

# 'Misleading' column criticized

My letter is in response to a column by Amy Edwards, titled "American Watchdogs in place" (DN Aug. 27), the first day of school -- a perfect day to publish a misleading column.

There are several objectionable things so I have addressed them in a numerical order. I start from the second paragraph in which Amy writes:

1. We are going to war.

Are we really? Until Aug. 27, 1990 there has been no direct confrontation between U.S. troops stationed in Saudi Arabia and the Iraqi forces in Kuwait and Iraq. This statement almost sounds like you wanted to say, "We are looking forward for a war."

Despite the increasing buildup of troops in the Gulf (both U.S. and Iraqi), there are important signs that there are efforts on way to diffuse tension between Washington and Baghdad. The families of the diplomats are on their way home via Turkey. Whereas these significant changes are taking place, your statement that we are going to war is quite contradictory or maybe it reflects your unrealistic perspective of an already "trigger-happy" U.S. foreign policy (remember Panama, Grenada or Vietnam).

2. In your article you state and seek to elaborate on the most obvious of geopolitical facts. I am curious about the audience of such kind of writing. For example you state: "Saudi Arabia has oil" and that "Americans crave to maintain their way of life."

OOOH! Please stop! You are hurting my intelligence and that of the 2,000 new students who have joined UNL this fall. Don't you think every Tom, Dick and Harry is aware of these above stated "universal truths (if I may)."

3. You state and I partly agree with you here that "Washington manufactured a protest letter for the Kuwaiti emir to sign? . . . Kuwait sent this letter to other nations to enlist their help."

Rumor has it that when a day after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Kuwaiti emir (actual spelling is ameer) was asked to read a letter of protest (in Arabic) on TV, he had trouble reading it (My sources are C-SPAN, Lincoln cable channel 21). If this in fact is correct, don't you believe it is outrageous that the king who had billions stashed away in Swiss accounts (which now stand frozen) could not read. Maybe the honorable king did not get time from his 60 wives (approximately) and countless children (exact). I know this is an exaggeration and I also know that the personal life of the (former) Kuwaiti king is not the issue on trial, but if the Kuwaiti rulers say that they tried their best to resolve the border and oil production problems with the "madman" of Iraq, can we really believe in what they say?

4. You state that the United Nations believes the "use of force could be used to stop vessels."

I am sorry, but your statement is

only partly correct. The United Nations only allowed the use of "LIMITED" force. To you, maybe, force and LIMITED force do not mean a whole lot of difference.

A question for you though, maybe you can answer it in your next column: Would you advocate stopping of shipping vessels carrying food and medicinal stuff?

5. And finally the classic example of the worst piece of column writing I have had the willpower to go through. Here I have to write exactly the entire paragraph about your father's insight into foreign policy and understanding of world affairs. You state and I quote:

"My dad told me last week that he thought we would use nuclear weapons against Iraq. I disagreed. Turning Iraq into a parking lot would leave us with a long walk to work. But who knows? Maybe dealing with a madman requires tactics that are just as mad. His willingness to take on world outrage leaves a large question about rational talks with the Iraqi leader."

Give me a break lady? How hypocritical can you get? You do not agree with your dad about the use of nuclear weapons but then maybe to get things over with quickly you think it is not such a bad idea after all. I am curious. Did you write this Friday night before

school started?

Did you watch a lot of Rambo movies this summer with your dad? Or maybe those Chuck Norris movies where Arab "terrorists" hijack and slaughter all American and Israeli passengers and towards the end Norris kicks some Arab butt. He destroys all Arabs from the face of the earth.

Is that the world you envision? Is that the prophesy you have for us on the first day of school?

Are you aware of the geographical location of Iraq if we really believe President Bush will authorize the use of nuclear weapons. You will destroy Iraq for sure, but devastate Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Iran, Kuwait as well. In case of a bigger disaster Israel, Russia and Egypt too. Yes, I said Israel. Ooh, maybe now you are concerned about a nuclear solution.

World problems can be quite mind-boggling. Before you embark on a trip to explain them to us, be sure you have some vision of them yourself.

