



The Editor's Desk

Jennifer Woodward

"These are the times that try men's souls." Never has this quote by John F. Kennedy truer that it is today. The world is at war, and we as Americans, are in the middle.

I don't believe in war. I despise the level of commitment the United State has exerted in the Middle East crisis. Like many people, I am not in complete support of the reasons why we are at war - I still have many questions that have been left unanswered.

However, the bottom line is simply that we are at war. It's too late to take back the things we've said and done. It's too late to return all the lost lives (Americans and Iraqis) to loved ones and to recover the damages.

War is now a reality and we must deal with it - not ignore it. Sure, when war was threatening and it finally erupted, people were glued to their television sets, attending peace rallies, and reciting daily prayers.

But what about now? What has happened to the concern, the fear? Have we once again become a cold and ignorant nation. Are we already forgetting the soldiers we have over there defending their country by risking their lives?

We must remember that the soldiers who are fighting could very well be ourselves. For all we know, we could be in a foreign land six months from now fighting against an enemy. Or perhaps, be attacked on our own homeland and have to fight just to survive.

We must remember that these soldiers are the very people we grew up with, hung out with, sat beside during geometry, or cheered for during the final seconds of a basketball game.

These are human beings. They laugh at the same jokes as we do, watch the Simpsons, and sing the same songs on the radio. They have the same fears and desires as we do. Who at this very moment are missing their loved ones and are scared of dying.

War is a terrible thing. It is not a video game, a television show - it's real life and real people are dying.

-jlw

War is Not the Answer

Guest Editorial

Abe Walston III

We're sorry, Bush. We're sorry we called you a wimp back in '88. We had no idea you'd take it like this. We didn't mean to call you a wimp. You're not a wimp. Can you bring the troops back now, PLEASE?

Ask yourself whether a country with failing banks and healthcare, widespread poverty, drug addiction, and institutionalized beliefs based upon racism, sexism and other forms of intolerance, and (insert your favorite national crisis here) is doing in someone else's part of the world trying to restore "their" way of life. Put down the guns, Bush, pick up a broom and start cleaning your own house. This should be obvious to anyone regardless of how they feel about Saddam Hussein.

The comparison of Hussein to Hitler is an extremely effective soundbite, used to prick up our ears and to get the hatred stirring in our loins. Too bad no one ever thought to use the comparison on Jesse Helms. How can Bush call Hussein Hitler and still hobnob with the like of the Tiennamen Butchers in China and General Pinochet in Chile?

Kuwait is not a democracy. The Emir was not elected. He is a dictator, with his own list of human rights

abuses. If Hussein is Hitler, then we are "liberating" Mussolini's Italy.

Those among us who use the most oil will hardly be the ones who will be called on to defend it. Next time you are out driving look at the people driving the biggest cars. Then try to picture them in a uniform. Oh, and slow down while you're at it. It saves gas.

Turn off the T.V. Aren't you tired of the Gulf Bowl yet? The people at the Pentagon already took out all the good parts anyway.

The whole war reeks of censorship. All news that comes out of the Middle East must be approved first by the government. How can we assign any objectivity to facts about a war when they are provided by those who are directly involved?

"America - love it or leave it." The anti-war movement, the conscientious objections of American citizens, usually in the name bringing our troops back ALIVE, is seen by many as a treasonous act. The most effective type of censorship faced by this movement is from the government/media, who won't even give it a voice.

Best Quote On The Wall: LAURA IS A McCARTHYITE. Someone

needs to go back to high school English and reread Arthur Miller's The Crucible before they pick up a can of spray paint and embarrass themselves again.

Even the most conscientious of us like to say that we "support the troops." Yet these are the same troops that are dropping bombs upon crowded cities, killing thousands while losing comparatively few of their own. How can I support these people (one of whom is my own father)? They have been stripped of their individuality by the dehumanizing process that is the armed forces. I support the human beings they once were and hopefully will be again.

Whatever the answer is, it is not war. Has war ever really been an answer or end to anything besides human lives?

I remember sitting in SAGE class discussing Machiavellian thought, as if it was a type of thinking that was obsolete, even primitive. Apparently this is not so. It is disheartening to attend college and be exposed to the highest dimensions of human thought and accomplishment, and then to look out into the world and see that we cannot solve our problem

Letters to the editor

To the editor:

I sincerely believe that my letter reflects the thoughts of many of the St. Andrews community that have immediate family over in the Middle East.

My first thought to the flagburning is that this individual must not have a relative in the Middle East. My next thought is that if you do have a relative in the Middle East, you must have very little or no respect for this person.

Your actions infuriate me. Your selfishness, tactlessness, and ruthlessness in not taking others feelings and emotions into consideration is intolerable.

I would impress upon you to reflect on what it must feel like for those of us who have immediate family in the Middle East... Mothers, Fathers, Sisters, Brothers, Sons, Daughters. We are scared to death.

To the editor:

Yesterday evening (January 16), this statement was read in the presence of the burning of an American flag:

"I support every person who must fight this war and everyone who loves them. But I do not support the Heads of State who pushed it into being. I am burning this flag, because I want to stress the importance of human lives and express my disapproval of the way the United States' government has, under this symbol, dominated and repressed the world community and its own country's people. I support the community that lives both within and outside this country's borders, but I will not stand up for those officials who have twisted the values of economic and

We live each moment waiting to see if someone is going to knock at our door with the dreaded news. None of us want war, but it is here and it's not going away. You don't have to agree with the ideology, but we need your support for ourselves and for our loved ones... OUR FAMILIES.

Do you have any idea what it feels like to sit and wait to see if someone in a dress blue uniform is going to knock at the door? Picture it happening to your suitemate or a faculty/staff member you think highly of. Put yourself in our shoes!

Don't misunderstand me, I believe in freedom of expression. However, there is a line to be drawn when freedom of expression invades other people's space. The way you chose to express yourself was an insensitive one. There are other ways to express your disapproval towards political actions/conflicts.

While burning a flag was your

way of expressing your discontent toward the situation, the flag represents something totally different to those of us with loved ones in the Middle East. Each of us has a special, personal meaning associated with the flag and their loved one.

For me, it is one of the few tangible ways in which to remember my brother should he die fighting for freedom/defending freedom/defending freedom (it's not just an oil issue contrary to popular belief). You see its the last tangible "objects" that will have contact with him. "SEMPER FIDELIS"

Sincerely,
Lisa Wheeler, MS ED, ATC
Head Athletic Trainer

P.S. Semper Fidelis - Latin for "always faithful"

political freedom into tools for destruction and dominance."

The act was not a burning of America. It was not in support of Saddam Hussein and his violent actions. Nor was it an ego-trip, intended to draw attention merely to ourselves. THIS EXTREME AND CALLOUS ACTION WAS INTENDED TO LEND MEANING TO THE VIOLENT NATURE OF THE WAR. It was performed to jolt attention away from patriotic rhetoric and direct it back toward the actual event occurring in the Persian Gulf.

We would all like to see our country prosper. We have all, at one time or another looked at the American flag and felt stability, support, and comfort. Most have never previously dreamed of questioning it.

But when all the wonderful people

and qualities that make up America cannot be dissociated from this flag, this image which has come to lead and justify violent militarism, something is wrong.

Burning this symbol was an extremely difficult, serious act for us to undertake. It was downright scary. But we were willing to shed the comfortable cloak of patriotism to express our horror at the violence of war the United States' government has thrust not only on Hussein, but also the innocent civilians of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and very importantly, on our own people.

Sincerely,
Michael S. Stark
Laura A. Rose

The Lance

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