

# Persian Gulf war still occupies readers' minds

## Path to war must be examined, avoided

Here we are again enmeshed in the pain of war. If it forces us to examine the path that brought us here and to avoid a similar one in the future, then it will have lasting value.

If we blame Saddam Hussein or George Bush or any one person or nation, we are oversimplifying and thereby missing the point. It is time to look at our personal involvement or lack thereof on this path.

We are glued to the news, but what a costly price tag our attention has. The people who a month ago had no time to listen are now discussing the issues with "expert authority." It seems a shame that their inexperience makes them vulnerable to sensationalized versions and sources.

I hear an attitude of celebration over the destruction of Saddam, but where were these voices during the recent years when many from the West were fortifying his military capabilities? If he is the "embodiment of evil" or "insane" as now suggested, did he become this way overnight? If I could believe that our leaders and all of us had used our every capability to understand the people and problems in that area and were now forced to these measures as a last resort, then I would have less confusion and anguish.

If the statistic is true that in 1988, 75 percent of us could not locate the Persian Gulf on the map, can we now impose our "expertise" and pretend to have answers to gulf residents' problems when we do not care enough to know where and how they live?

While others are asked to physically bury their heads in the sands of the Middle East, is it unreasonable to ask ourselves to stop emotionally and intellectually burying our heads in the sands of ignorance concerning people and events around us? Is it too much to ask that we decide to listen to the "unexciting news." To read, to become informed beyond our borders and to regularly ask our leaders to answer our questions?

Beverly Shippy  
senior  
arts and sciences

## Saddam's brutality further proven by civilian deaths

We hear from Jordan and Yemen of outrage at American precision destruction of a large reinforced-concrete building, surrounded by barbed wire, with a camouflage roof, fiber-optic cable connections, and with a track record of military radio broadcasts. Sounds like a reasonable target.

Did Jordan and Yemen also express outrage at Iraqi missile attacks on Israel? These were not precision attacks. They were intended to inflict civilian casualties. Or were these civilians "only Jews?"

I am not an Israelophile (in 1967, they sank a U.S. Navy ship and machine-gunned the survivors in their lifeboats!), but I certainly am not an anti-Semite.

Saddam Hussein is clever. Packing civilians into military structures is similar to placing prisoners of war there, or using his former hostage/ "guests" in a like manner. One recent report said that he had installed military communications equipment in the Al-Rashid Hotel in Baghdad, where the reporters are staying. What's next? Militarizing hospitals? Orphanages? "Baby milk factories?"

This guy is a despicable barbarian. Thank God our president had the intestinal fortitude to raise the hatchet before Saddam had a functional nuclear arsenal. What if this had happened during Carter's tenure? Empty, conciliatory words. Eventually, we'd hear "Allah Akbar!" and see mushroom clouds. I am a pro-gun control, environmentalist Democrat myself, but thank God for Republican presidents!

Robert J. Tobin  
graduate student  
geology

## Foreign policy blamed for death of U.S. soldiers

This letter is in response to Adam Tyrrel's letter (DN, Feb. 14). I don't think there have been any soldiers returned home from the Persian Gulf that have been spat upon. If the so-called "peaceniks" that I know are any indication, I doubt that any of us would "spit" on returning veterans; many of us know people over there as well. Some of my friends have been in the military and do know how it feels to be a soldier.

When I've been involved in public dissent, I have engaged in the shout "No blood for oil." It is the blood of American soldiers, the blood of the innocent Iraqi civilians and the blood of Iraqi troops being spilled. I object to this because there is no rational reason for it happening. There have been many situations across the globe in which the United States could have objected to a country's invasion by an aggressor in the same way that President Bush has condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The only apparent reason that Bush has done so now is to stabilize (gain control over) the Middle East and its oil supply.

I'm sorry if my dissent hurts the feelings of soldiers, Adam. They need to hear these words that object to an irrational foreign policy that will make it more likely that they will die. Most of the American soldiers I know have the courage to risk death in defense of this country's freedom. The combat in the Persian Gulf doesn't protect our freedom. It is a battle largely fought over a natural resource that is being consumed by the gluttonous energy use of America.

James A. Zank  
senior  
art and English

## Rodeo criticism based on fallacies, misinformation

In response to Marcia Anderson's letter (DN, Feb. 13), once again it is good to hear of the concern the Humane Society of the United States, the American Humane Association and the Greater Nebraska Animal Welfare Society have for the animals involved in rodeo activities.

