



Editorial

War doesn't have to be inevitable

It seems to have come down to saving face: President Bush is ready to "kick some ass" and has backed Saddam Hussein into a corner with his "no room for negotiation" rhetoric. Hussein is poised to call Bush's bluff. For either to retreat now would be an suicidal act of weakness, wimpishness.

The American people and 400,000 U.S. soldiers hold a somber vigil while U.N. negotiators valiantly try to talk to the Iraqi president in the hope that an 11th-hour settlement can be reached before the January 15 deadline.

The United States continues on in its role as world military police, sending its young men to battle for truth, justice

and the American Way. Would that we could teach our young people of this and other nations that the best method for conflict resolution is peaceful discussion rather than armed retaliation.

There is no argument that Saddam's brutal attack on a practically defenseless country is reprehensible. Literally raping Kuwait and its people is abhorant to all. It is naive to imagine turning the other cheek in response to his actions. The United States should answer the call for help from its allies and neighbors when they cannot defend themselves. Help, however, does not always require the bodies of our young men and women of the armed forces.

The United Nations Security Council agreed to economic sanctions against Iraq. While some complain that Saddam's

rich coffers can withstand the sanctions for as long as we wish them to be in effect, time would appear to be on the side of the sanctions working. Reports from western hostages freed from Iraq and Kuwait suggest that Iraqi soldiers are indeed beginning to suffer from diminished food and supplies.

While Saddam claims his war-hardy troops will crush the American forces with little trouble, all is not well within his ranks: six Iraqi pilots took an AWOL trip last week, landing their fighter jets in Saudi Arabia.

Give it time, Mr. President. Congress approving a declaration of war doesn't mean the American people want you to take its offer. We thought we elected a kinder, gentler man. We fear we have elected Rambo.

War vote: N.C. Roll Call

Here is the North Carolina roll call vote by which the U.S. House and Senate gave President Bush the authority to wage war in the Persian Gulf. A "yes" vote is a vote to authorize the use of U.S. armed forces pursuant to the U.N. Security Council Resolution 678.

House: (Democrats) Hefner, no; Jones, yes; Lancaster, yes; Neal, no; Price, no; Rose, no; Valentine, yes. (Republicans) Ballenger, yes; Coble, yes; McMillan, yes; Taylor, yes.

Senate: Helms (R), yes; Sanford (D), no.

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Everyone in the Meredith community is invited to write a letter to the editor or submit an article concerning any subject of interest to the Meredith community.

All letters must be typed and hand signed by the author, who may request that her name be withheld from publication. All submissions must include a contact name and telephone number.

Letters and articles are subject to editing for length.

Letters and articles may be dropped in the *Herald* box beside the box office at Cate Center, sent through campus mail to Box X133, or delivered to the office in person. Deadline for letters is Wednesday at noon. All letters received after that time will appear in the next edition of the *Herald*.

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