

# editorial

## War Powers Act checks the president

There's been a lot of talk recently about the War Powers Act. Most of the clamor stems from the escalating situation in the Persian Gulf and the attempt by Congress to impose the Act, possibly limiting U.S. involvement in that area.

The War Powers Act was passed in 1973. Around this time, Congress began to feel threatened by the so-called "imperial presidency." Both Johnson and Nixon had stretched the limits of presidential authority, practically ignoring the involvement of Congress in many key decisions.

Perhaps, the main reason for the passage of the War Powers Act was the undeclared Vietnam War. The thought of Vietnam burned in the minds of Congressmen and women. Congress feared that, without some kind of legislation limiting the ability of the president to involve U.S. troops in military conflicts, another Vietnam could easily occur.

As a result of the War Powers Act, the President cannot involve U.S. troops in military action for over 60 days without congressional approval. This means the President can do whatever he/she wants (bombing oil platforms or invading tiny islands), as long as it takes place within 60 days.

President Reagan is running out of time in the Persian Gulf. He wants to escalate involvement in the Gulf, but he does not want to ask for the approval of Congress.

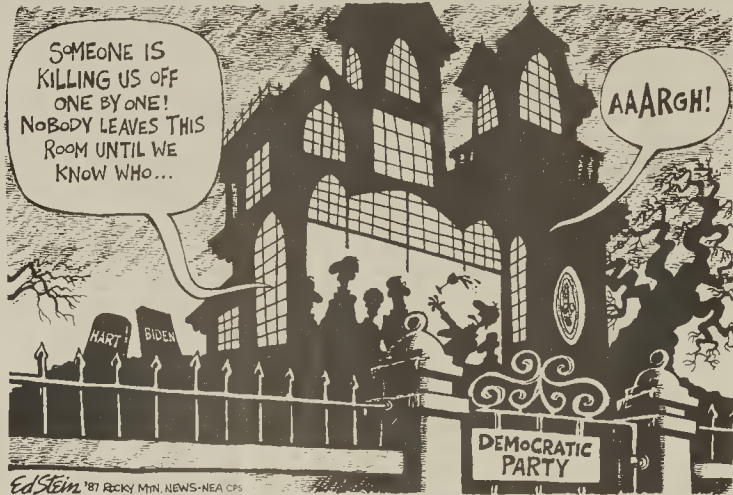
Because of this, the President has decided that the War Powers Act interferes with his constitutional duties.

It seems as though the President thinks he is bound by some laws but not by others.

Fortunately, the executive branch of government does not decide which laws must be obeyed and which laws can be ignored. The responsibility of deciding which laws are constitutional and which laws are not is left up to the courts.

If the Supreme Court decides that the War Powers Act is unconstitutional, then the only alternative for Congress is to amend the Constitution. This is the only way the members of the House and Senate can keep the President from imposing his personal wishes on foreign policy while ignoring the views of Congress.

Perhaps some kind of amendment limiting this power is necessary to curbe increasing U.S. military involvement, not only in the Persian Gulf, but in Nicaragua and other trouble spots.



## letters

### Another defense offered for pro-lifers

Editor, the Blue Banner

Pro-lifers use expressions like "unborn child" for two reasons: one, to expose the assuming of the point to be proven in terms like "fetal matter" or "potential life" (made famous by theocrats of the Supreme Court); two, to remind the public that both materialistic reductionists and new-age metempsychotics have abandoned the Bible and Roman Law. In Luke 1:44 when pregnant Mary greeted her cousin Elizabeth, pregnant with John the Baptist, Elizabeth said that her baby leaped for joy in her womb.

The Institutes of Justinian 1:4 appropriate this recognition of the personality of the unborn child by decreeing that, if the mother be free at any time during her pregnancy, even though she be a slave at the time of birth, the child will be born free.

In the twentieth century the establishment of irreligion has introduced hostile propaganda,

some of it materialistic reductionist, some of it new-age metempsychotic. Under the spell of either of these views not even murder is murder, much less abortion or infanticide. As for materialism, without any conceivable responsibility to any deontological standard, how can any act of killing become intrinsically "wrong" or "evil"?

