

# Editorial

## “Sometimes I Wish I Didn't Know Now...”

You might be beginning to feel a little like Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone With the Wind* when she said “War, war, war! If I hear one more word about this war I'll scream!” I know I am, but regardless of how unpleasant it is to hear about the Gulf War, we can't help but listen to accounts and interpretations of what is going on. For one thing, they're all around us. For another, we are naturally interested. We are interested because the war affects us all. At least I think it has affected me.

I'll never forget how I felt the night of January 16 when my suitemate opened the door and said, “It's started.” I didn't have to wait for her to explain that air raid sirens were sounding in Iraq; I knew that war had started.

That night as I lay in bed, I started thinking about all of the service men and women that I knew in Saudi Arabia: people I knew in high school, people from my church, teachers in my community. For the first time I realized that soldiers actually younger than I was might lose their lives. I thought about all the things that I wanted to do and hadn't done. Twenty years is not enough time to fulfill a lifetime of dreams and ambitions. No one should have to die that young, but I knew that people would have to.

I remember thinking before the Gulf War started how lucky I was to never remember the United States at war. I was born during the Vietnam Conflict, but I don't remember it. Maybe that's why I feel like this war has affected me so. It's all so new.

Poison's song, “Something to Believe In” has a line that says, “Sometimes I wish I didn't know now the things I didn't know then.” Sometimes I do wish that. I wish I didn't know what it was like to wonder how many of my friends would die in the next year. I wish I still thought that the good guys always win and the bad guys always get punished. I wish I still thought that everyone plays fair. Most of all, I wish I still thought that the world really could exist in peace. I still want desperately to believe that there can be a world without war, but I doubt more and more every day whether I'll ever see it.

War isn't just winners, losers, military strategies, and numbers of casualties. War changes people. I don't think I'll ever look at the world the same way again. I've seen too much of the bad in it. I've seen how one man like Hussein can turn the world upside down. You don't have to fight in a war to be changed by it; you only have to live through it.

—Machelle Cathey

## President Bush Sends Message to College Students

President Bush sent a letter concerning the Persian Gulf Crisis to 450 college newspaper editors dated January 10, 1991. Although the *Hilltop* was omitted from his list, we received a copy of the letter from the World Federalist Association. A copy of the letter is reprinted below:

If armed men invaded a home in this country, killed those in their way, stole what they wanted and then announced the house was now theirs—no-one would hesitate about what must be done.

And that is why we cannot hesitate about what must be done halfway around the world: in Kuwait.

There's much in the modern world that is subject to doubts or questions—washed in shades of gray. But not the brutal aggression of Saddam Hussein against a peaceful, sovereign nation and its people. It's black and white. The facts are clear. The choice is unambiguous.

Right vs. wrong.

The terror Saddam Hussein has imposed upon Kuwait violates every principle of human decency. Listen to what Amnesty International has documented. “Wide-spread abuses of human rights have been perpetrated by Iraqi forces...arbitrary arrest and detention without trial of thousands...widespread torture...imposition of the death penalty and the extrajudicial execution of hundreds of unarmed civilians, includ-

ing children.”

Including children. There's no horror that could make this a more obvious conflict of good vs. evil. The man who used chemical warfare on his own people—once again including children—now oversees public hangings of dissenters. And daily his troops commit atrocities against Kuwaiti citizens.

This brutality has reverberated throughout the entire world. If we do not follow the dictates of our inner moral compass and stand up for human life, then his lawlessness will threaten the peace and democracy of the emerging New World Order we now see: this long-dreamed-of vision we've all worked toward for so long.

A year after the joyous dawn of freedom's light in Eastern Europe, a dark veil has descended in another part of the world. But we have the chance—and we have the obligation—to stop ruthless aggression.

I have been in war. I have known the terror of combat. And I tell you this with all my heart: I don't want there to be war ever again. I am determined to do absolutely everything possible in the search for a peaceful resolution to this crisis—but only if the peace is genuine, if it rests on principle, not appeasement.

But while we search for that answer, in the Gulf young men and women are

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## Hypocrisy of Ignorance

Stan Toney  
Columnist

I'm sure that many times before in the history of Mars Hill College there have been calls for repentance and revival. And I'm sure that there will be many more before the Day of the Lord. I don't think, however, that many people take such calls seriously anymore. In a sense, that is what I would like to share some thoughts about.

There are many different types of people on this campus and many kinds of ethics and values. But I feel that many people, of all faith persuasions, are ignoring exactly what they claim to be true. We ask others and ourselves to compromise what they believe in order to reach some earthy goal or pleasure. This “buyout” is not limited to the religious on this campus; those who claim to hold no beliefs ask us to sell out as well.

We sell out to things that give us gain right now instead of seeking the greater good. When we sell out or try to get others to sell out, then we are hurting our relationships with those we try to influence. For the Christian this means that we should always try to do as Paul wrote, “Let all that you do be done in love” (1 Corinthians 16:14). Christians, we must remember that it is God who provides for us and wants us to follow his lead. Ask yourself each day “is this what Jesus would do?” Christ promised us new life and guidance for each day, but we must use that life and guidance for the purpose it was intended. By our actions we must show that Christ has

changed us through his love, and because of the price of being murdered that he paid, we respect him and him enough to share that feeling with others.

To the non-Christian, the price becomes that he or she will be rejected the love that the Christian is showing to him or her, for love and friendship go hand in hand. If you the agape love of a Christian trying to be your friend, then you just as surely rejected the love of

When a student takes a test and answers, “I did not know,” but is present in class the day that test is covered but chose not to listen, get no credit for that knowledge. The same with Christ: God will ask you if you should be granted entrance into heaven, since you did not know him as Lord and you might say, “I don't know.” And God will hold a tear at “When you rejected your friend by to make him reject me you said no son. I'm sorry, but you must depart from me.”

It does not have to be that way. The choice is yours. “For I have pleasure in the death of anyone who hates the Lord God. Turn, then and live” (Ezekiel 18:32). Jesus is the answer to the world today. If you don't even believe if he exists, ask in your heart for him to show himself to you and then believe and listen, because God wants to reveal himself to you in a way so that there will be no doubt in your mind that he exists. The call to you is choose: death in ignorance and hate or life in knowledge and

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