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Letters to the editor

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Time to get to work to solve Durham's problems

County Commissioner Ellen Reckhow acknowledged and applauded the partners of the Pauli Murray Place development for their collective and action-oriented work [Letters, June 29]. I agree with Reckhow that "if we roll up our sleeves, work together, and put our differences aside" we can make it happen. There must be a transition in Durham. We need to move from discussing Durham's problems to actually getting to work to solve Durham's problems.

From local government to the Partners Against Crime, we have discussed the ills of our community for long enough, but now we need to shift our attention to building collaborative action oriented partnerships such as the West End Collaborative, responsible for Pauli Murray Place, to make Durham the city it ought to be rather than the city we are portrayed to be.

To do so, we must make the right investments and do what is best for our community while acknowledging and respecting our differences that also build on our commonalities. We cannot be content with appropriation without implementation and evaluation.

Rather than single-handedly addressing crime, unemployment, underemployment, gangs, affordable housing and economic development, city and county government should work strategically to develop plans of action rather than reaction that unify their resources to maximize effectiveness. This approach will ensure action and measurability.

Good things are indeed happening in Durham but great things could be happening in Durham if our leaders would build unity, work together and involve all cross-sections of Durham's citizenry.

DeWARREN K. LANGLEY

Editor's note: The writer is a junior business and economics major at Hampton University.

Keep your dogs cool

I'm responding to the article by Danielle Purifoy about keeping kids and pets out of hot cars [June 25].

As this article states, the hot weather can be deadly to dogs left in a hot vehicle. Every year, dogs die after being locked inside hot cars. These animals' deaths occur with alarming frequency, yet are entirely preventable.

The Animal Protection Institute launched its annual My Dog is Cool campaign in order to end the avoidable deaths of dogs left inside cars in hot weather. Most people simply don't realize that when it's 85 degrees out, the temperature inside a car -- even with the windows left slightly open -- can soar to 102 degrees in 10 minutes, and can reach 120 in just half an hour. Often people mean well by taking their dog along with them while they work, visit, shop or run an errand, but even leaving a dog for "just a few minutes" may be too long. Dogs can withstand an elevated body temperature for only a very short period of time before suffering brain damage or even death.

API is working to protect companion animals with education and outreach to car companies, communities, and shopping malls and other public places and we need the help of concerned citizens. If you are interested in taking action locally to prevent these tragedies, please contact the Animal Protection Institute at 800-348-7387 x213. Or visit www.MyDogIsCool.com.

MICHELLE THEW

Sacramento, Calif.

Editor's note: The writer is CEO of the Animal Protection Institute.

Bush's pathetic policies

Tuesday night President Bush tried to rescue his failed Iraq policy in a nationally televised address by connecting the Iraq war to the war on terror. In a speech lasting only 28 minutes, Bush made five references to 9/11 as if to once again imply there was a connection to the tragic 9/11 attack and his pathetic policies in Iraq.

By my calculations, Bush told a lie every 5.6 minutes in an obvious attempt to distract attention from his failure as commander in chief of our military from the real terror America faces: the continued smoke screens and lies from the desperate Republican political machine. One can hear the machine beginning to sputter when you hear Republican Senator Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, who said, "The White House is completely disconnected from reality ... It's like they're just making it up as they go along." This pretty much sums up Bush's policy in Iraq.

But how dare he connect his miserable failure in Iraq to the memory of those Americans killed on our home soil on 9/11. Shame on you, George W. Bush. You owe all of America and the entire world an apology!

BRUCE A. STRICKLAND

On doctors who err

It was estimated that 100,000 Americans die each year due to medical errors. Who should be held responsible for these errors? Doctors should be accountable for mistakes as much as a policeman. If a policeman makes an error, the SBI or FBI investigates and puts them on leave until they are sure they were not at fault. Our doctors and hospitals should be treated the same.

EMMUS POPE

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