

The Pendulum

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This is the time for alternative measures

Have no fear, this editorial is not condemning or condoning a war with Iraq. Instead, this editorial will explore some middle ground left uncultivated and certainly in need of serious discussion.

The United Nations Security Council needs to be reformed. It is hard to tell what the members of the council have accomplished, so The Pendulum suggests the council should be replaced by the Bowl Championship Series committee of the NCAA. Essentially, the BCS committee decides what college football teams go where (i.e., which bowl games the teams will attend) based mostly on strength of schedule, decisive victories, quality wins and conference record.

Let's look at strength of schedule. The U.S. has fought the Germans twice (once with Hitler) as well as a stronger British army in the 18th century. Iraq attacked the small country of Kuwait 10 years ago. Clearly, the advantage goes to the United States.

America has had decisive victories in two World Wars, as well as the American Revolution. But the United States loses points for its poor showing in Vietnam. Iraq has no real quality wins, only a strong showing against Kuwait, which does give Iraq a strong in-continent record. America's in-continent record is not as strong, though. The advantage clearly goes to Iraq.

Considering all the information, the committee would say this bowl match up is a no-brainer, a blow out, even. But the BCS system is flawed. This game could be up for grabs.

The Pendulum

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Each individual is entitled to one free copy.

Where's the beat of dancing feet?

Bree Sherry
 Columnist

There really is power in numbers. In the 19th century, America saw some of the strongest unions to date. Thousands of people pulled together to protest because their rights were being violated.

From low salary to bad working conditions, workers gathered and went on strike until their demands were heard.

As a result, America now has some of the best worker unions in the world.

Just this past weekend we have seen America yet again exercise that we are the "land of the free and the home of the brave" as Broadway musicians, actors and technicians went on strike.

It began when Broadway producers decided to limit the orchestra from 24 members to a minimum of seven instrumentalists last week.

Musicians said if they did not reconsider their proposal they would strike.

Sure enough, when the producers stood firm, so did the musicians, and at midnight on Thursday, all the musicians went on strike. However, they were not alone in their opinion.

When actors and technicians came to work Friday, they would not cross the musicians' picket line.

Consequently, all of Broadway, some thousand workers, went on strike as well. Broadway was black Friday night, causing theater-goers to make other plans.

Feelings have been mixed by the public—some mad about having their show canceled, others proud of the strong support the actors and technicians have shown toward the musicians.

We live in America, one of the greatest countries in the world, with quite possibly the most freedom.

U.S. citizens have the right to say whatever they want, whenever they want.

They have the right to prac-



Bree Sherry

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tice any religion.

They have the right to elect who they want to represent their country and then form rallies and protests when they feel he is not doing a good job.

There are so many benefits and opportunities to living in America.

In what other country can citizens burn their own flag in protest of the government and its decisions?

But the American people are not always in violent contempt of their government.

Very often one can see Americans pull together to support each other.

The Broadway strike is a great example of this.

When the musicians went on strike, actors found out producers had talked about using digital recordings of the music to play during the performance so the show could go on.

Upon discovery of the producers' plans, actors too went on strike. America saw musicians, actors and technicians band together to protest the cut in the orchestra.

They stood strong, even when producers were trying to compromise.

In addition to the proposed lay off of musicians, the thought of having a digital orchestra is simply ridiculous. It would replace half the magic of theater with pre-recorded music.

Why don't they just record the actors too, this way they also would only need to do one performance?

Here's a thought, they could put it on a big screen and play it in all parts of the country count-

less times.

We've done this, this is called movies.

If you wanted to see a pre-programmed, flawless show, you could go see a movie.

The whole point of theater is to see the magic unfold right before you.

Theater is unpredictable. No performance of a show is ever the same.

Making a huge part of theater, the music, be recorded is taking away that magic.

The strike ended last Tuesday with the decision to continue with live music and only to cut out six instrumentalists from each theater.

It is amazing the power a group of people can have. To shut down every Broadway show minus one ("Cabaret" remained open due to their location in Studio 54 and having a different contract) really shows how much power lies in the worker.

Americans should be proud that not only is there the ability to protest against what is wrong, but there is also a strong bond and sense of camaraderie between peers so much so that actors were willing to forfeit paychecks to support the musicians.

I applaud the casts and crews of Broadway and hope America sees it as an example of how everyone should speak out against injustices and support their fellow Americans.

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