



CHARLES DAHAN
EYE CANDY
Charles Dahan is a political science graduate student from California.
E-MAIL: CDAHAN@EMAIL.UNC.EDU

Apartheid comparison overstates the reality

Many supporters of an independent Palestinian state are able to engage in productive debates and rational discussions about the Israel-Arab conflicts.

Unfortunately, a radical fringe at UNC hijacked this discussion. Speakers and presentations of Palestine Week compare the Palestinian situation to apartheid. They replace emotional tales that exist on both sides of the conflict for actual reasoning and resort to counterproductive and illegitimate historical comparison that illustrates their ignorance and bigotry.

The images of the conflict are well-known. Arab-controlled

regions regularly complain of disproportionate uses of force during conflicts, the inconveniences of checkpoints and the bulldozing of homes previously inhabited by suicide bombers.

Israelis complain of the Arab states electing entities such as Hamas and Hezbollah that refuse to recognize their existence and Arab parents encouraging their own children to strap explosives and shrapnel to their bodies to kill Israelis on buses and trains.

Arabs complain of ambulances stopped at checkpoints while Israelis note those ambulances are occasionally explosives-filled suicide bombs. Both sides attempt to create an image of victimization and, to varying degrees, might possess a legitimate claim.

No honest observer would attempt to identify the root of any individual Arab-Israeli war. The creation of the disputed territories, however, is not up for debate. In 1967, Egypt and Jordan created an alliance agreeing to enter any battle the other fought. In May 1967, Egypt dispelled United Nations peacekeepers from the region in the run-up to an invasion of Israel — a battle Israel initiated to take the position of the aggressor. Despite Israel's offer, Jordan's King Hussein refused a non-aggression pact with Israel and entered the conflict with Egypt. The Six Day War ended with Israel capturing the territory from which the peacekeepers were dismissed — territory on which neither side previously laid claim.

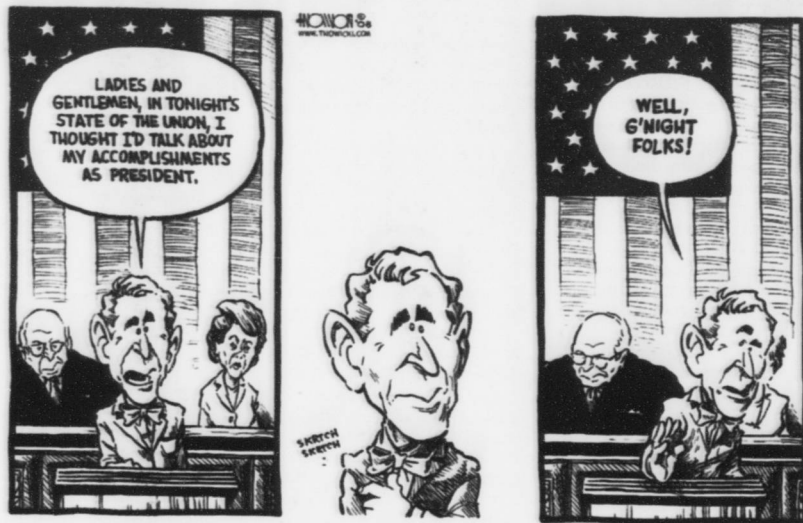
During the 2006 conflict, Hezbollah militants stormed Israeli villages, fired missiles from declared civilian infrastructure (buildings without inhabitants or, conveniently for firing rockets, windows) and launched rockets into Israel to divert attention away from their plot to kidnap Israeli soldiers. Ironically, a UN compound lies in between Israel and Lebanon to deter future conflicts.

Comparing the conflict in Israel to the struggle of blacks in South Africa is not only incorrect; it is disgusting. Apartheid consisted of complete repression and the lack of any recognition of the rights of blacks, who made up 90 percent of the nation's population. Blacks in South Africa never possessed the option of eradicating UN peacekeepers who enforced their sovereign areas and never allied with foreign forces to attempt to destroy the entire South African state.

Israeli Arabs may purchase land in Israel and hold full voting rights, educational opportunities flourish (20 percent of the Haifa University student body and faculty are Arab) and certain areas — such as the city of Bethlehem, the temple mount and East Jerusalem — are either completely off-limits to Jews or entry is strongly discouraged. The press in Israel is free and more critical of its own government than any in the world.

Apartheid and the Palestinian cause share few institutional similarities. Apartheid denied any opportunities — economic, social or political — to South African blacks who were violently oppressed and fully dominated for nearly five decades. Those who drum up support for a cause by leeching off of the name of such a system are intellectually lazy at best and, through marginalizing the struggle of a truly dominated people, racist at worst.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Terrence Nowicki, The Western Front



Carolina Second

New chancellor should build upon first campaign

When you aim low, it's easy to exceed expectations. When you set the bar high, however, it becomes a bit more difficult.

