. Go to www.ncpride.org for more information.

Campus Calendar

Association for Cultural Awareness meeting on Friday, September 19 at 10 a.m. in 108 Harris.

Open Day for High School Seniors on Friday, September 19. Contact the Office of Admissions for more information.

Family Weekend begins Saturday, September 20 at 8:30 a.m. Events are scheduled all day long, including lunch and entertainment in the Courtyard at noon.

Senior Parent Night on Saturday, September 20 from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Class of 2004, check your email for more information!

Psych Week, sponsored by the Psychology Club, begins Monday, September 22 at 10 a.m. with a graduate school information session in Kresge Auditorium. At 7 p.m. attend an information session on art therapy in Ledford 101. Other events are scheduled for each day through September 26.

Auditions for *Vanities*, a student-directed production, will be held on Tuesday, September 23 at 7 p.m. in the Studio Theatre, located in Jones. No preparation is necessary. Call Kimberly at 854-09236 for more information.

Classifieds

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