

It's time to leave Iraq to the Iraqis

For the past few months, leftist pundits have been proclaiming that the United Nations must be given a greater role in the United States nation-building operation in Iraq. But U.N. control in Iraq would not achieve what its proponents say, and in fact would make the situation worse.

United Nations supporters claim that the end to terrorist attacks and the implantation of democracy is impossible because many Iraqis perceive the United States to be a self-interested occupying power. If the United Nations took over, this hostility would supposedly be replaced by respect for the legitimacy of this international body.

But the Aug. 19 bombing of U.N. headquarters showed that the enemies of the new Iraq are not motivated by the fear of a unilateral occupation but by the fear of a stable, democratic society. They will continue to attack any foreign group that works towards freedom in Iraq, because the realization of such freedom would prove their values to be wrong.

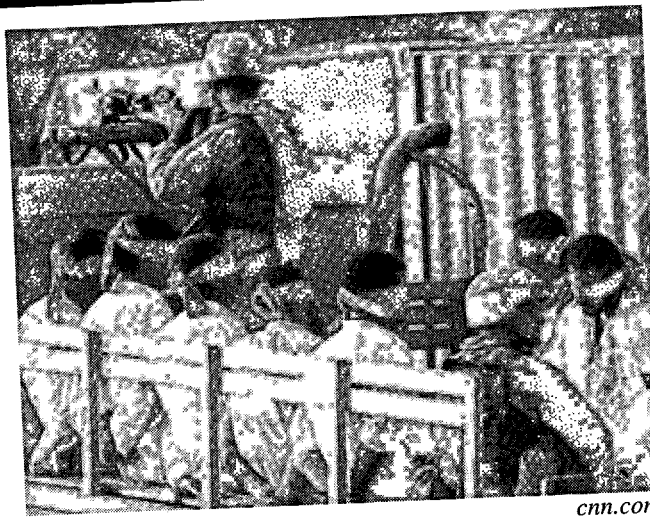
But even if the United Nations is a target for the terrorists, it is no more hated than the United States, so all it can do is help by providing desperately needed manpower, right? Wrong. U.N. peacekeepers are both unnecessary and counterproductive.

They are unnecessary because U.N. peacekeepers are trained to do just that: keep the peace, not establish peace where it does not exist. As Sierra Leone, Bosnia, Somalia, and the Congo all prove, the peacekeepers are not prepared to use force to constrain a violent enemy, the only way to combat the terrorists killing troops in Iraq.

They are counterproductive because of their leadership. Most of the members of the U.N. Security Council were against the war to begin with. Bush and Blair had to go to war without



MATT BANDYK



Iraqi detainees are transported by U.S. troops.

U.N. approval because France, Russia, and China, the other highly influential Security Council members, opposed their plan for a free Iraq at every step.

If the United States were to give authority over its mission to countries that oppose U.S. power, it would be tying its troops' hands behind their backs.

Another problem is that U.N. authority in Iraq may stave off the goal of democracy. Countries under U.N. nation building operations, with Kosovo being the most recent example, tend to become U.N. protectorates, only gaining independence at some distant time in the future. It would be a serious blow to American credibility if the Iraqis had to wait an indefinite number of years for the democracy that the U.S. government promised to them.

The frustrations and sacrifices of involvement in Iraq should not cause the United States to give and pass the buck onto the United Nations, a source for further frustration. Instead, the United States should increase cooperation with the Iraqis themselves. Efforts to train them and put more Iraqis into the roles currently occupied by American troops should be continued and expanded. Not only would such cooperation free more U.S. soldiers to root out the terrorists, but it would help the Iraqis learn how to run their now very different country.

Last I checked, Constitution doesn't say anything about banning gay marriages

What would you do if someone told you that you live in a free country but you won't be allowed the same rights as most people?

You won't be allowed to adopt a child, you won't be allowed tax-free inheritance of your spouse's property and you won't be allowed basic health and tax benefits granted to a spouse.

In short, you would be denied basic rights granted to virtually all other married couples simply because of who you are.

In America, a country that was founded on the premise that all individuals have an equal right to the pursuit of happiness, how can we possibly deny individuals basic rights based

DAVID CROW

merely on their sexual orientation?

Marriage is and always has been a religious and cultural institution, present in some form in nearly every human civilization throughout history in order to both promote the perpetuation of that civilization and to form the basis of some sort of family unit.

Today in America, marriage has somehow moved from being a cultural and religious institution to being a way for the government to bestow rights on some individuals and not others.

This is how the problems got started.

Marriage is not now and never has been the business of the State. The moral and sentimental approval based on marriage is not the state's business to grant to straight or gay couples.

The simple solution is for the State to stop approving marriage for both straight and gay couples and instead simply carry out its legal role of granting those additional rights to one's spouse, whoever that spouse may be. Whether or not a couple is "married" is up to their religious group, community and friends to decide.

When people stop thinking of gay marriage as the government sanctioning of homosexual behavior and start thinking of gay marriage as ensuring equal rights for all as

guaranteed by the constitution, many people will be much more accepting.