The latter is what occurred as the Carolina First Campaign, initiated in July 1999 and concluded in December, handily eclipsed its original goal of \$1.8 billion by an astounding \$580 million.

It would be cynical to label the Carolina First fundraising campaign as anything but another in a long line of fundraising victories for Chancellor James Moeser.

However, it would also be remiss to leave out discussion of its shortfalls; primarily, the campaign fell short in the faculty support sector of fundraising by about \$100 million after raising its initial goal of \$400 million.

The search committee for the new chancellor would do well to seek out a candidate who shares

not only Moeser's passion for learning, but also his commitment to fundraising.

The committee should hire someone capable of redressing shortcomings in faculty retention in the next fundraising campaign, estimated to commence in 2011.

Ironically, the people that often inspire students (and future donors) to seek out their academic dreams did not receive the faculty support donations sought out by the organizers of the Carolina First campaign in 1999.

In order to retain quality professors, their salaries must remain competitive; falling short of the \$500 million goal by 20 percent might push bright professors away from UNC. That is unacceptable.

UNC professor salaries currently hover around the 50th percentile of peer institutions. Barring increased funding

from the state, which last year was very generous, it will take the efforts of private fundraising, which constitutes about 78 percent of UNC's budget, to boost professor salaries to the 80th percentile as Moeser proposes.

Nevertheless, the campaign outshined expectations and hauled in \$2.38 billion, enough to make it the largest complete higher education fundraiser at any university in the South and the fifth largest in the nation.

Money from the campaign has already begun to exact positive changes on campus.

Among other things, the campaign has raised money to create 208 endowed professorships, 577 student scholarships and 196 student fellowships.

The fact that more than 193,000 public and private donors pitched in shows that UNC continues to reach and inspire people across the state, country and globe.

Human investment

Higher ed should count toward welfare work hours

North Carolinians who take advantage of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program are now able to count classroom hours toward their mandatory work requirement without agency supervision of study time.

Unfortunately, baccalaureate and associate degree programs cannot be applied toward the education replacement program, only vocational and job skills training courses are allowed, and education is eligible to replace work hours only for 12 months.

Both of these stipulations should be altered.

There is no denying there is a strong correlation between education and income levels. Simply by attaining an associate's degree, the median income you can expect to make is nearly \$8,000 more per year than if you had stopped your education after graduating high school.

With a bachelor's degree, the gap jumps to a little more than \$19,000 per year.

Vocational training is certainly important. The world needs plumbers and mechanics

as much as it needs businessmen and scientists, and those can be fairly lucrative professions.

But limiting people on welfare to only these trades does them a disservice and decreases the opportunities that they have to raise themselves to an income level that does not necessitate government aid in order for them to get by.

Additionally, only receiving aid for one year of college could greatly increase students' chances of dropping out of school. They should be able to get money for at least two years of education.

Associate degrees generally are on a two-year community college track, meaning that if they are included as part of the program, the 12-month limit is not long enough to attain one.

Even with vocational degrees, the one-year limit is not enough to complete some programs. Many are less than one year, but people who chose to pursue a longer program shouldn't be penalized for doing so.

An unsuccessful college education — one that doesn't

turn out a degree — would be a waste of government money.

The government would need to ensure that students receiving welfare are at least on track to graduate. Without this precaution, people could simply tread water in school to ride the benefits being provided.

The government should view an expansion of the program not as an extra expense but as an investment in human capital.

In fact, if the government accountants are smart, they will write the welfare expense off as an investment — an asset — instead of an expense.

With higher education, people become more productive at their jobs. Higher productivity of labor leads to growth in income per capita.

In fact, according to economic growth models, the way to achieve growth in income per capita is with some kind of labor augmentation — in this instance, higher education.

Investing in human capital makes the economy more productive and society as a whole better off, hands down.

Look homeward, John

When Edwards drops, he should head back to UNC

The 2004 Democratic vice presidential candidate has endured four losses — or should we say four good old-fashioned butt-kickings — in the primaries so far.

The most recent blow to John Edwards' presidential ambitions came Saturday in his home state of South Carolina, which only gave him 18 percent of the vote, despite his big victory there in the 2004 Democratic chase.

Sure, he has the best presidential head of hair, but without being overly optimistic, at this point in the race Edwards is a doubtful prospect for the Democratic bid he's vying for.

While we're not campaign advisers or political know-it-alls, we don't think it's a bad idea for him to drop out. Though, we

must commend his Spartan approach of no retreat.

But we hope that when (or if) the seemingly inevitable happens, Edwards heads back home to our quaint little university on the Hill.

Our advice should not be seen as an attempt to exploit Edwards' political preferences aside, it's beneficial to have someone in such a public eye visibly connected to Chapel Hill.

In the time between losing the 2004 election and officially announcing his presidential run in 2008, Edwards was the head of the UNC Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity.

