

Gulf war, abortion occupy readers

War undesired, but is reality, thanks to Bush

At the end of last semester, Jan. 15 seemed like a long way off, but here we are again, fighting for peace. When the bombs first started falling a week and a half ago, I heard someone nearby shouting joyfully, "It's starting; we've got war!" I, however, was probably not the only confused and depressed individual in America. Having a friend on the front lines, and the prospect of myself becoming cannon fodder have made this whole sequence of events hard to swallow.

I fear that many people don't understand the gravity of the situation. This is war, not a Nintendo game or a Rambo movie! Although we've only seen buildings destroyed under the might of good old American "ordnance," there are people dying. I'm sure everyone was just as sickened as I was when the prisoners of war were paraded around on Iraqi television. Human lives are involved here. We can't forget that.

I was deeply disturbed when Congress effectively put the lives of a generation in the hands of a single man. I was even more disturbed because the man was George "I am not a wimp" Bush, the same fellow who made the words "liberal," "compromise" and "peace" un-American. Saddam Hussein did a great injustice to the people of Kuwait, but throwing young Americans at him without giving sanctions enough time to work was not the way to go.

Many people here on the home front can't accept the fact that people can support our troops, yet protest the war. I don't want my friend to die; in fact, I don't want anybody to die. Nevertheless, I accept the situation and hope they return quickly, and with their lives intact.

It is important that we support our troops, but who would want a war? I am not a "hippie peace fag" as someone has so eloquently classified those who are against war, but war is something to be avoided, especially if there are other ways to deal with a problem. War protests remind us that peace is the ideal, and war is not something to be desired or strived for. In my opinion, President Bush seemed a little too eager for a fight.

I do indeed hope the war is over in a few weeks as all the "true Americans" predict. I also hope that war protest helps to bring about peace. By the way, they are WAR protests and not PEACE protests as I have heard many people say. I'll probably be labeled as unpatriotic by many who read this, but I hope that Old Glory isn't replaced by an oil barrel as the symbol of the United States of America.

Keith Richter
junior
anthropology

Public ignoring Israel's theft of Jordan's land

We have crossed the Rubicon. We are now committed in Kuwait. What concerns us is not the fact that we are attempting to halt a ruthless tyrant. What concerns us is the national myopia we seem to exhibit. In this initial post-invasion euphoria, so many seem to have donned their red, white and blue blinders. We have focussed our national hate on one man.

Has this made our nation forget another case in recent history of one Middle East country invading another's homeland, claiming it as rightfully theirs, claiming that it always had been theirs? I am speaking of Israel's thievery of the Palestinians' homeland. And interesting enough, both Israel, and now Iraq, performed their land grabs in the name of the respective Gods. We have seen fit to sit on the sidelines in the one instance and drop bombs in the other.

We would also ask that we Americans remove the blinders long enough to consider another case of world condemnation of a country for infringing on the sovereign rights of another. I am speaking of the mining and naval blockade of Nicaraguan harbors. How many of us remember

the world court's condemnation of our actions? How many of us remember how we ignored this mandate? The main difference between Iraq's actions and our own actions in this instance is the fact that we had the military power to ignore the mandate with impunity.

We could go on listing similar cases throughout much of our recent history. The point has been made, however. We must clean up our own house. We must be consistent in our policies or we have no moral right to point the finger at another less powerful country doing the same thing. Until such a consistency is maintained, another Saddam Hussein shall certainly arise if for no other reason than that he is following our example.

Do not misinterpret what we have written. Although we firmly believe we have no business in Saudi Arabia, we are now committed there, nonetheless. As such, my wife and I support the effort to get this ugly business over with as little pain as possible and get our men and women back home. We pray our son will be among them.

