

Students disagree on U.S. involvement in Gulf

U.S. must police world to protect weak countries

Eric Aspengren, writing on the DN editorial page, (DN, Sept. 7), continues to perpetrate the mistaken notion that the current operation in the Persian Gulf concerns solely the availability of oil to the West. Nothing could be further from the truth. While oil arguably may be the catalyst in the crisis, it is not the logical basis for the U.S. military buildup in Saudi Arabia.

What frightened passivists (and pacifists) refuse to recognize is that in the post-Cold War era, the United States survives as the only super-power economically and militarily capable of inserting force into any area of the world inflamed by a crisis such as currently exists with regard to Kuwait. For better or for worse, that capability compels us as a nation to accept the role of policing the world so that tyrants, such as Saddam Hussein, do not sleep well at night knowing a price will be exacted for their transgressions.

Consider the alternative. If the United States as a nation fails to meet that obligation, it seems likely that the world's future holds the prospect of an explosion of small, regional conflicts led by trigger-happy demagogues who know their preying upon weaker neighbors can be accomplished with impunity. The bleak aspect will be one of war, war, war; peace will become a forgotten concept in many parts of the world with anarchy and despair the bountiful harvest of our inaction.

Particularly irritating, Aspengren illogically panders to the oft-voiced ideal of protecting democracy and democratic institutions to argue that our nation is hypocritical in defending Saudi Arabia and attempting to dislodge Iraq from occupied Kuwait. No reasonable American would defend the desirability of the present Kuwaiti form of government (as it existed before Iraq's blatant aggression), but rather would prefer a stability such that the Kuwaiti citizens, by their own institutions at their own pace. If Saddam Hussein is not forced to return to the people of Kuwait their land and their property (yes, Eric, you conveniently managed to forget that Saddam's armies robbed, raped and pillaged Kuwait), then no one will be safe in the future from any like-minded madman.

Even more outrageously, Aspengren piously claims it to be propaganda to equate Saddam Hussein with Hitler. Eric, did you think to ask those families in the Kurdish provinces of Iraq upon whom Saddam unloaded his lethal arsenal of poison-gas bombs? What the civilized world regards as

loathsome and inhuman, Saddam has elevated to an art such that he must relish the thought to exterminate an independent-minded people who stand in the way of his metallurgical designs for an Arab world ruled from Baghdad.

No thinking person would accord Saddam Hussein the status to speak of peace for the Arab world; like Hitler, he ranks right down there in the cesspool of humanity and deserves little more than to be dragged out in the desert and shot like the mad dog he has proved to be in light of the Kurdish genocide he masterminded.

While Aspengren, thankfully, failed to dredge up the perennial whipping-boy in any Middle East discussion -- Israel -- this issue is subtly being interjected into the current conflict by the Iraqi propaganda apparatus. Saddam Hussein remains busy cranking out the invective he deems necessary to unite a fragmented Arab resolve to fight a holy war against Israel. He cannot forget that Israel deprived him of the opportunity to unleash upon the world the specter of nuclear holocaust. But for Israel's bombing of Iraq's nuclear complex in the early 1980s the world might even now have been consumed in a nuclear conflagration.

Finally, if history teaches us anything, it is the lesson that turning a blind eye toward a neighbor's distress ultimately results in compounded costs economically as well as spiritually. A decisive, early action by concerned governments against Hitler's lunacy prior to World War II might well have prevented the nightmare of six million Jewish deaths in the Holocaust, the millions of military and civilian war casualties, and the eastern, communist-dominated governments even yet collapsing! Because of the paralysis of fear that war might result if governments acted to contain the Nazi's aggression toward its neighbors, the world was plunged into the very war it desperately hoped to avoid by appeasing Hitler.

Yes, I am fed up with the tripe that passes for fair-minded and responsible journalism. Increasingly, so many in the profession appear willing to be duped by an ever more shrill segment in our society acting upon an agenda designed to withdraw and isolate America from the rest of the world by resorting to smear tactics of eternally labeling our government as a warmongering aggressor. It is time to resist the myopic view to negotiate and hope for peace; rather we should continue to take firm, persistent and militarily powerful action to restore

peace and stability to that troubled part of the world. The paradigm of parent/child relationship illustrates the point: as parents, we sometimes must forcefully interject ourselves between our children in order to preserve the peace and often their bodies. Such is

the course we are presently faced with respect to the current crisis in Kuwait. To wait is to risk losing it all.

Frank Adams
senior
law college

Saddam not a madman, his rationality is evident

Naveed Siraj Memon's rabid critique of a recent DN editorial column by Amy Edwards (DN, Aug. 27) does nothing to detract from Edward's essentially correct analysis of events in the Persian Gulf. Memon's mistaken and unjust accusation that Edwards, a warmonger of campus repute, would approve of the use of nuclear weapons in Iraq to "get things over with quickly" does however solidify my conviction that the death of sarcasm is high. Her skilled and subtle use of this writing technique to suggest the United States should, perhaps, not be the watchdog of the world must have passed right through Memon's grey matter without being intercepted.

However, Edwards made one important error, committed this month by several far more experienced and better paid analysts than she. Saddam Hussein is not a "madman." As citizens of the United States interested in preserving our lifestyles in a peaceful world order, we would do better to ignore efforts by charged rhetoric. Even such a devout cold warrior as Zbigniew Brzezinski has expressed concern with the Bush efforts to gain support for his policy in the Middle East by making Saddam Hussein into evil incarnate (presumably for reasons other than this role's status as reserved for communists). Ousting Saddam, he says, should not be the primary objective of U.S. policy in the area.

Focusing on Saddam obfuscates the genuine foreign policy interests of the United States and may even make the chance of war more likely. If Saddam Hussein feels that Bush will not allow him to survive this crisis as the ruler of Iraq, then he has less to lose by attempting a victory through violence and everything to gain.

Saddam's rationality is evident in several of his actions in this crisis. The most obvious was his sudden settlement of the terms of peace with Iran, on terms favorable to the Iranian government. Several commentators speculated that Saddam had cut a deal to sell oil from Iraq and Kuwait by shipping it through Iran. This is possible, but on any significant scale, such actions would be relatively easy


they took over, slashing or ending federally sponsored alternate energy research and removing every independence from the national agenda, replacing it with Star Wars and the Communist threat. Thanks, Bush, for your vision and foresight regarding these matters.

God Bless America, and President Bush.


Gary W. Longsine
senior
international affairs



That's one way of looking at it. Another way is to ignore it and hope it goes away. Or tell yourself it's hopeless. And that's called playing with fire. Because there's one thing we know for certain. And that is that high blood pressure can usually be controlled. By following your doctor's advice. By exercising regularly to control weight. By cutting down on salt in your diet. And by sticking to your prescribed medication. Because if you don't take it seriously today, it could take you by surprise tomorrow.

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