I was nowhere near shocked to read that GNAWS requests we all not attend a re-enactment of the Great American West's past. I would also advise those who do so not to patronize public zoos, circus performances and Sea World shows.

I cannot comment on the remark that "rodeo remains an unnecessary cruelty to animals that a (civilized) society can and should forgo" because no examples of cruelty were directly described by Marcia Anderson. I wish she would have been more explicit in her own paragraph of the article as to the cruelties rodeo stock is subjected to. The general statements of the quotes give no examples either. If you fear the examples upmost in your mind would be too grotesque to discuss in the media, I would caution you not to believe that we in rodeo condone such examples.

The public may look with disgust upon these individuals, but among the rodeo community, they are outcasts and not respected. Not only are we unimpressed by the image projected on rodeo, but we are also humanitarians caring for our animals as if they were family.

These individuals are no different than the few loose screws that tease dogs, toss cats and cage birds. Strange that the owning of pets is not discouraged.

And now a few words about the quote issued in a joint statement by the HSUS and the AHA — "The stress inflicted on the animals." I am curious if this is the same stress that causes the family dog to relieve himself in the living room during the holidays.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Three generations of my family have been involved in rodeo, myself included for the last 21 years. I dare say I know the animals involved and their personalities much better than my fellow man. I can recall no literature in the field dealing with animal stress from the above time period.

The quote also states that during practice sessions, especially, the animals endure abuse and suffering as HSUS and AHA have determined. No statistics were provided with this statement. I'm sure that I saw somebody hiding behind a tree with a clipboard as I picked myself up from the practice arena dirt on cool summer evening.

In the final paragraph of the joint statement, a remark is made about how rodeos do not portray ranching skills. Rodeo is not ranching. It is a sport just as is hunting or fishing. It does, however, use hundreds of techniques used everyday in modern, past and hopefully future ranching operations not only in North America, but in Australia, South America and many other "civilizations."

And as for the "probability of pain, injury or death," I've seen more dead animals along road ditches in a year than I've seen injured or killed in rodeo performances in at least the last 10 years. Those who wantonly break the rules are dealt with accordingly and professionally, just as in other sports.

It would be best when considering moral obligations to condemn those condemnable rather than the masses. Stepping on toes without sound convictions is very impolite and highly immoral. I urge attendance to a nostalgic showing of the Old West. Stand on our side of the fence if you like and don't be afraid to ask a competitor about America's number one sport.

Toby R. Brown  
junior  
physics

## War protest demonstrates U.S. freedom

When I was growing up, my dad

used to give me all kinds of advice. He still does. But while reading the news reports of "Operation Desert Storm," one little phrase I heard repeatedly in my youth when I was working on my bicycle or trying to build something out of scraps of wood I found in the basement keeps reverberating in my skull; louder and louder. "Think, don't jam."

And it looks like we're jamming things up in the Persian Gulf pretty well.

Sometimes news from Lincoln takes a while to reach us out here in San Francisco. So when we heard about the messages Paul Chandler stenciled around campus, "War is stupid," "Bush kills" and "Impeach Bush," we all said "Right on, Paul!"

Why? Because it was the American thing to do. When Paul stenciled those messages on Broyhill fountain, the student union and elsewhere, he exercised his First Amendment right of free speech.

Some may disagree with the message, and most probably disagree with its method, but desperate times call for desperate measures. What he did


took a lot of guts and, in our opinion, is much more patriotic than tying a ribbon around a tree. Much more.

That's because, in Nebraska, Paul is taking an unpopular stand. He is confronting us with some unpleasant ideas. But war is an unpleasant thing. Paul is asking us to think about the complicated military situation — the full implications and consequences of which are nearly impossible to fully comprehend. Where better a place to do this than a university — where people learn to think critically and express ideas.

Without the free marketplace of ideas and the healthy rigorous debate it inspires, Americans would not enjoy the ability to think and behave freely. Paul's actions send a strong signal that dissenting voices can still be heard, loud and clear, in the United States — that American is still free. So basically, we're proud of you, Paul.

War is stupid.  
Think about it.

Mick Dyer, Maura McLaughlin,  
Jim Nygren, Beth Thew, Joeth Zucco, Dave Sullivan and Chris Albright.  
UNL graduates



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