Robert and Joanne Panther
Lincoln

Hitler analogy getting old, remains invalid

It seems that just about everybody who writes in favor of this war cannot seem to restrain himself from comparing the war to World War II. Saddam Hussein is almost invariably called "another Hitler," while those of us who oppose the war are cast as latter-day Neville Chamberlains. While one can certainly find parallels between the gulf war and World War II, one can find them between it and the Vietnam War, and probably, in fact, just about any war that has ever been fought since the beginning of history. I would like to point out some of the more obvious differences before people start imagining that the United States is saving the world from fascism by its actions in the Persian Gulf.

First and foremost, aside from the fact that Germany's principal ally, Japan, had made a massive attack on U.S. territory, Germany declared war on the United States first. Congress declared war on Germany only afterward. Iraqi forces, on the other hand, were clearly in a defensive posture when U.S. bombers attacked their country on the early morning of Jan. 17.

Secondly, Iraq had historical claims, however weak, to the territory of Kuwait. In the World War II comparison, Kuwait would be equivalent to the Sudetenland. Even Churchill, to say nothing of Roosevelt, did not advocate the use of military force to restore the Sudetenland to Czechoslovakia immediately after it was "annexed" by Germany. He merely said English politicians should wake up and quit treating Hitler like a trustworthy neighbor, and should, in addition, start preparing for the possibility of war against a very aggressive despot. It is Saudi Arabia or Israel, countries of far greater strategic importance and with far more ties to the United States than Kuwait, which should have been our Poland.

Finally, Saddam, no more than Khomeini or Khaddafi, cannot credibly be compared to Hitler simply because he lacks the grand philosophy, which Hitler had in fascism, which had potential appeal to European peoples. While people like to forget or, more likely, ignore it, one major reason why Hitler drove through so much of Europe so easily was that many intellectuals in the countries he conquered were already convinced that fascism was the way of the future, and openly collaborated with him. Even in the United States, while not so numerous, the Nazis were not without sympathizers. Many people feared that if Hitler defeated all of Europe, while Japan dominated Asia, that the United States would fall into his hands like an overripe apple.

Now, can anyone make such a case for Saddam Hussein? I have yet to hear of any sympathizers of his outside of Jordan, although this is sure to change with each U.S. bombing mission over Baghdad.

President Bush's over-eagerness to attack Iraq is not going to make friends, either among Arab nations or among our "allies" who are already tired of U.S. demands for financial assistance in the operation. Animosity toward the United States only will increase with every day that this war continues. It is time to cut our losses and bring the troops home.

Chas Baylor
junior
arts and sciences

Both men, women need education about abortion

Before I begin my complaint, I'd like to make one point clear. Abortion has been a highly publicized issue lately, and I am not intent on stressing either position: pro-choice or pro-life. Instead, I would like to direct attention toward the sexual stereotyping that occurs when dealing with the issue.

My roommate and I were walking toward the Nebraska Union on Wednesday afternoon and noticed three men handing out pamphlets. We were thinking to ourselves, "Oh no, what next?" One of the men approached us and made the following comment: "Ladies, you could use these. Here's one for each of you."

We took one look at them and became furious; not because of their content, but because of the man's action. His intent was good, but his choice of words was bad. The pamphlets showed pictures of an eight-week-old fetus and of an 18-week-old unborn baby. They listed facts regarding fetus growth and supported a pro-life stance.

The audacity of this man was incredible. In my opinion, people are

free to express their ideas in any manner they choose as long as they don't offend others. But saying that "us ladies" could use "these pamphlets" offends me.

Granted, it is a woman's decision since the fetus is growing inside of her body. However, when a man implies that I need to be educated on abortion, it makes me want to face him and reply; "You are equally responsible for creating a life." In other words, a man just as much as a woman could use the information in these pamphlets.


Lori Frederick
sophomore
accounting

Spray painting motivates switch in political bent

"War is stupid" but spray painting sidewalks is a stroke of genius. There is nothing like a protester to turn a moderate into a conservative.


Time Wilwerding
sophomore
chemical engineering

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