Previously, we argued that because Edwards spent too much time covertly campaigning for the 2008 nomination, the

center didn't actually do a whole lot to fight poverty — a shame, given Edwards' "Two Americas" mantra.

But regardless of whether Edwards used the center as a stepping stone to his campaign, there's no doubt that it benefited publicity-wise from having his name attached.

Maybe if he tries again, putting his time into fighting poverty instead of other Democrats, he can take concrete steps to unite the "Two Americas."

He has the potential to completely change the way Americans view poverty. He might even win the Nobel Prize and start a popular movement that gives him a viable shot at a future presidential nomination. Hey, it worked for Al Gore.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"We have unfinished business before us, and the American people expect us to get it done."

PRESIDENT BUSH, ON HIS ADMINISTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To read the full-length versions VISIT <http://dailytarheelpublic.wordpress.com>
Post your own response to a letter, editorial or story online. VISIT www.dailytarheel.com/feedback

Coverage of candidates should be fair and equal

TO THE EDITOR:

As a journalism major I have viewed past articles written about John Edwards in as noncritical a way as possible. However, as a John Edwards supporter and co-founder of Carolina for Edwards I feel the need to speak up after Jan. 25's articles ("Students storm S.C." and "S.C. campaign almost done").

These articles emphasized the hard work being done by student groups supporting Democratic candidates. I and other members of Carolina for Edwards respect and understand how much effort these groups are putting into supporting their candidates because we have been doing the same type of work and much more since February 2007.

Carolina for Edwards consists largely of student interns who spend 10 to 20 hours a week working at the national campaign headquarters. Club members spent a week of their Winter Breaks in Iowa canvassing through two feet of snow and making thousands of phone calls for John Edwards. Friday's articles pointed out past calls and trips made by other organizations but failed to mention any of Carolina for Edwards extensive past efforts.

Members of Carolina for Edwards spend their nights, weekends and breaks fundraising, e-mailing, phone banking and organizing for John Edwards, not just around critical times in the campaign but all the time.

The corporate media sometimes needs to be reminded that there are three candidates in this race.

Likewise the DTH needs to be reminded that there are three student groups supporting Democratic candidates, and they all deserve fair and unbiased representation.

Courtney Roller
Sophomore
Journalism

Column didn't clearly show situation in the West Bank

TO THE EDITOR:

The recent column "West Bank tales from two Tar Heel alums," (Jan. 28) should have been more appropriately titled "West Bank half-truths."

To suggest that checkpoints and other defensive actions taken by Israel are actually a response to past atrocities and not a direct response to recent suicide bombings and murderous terrorist shootings is ridiculous and offensive.

The authors then proceed to complain of their apparent effectiveness and the resulting lack of more Jewish casualties. Being able to swim in the ocean or saving half an hour drive are not more important than preventing someone from having their body filled with shrapnel just because they took the bus to work. All of this is left out of the column.

No doubt, anything pro-Jewish or pro-Israel will be left out of "Palestine week" altogether. So if half the truth (and that's generous) is good enough, then this is the week for you.

Rabbi Ben Packer
Director
JEMS

SPEAK OUT

- WRITING GUIDELINES:**
- Please type: Handwritten letters will not be accepted.
 - Sign and date: No more than two people should sign letters.
 - Students: Include your year, major and phone number.
 - Faculty/staff: Include your department and phone number.
 - Edit: The DTH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Limit letters to 250 words.

- SUBMISSION:**
- Drop-off: at our office at Suite 2409 in the Student Union.
 - E-mail: to editdesk@unc.edu
 - Send: to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27515.

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Christian Thompson
Freshman
Exercise and Sport Science

Priority registration is not a perk for student athletes

TO THE EDITOR:

Call me optimistic, but I still harbor the sincere hope that the editorial staff of the DTH will someday actually read the Priority Registration Policy that was endorsed by the Faculty Council in December and thereafter stop making false claims about it ("Sporting their benefits," Jan. 28).

For example, the editors might be surprised to find that student athletes have not been granted priority registration as an "athletic perk" but rather are among the various student groups who are listed as examples of groups whose unusual challenges with registration could make them eligible for priority registration.

The priority registration policy is posted on the Faculty Governance Web site. Editors: Please check it out.

Steve Reznick
Professor
Psychology

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
114 years
of editorial freedom

ERIN ZUREICK
EDITOR, 962-4086
ZUREICK@EMAIL.UNC.EDU
OFFICE HOURS:
MON, WED, FRI, 1-2 PM.

ADAM STORCK
OPINION EDITOR, 962-0750
AFSTORCK@UNC.EDU

JONATHAN TUGMAN
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR, 962-0750
TUGMAN@UNC.EDU

ANDREW JONES
PUBLIC EDITOR
JONESAW@EMAIL.UNC.EDU

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS
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