

A most unusual paradox

It's a confusing time and a confusing situation. Some people support the United States' involvement in the Gulf War and some do not. Some believe Saddam Hussein was justified in his attack on Kuwait and some do not. Some believe that the United States should offer its soldiers to fight the battles of defenseless countries and some do not. However, what we believe about the people who are fighting in the war is a singular argument. Whatever you believe about war, there can be no argument that the men and women in the theater of operations are in our prayers and thoughts at almost every waking moment.

While not everyone will wear a red white and blue ribbon to demonstrate support for the allied forces' involvement, hardly anyone would turn down a yellow ribbon to serve as a visible reminder of those who serve. How can you not support the war and support the troops at the same time? How can you support a war and pray for the soldiers at the same time? A most unusual paradox, that. Little wonder that confusion results when trying to sort everything out.

There is no doubt that some, who knows, perhaps a majority, of the men and women on both sides want to be there. They feel totally comfortable with their mission and are perfectly willing to die for whatever reason they believe they are fighting. Macho Marine snipers are quoted as saying that they don't need our prayers and peace marchers are a bunch of pansies. Other soldiers, admitting their only reason for enlisting was the promise of a college scholarship, face American news cameras with a wane smile and say, "I just want to come home, sir." Whether they want our prayers and good wishes or not, they have them.

Some people believe that to not support the war means undermining the spirit of the troops. Surely, if President Bush did not believe that the American people would support his decision, he would not have ordered our armed forces to the Gulf. Those who do not support U.S. involvement are clearly in the minority. That same minority also has been most vocal about its support for the soldiers. It is entirely possible to wish that our

young men and women didn't have to be over there yet write them letters offering encouragement and support at the same time. It is entirely possible to love your country and disagree with your president at the same time.

The Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC serves as a reminder, not only of the men and women who died there, but of the American people's welcome home party. Walter Cronkite had shown us footage of soldiers smoking marijuana in the jungles. We read stories of GIs blowing up villages for the fun of it. At the end, we didn't think too highly of those returning soldiers, to put it mildly. They didn't get any ticker-tape parades. Their former college friends treated them with indifference, at best. Companies didn't want to hire them. Walking past the almost endless list of names carved into that black stone, one is reminded of the last welcome home we gave to our troops and gains a strong conviction that, no matter what we believe about anything else in the Persian Gulf, we will welcome home every soldier with arms outspread.

Letters to the Editor

Insight 101 for credit

Dear Editor,

Being a freshman and having experienced Insight 101 for a semester, I would like to make a suggestion for those in charge of next year's program. I think Insight was a very informative class and an excellent aid in helping freshmen adjust to college life. For this reason, I feel the students should be given more of an incentive to attend. I suggest that Insight 101 count as a one hour credit course for all those who attend with three or fewer absences.

I think that last semester, Insight 101's value and worthiness

was not reflected by the students' attitudes toward the class. It was a great chance for the freshman class to come together every week and create a feeling of unity. This closeness is important during the first semester at college. Granted, a few of the lectures could have been a little more interesting, most of the various programs were informative and somewhat entertaining. However, many of the freshmen did not see these good qualities in Insight because their minds were cluttered with the fact that one hour of their free time was being taken away. Many students dreaded Insight on Monday mornings so much that they simply did not attend, which

resulted in calldowns being distributed. This punishment only intensified the dislike for Insight.

I feel that if Insight 101 counted as a course, students would appreciate and enjoy it more just because they would know they were receiving credit for participating. Insight includes very valuable information but because it does not count as any credit, students assume it must be worthless. Thus, Insight 101's worthiness should be accounted for with one hour credit to all of those who attend with only three or fewer absences.

Thank you for allowing me to share my feelings. I hope those in *continued on next page*

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Meredith College
 3800 Hillsborough Street, Box X133
 Raleigh, NC 27607-5298
 Drop box: beside box office, Cate Center
 Campus office: Second floor Cate Center
 Phone: 829-2824

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