The American public has recently shown itself to be much more embracing of the homosexual community than ever before. The success of shows such as "Queer as Folk" and "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" demonstrate how people no longer view homosexuals as people who should be ashamed of their lifestyle and live behind closed doors. Even the Episcopal Church has taken the plunge and nominated an openly gay bishop.

If the president and many in Congress would stop trying to turn the government into the morality police and start doing their jobs of conferring equal rights to all we could finally truthfully say that this country is about ensuring the equal pursuit of happiness to all.

Freshmen and seniors: Age difference is only part of story

Caution: gazing directly into the eye of a freshman may result in blindness, nausea, and a burning desire to spell naughty words on a graphing calculator. To deflect the glare of their unbridled innocence, I've fashioned a small viewing device (intricately crafted using ancient Norwegian dental floss spun by mute Vikings). It blocks out the light that streams from their pearly smiles. Who really needs an upbeat outlook when you can live in your own dark "Pessim-eclipse?"

I know this sounds a little "Pacino", but I do feel "harder" than I did three years ago. On the other hand, my body feels quite a bit "softer"—thank you \$97-a-bag union candy. Side note: I'm actually in a gang called the "Sour Patch Chips". There was a terrible drive-by scooping the other day, but luckily nobody was packing plastic (cymbal crash).

I'm not sure when I succumbed to the siren-song of apathy. I think it might have been the first time I swerved to try and hit people in my car on cake-race day. Or maybe it was

when I realized that the "Freshman Olympics" were rigged. Stupid French hall counselor/judge. And it's not just me, I know of quite a few seniors who feel like they have lost a little of their luster. You can see them standing sullenly in a corner near you.

Freshmen are like greyhounds: They're bony, beautifully-groomed, and they run in circles chasing elusive chew toys. Seniors are more like three-legged ferrets bred on moonshine, who like to spread rabies whenever possible.

Then again, maybe all we seniors need is a good makeover—some sort of school-wide slumber party that rejuvenates our numbed psyches. We can call it "Cheery Eye for the Sedate Guy." It'll star five-fabulous freshmen who add just attitudes with their sunny dispositions. Yep, the remedy for all apathy could be one game of "Boggle" and two Mandy Moore quotes away.

"Hope is the most exciting thing there is in life."

-Mandy Moore



ALI FITZGERALD

Honor Code 'study' finds 100% adherence

From the (fictional) public relations mind of Nicholas Carlson '05.

A new study released yesterday by the Davidson College admissions department reveals an enthusiastic adherence to the school's renowned Honor Code amongst its students.

The ambitious study aimed to discover the precise number of infractions against the Code on campus. The data was drawn from anonymous surveys, Honor Council cases, and police reports during the 2002-2003 school year.

The study has been released just in time for the fall application season and the department is excited to include this information in their discussions with prospective students as they make the tough decisions that face them in their near future.

The study also seems to suggest that last year's minor revisions to the Honor Code are at least partly responsible for the staggering drop in suspected offenses. Prior to last year's amendments, the school's Honor Code stated:

Each Davidson student is honor bound to refrain from stealing, lying about College business, and cheating on academic work. Stealing is the intentional taking of any property without

Cheating includes plagiarism, which is putting the parenthetical citation before the period, not after.

right or permission. Lying is intentional misrepresentation of any form.

Cheating is any practice, method, or assistance, whether explicitly forbidden or unmentioned, that involves any degree of dishonesty, fraud, or deceit. Cheating includes plagiarism, which is representing another's ideas or words as one's own.

Just before the Admissions department commissioned their study, the Code's wording was changed for the sake of clarity so that the sentences now read:

Each Davidson student is honor bound to refrain from stealing, lying about College business, and cheating on academic work.

Stealing is the intentional taking of any property, excepting those times when you really need to borrow the unlocked bike in front of your dorm and nobody will notice and hell if you forget, its not like it's a huge campus anyway (also, laundry detergent? If you leave it...I'm usin' it), without right or permission.

Lying is intentional misrepresentation of any form excepting cases when its your buddies' 20th birthday, or at least in the same month as, and the RA really doesn't care anyway so why not just give 'em the name of that sub-free kid who talks all the damn time in class just to show off for the prof.

Cheating is any practice, method, or assistance, whether explicitly forbidden or unmentioned, that involves any degree of dishonesty, fraud, or deceit that is of course unless if you could memorized the answers and then just forgetten them anyway so why not just jot them down off your notes when you get a take home test. Its all the same in the end.

Cheating includes plagiarism, which is putting the parenthetical citation before the period, not after.

Also mentioned in the report was a switch made for bureaucratic simplification; acts of violence against Canadian waterfowl which result in criminal charges now fall under the jurisdiction of the Code of Responsibility.

Oh yeah," enthused one admissions administrator, "we really think this confirms Davidson's growing strength...look out T. Five, here we come!"

Attention all students with opinions.

Contact us about becoming a columnist for the Perspectives section. We welcome students of all ages and interests. E-mail Editor David Crow: dacrow@ davidson.edu