Let us all pray that the crisis is over with and all U.S. troops come home safe and free and that there is absolutely no wasting of lives.

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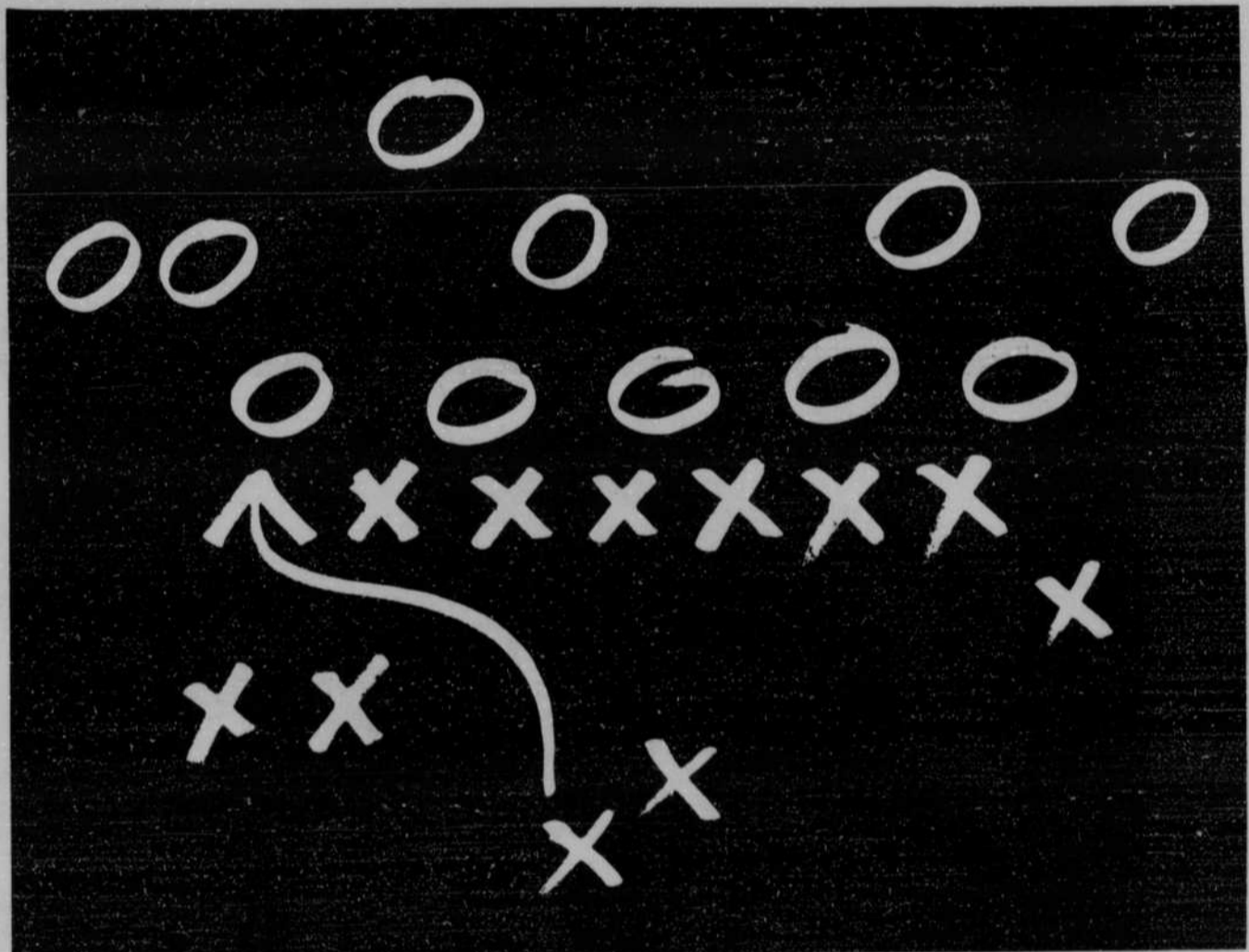
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