As for metempsychosis, it reverts to the schema of Plato's Republic 612B, where souls that are shot back into this system of things enter bodies at birth. Thus Ms. J.Z. Knight has been taught by her spirit(s) that killing a human simply helps that person more quickly into the next reincarnation. (That's what Hitler thought.)

Most pro-lifers of my acquaintance simply want to make a statement that defends a very helpless class of victims, the little corpses consigned to the trash dumpsters.

I, for one, always explain fully to media representatives that the purpose is not to make those who

have had abortions feel as if they have committed the unpardonable sin, and that the purpose is not to enforce our particular world view by coercion. I would simply argue for the truly liberal side, to give the unborn child the benefit of any doubt and to cease to be coerced to pay taxes for what age-long wisdom has viewed as an unlawful killing.

Finally, the writer of your editorial may not have realized that the supposedly pure motives of the mother in terminating an unborn child could also justify terminating one after birth. That she cannot at the time give needed attention, love or economic care has probably excused most of the world's infanticides. "No one despises a thief who steals when he is hungry." Such a worthy motive may soften the penalty, but it does not denature the action.

Bill Thurman  
Professor of Classics

## SGA Speaks

Along with the Student Life and Food Service Committees, SGA also has three other standing committees: Legislative, Rules and Academic Affairs. The Legislative and Rules Committees serve to keep the bureaucracy in SGA running smoothly. (Yes, we too have bureaucracy.)

The Legislative Committee tries to keep the administration informed of any legislation or policies which the SGA Senate approves. Several issues are in the discussion stage in SGA now. These include: parking difficulties (of course), student life, posting a marquee in front of the gym to disseminate information to commuter students, a definite need!

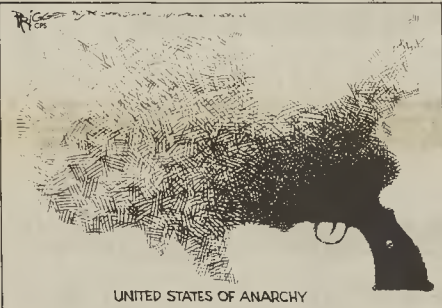
We're also trying to increase our effort at representing all students' concerns, and also my personal favorite -- having better relations with the school's administration, so we can implement ideas.

Dr. Brown is always willing to listen to any concerns as is Dr. Iovacchini and Dr. Wilson. Unfortunately, these people aren't enough to get policy changed. To achieve this, you must face the Board of Trustees. (Shake, Shutter, etc...)

I feel strongly that students should have access to the administration of the school. It is necessary to remind these officials that students do exist who will be affected by their decisions. A basic principle is reaching the leaders, and the students need this opportunity to respond i.e. gripe, complain, compliment the decisions of the Board.

I would like to see the Board ask for student comments. If you would like to have a say in the presentation of ideas, contact your SGA representative, or better yet, come see SGA in action on Mondays at 4:30 in room 37 of the Highsmith Center and gripe to your heart's content.

Athena Fox  
SGA Senior Senator



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## Corner

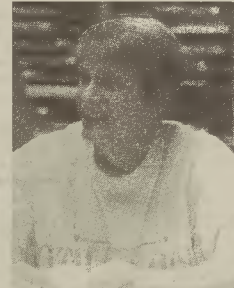
### Comments



Heidi Lough  
Freshman  
Management

I think we need to keep the oil supply free for world trade, but I don't want a war. It depends on what Iran does in the future now that we have hit one of their oil platforms.

Do you think the U.S. should escalate involvement in the Persian Gulf?



Timothy Wiles  
Sophomore  
Management

Tough question. It depends on the reason we're there. If it's purely economic, then we should not be there. If we are there to protect the rights of others, then we should increase our involvement. I'm supportive of our involvement in the Persian Gulf.



Steve Hale  
Graduate Student  
Physical Therapy

I'm torn between our responsibility to protect smaller countries and our responsibility to our own citizens here in the United States.



Glenda Rogers  
Junior  
English Education

I think we should. It's saying we're pretty weak unless we do something about what's going on over there. We should do whatever it takes to protect our interest there.