Differing opinions expressed on conflict in the Persian Gulf

Saddam Hussein's actions justify gulf war

ar is a horrible, nasty, brutal event, but it is not the worst evil to blight the face of the earth. Sometimes it may be used to prevent an even greater evil. Although I have listened to arguments stating that all wars are wrong, I find this proposition to be extremely doubtful.

It would be fruitless to say that all wars throughout history shouldn't have been fought because such a statement could not be proven true. Once a war is waged, it cannot be determined how the course of history would have been altered if other methods had been used to resolve conflicts. One could only guess. This is true not just in the case of war, but in any event that affects a person's life. One cannot know what might have been, so every decision made needs to be the best possible one with the information available. Many times, a person will choose wrongly, and this experience will contribute to future decisions.

Many wars were undoubtedly wrong, but some wars were undoubtedly correct. Once it is fought, a war's lessons are learned and applied to the next conflict. In the case of the war in the gulf, I believe that the United States is justified in participating based on a number of reasons.

Saddam Hussein is a dictator. If he were a perfect being, this would not be a problem. Being a man, however, Hussein does not manage an ideal autocracy. As it so happens, Hussein seems to be a more vile man than the average fallen human. While I cannot see into his soul, by investigating Hussein's actions, I can know him "by his fruits." His "fruits" include attempting to provide his country with nuclear weapons (by purchase and theft); spending millions of dollars of public money on monuments to himself; gassing a population of Kurdish men, women and children; executing several hundred Moslem clergymen; fomenting a war with Iran over some waterfront territory and losing over 100,000 men in the process; and more recently, invading

Gene Godbolo

Guest Writer

Kuwait, a fellow Arab country that helped finance Iraq's war against Iran.

Iraq owed Kuwait over \$10 billion and couldn't recoup its war losses because of low oil prices. Iraq also accused Kuwait of removing oil from a field the countries shared. In addition to pointing out that Kuwait was artificially created from Iraqi territory by the British after the first world war, these reasons were given for the invasion. Later, Hussein claimed that he had invaded for the sake of the Palestinians, and he refused to withdraw despite the nearly worldwide condemnation of the invasion.

As he has already shown he is willing to face the death of millions of his own people for a minor goal, continuing the sanctions against him would have been ineffective. Neither Hussein nor those around him would have gone hungry. The Republican Guard, Iraqi's best troops, would also have suffered little from the sanctions. The burden of them would have fallen on the average citizen.

The U.S. is faced with a man against which no other Arab leader can stand without risking the popular overthrow of the government. The primary problem is Hussein's desire to be an Arab emperor, and he has already shown he will use any means necessary to achieve his aim. If he attains nuclear capability, he will position himself to use it. A nuclear showdown between Iraq and Israel would be a possibility. Shouldn't the United States risk its military people to avoid millions of civilians perishing later in a holocaust? We should either deal with Hussein's ambitions now or shirk responsibility and deal later with a nuclear-weapon-equipped Iraq.

I am a Christian, and I think there have been just and unjust wars. But this

war is just. I don't welcome war. I have two friends, a U.S. Marine lieutenant and a U.S. Army lieutenant, who may die. My father, a reservist, may be called to go. Innocent men and women have died and will die because one man controls a country so absolutely. But only war can force him to capitulate to the demands of justice.

Gene Godbolo is a graduate student in biochemistry.



U.S. fighting an unjust war for own interests

he U.S. dismissal of both the Iraqi and Soviet peace plans seems to reveal fundamental contradictions in the prosecution of Operation Desert Storm. President George Bush's abrupt dismissal of the proposals brings up two key questions: first, why is the president responding on behalf of a U.N. resolution; and second, is the aim of this war to simply free Kuwait, or does President Bush intend to punish Saddam Hussein into unconditional surrender at

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the cost of Arab and American lives? If this war is being fought by a multinational force to enforce a U.N. resolution, then why is President Bush and not the security council rejecting the peace proposals? President Bush's response to each proposal makes the claim that this is a multinational effort a lie. The security council has not met for most of the period since the passage of the resolution last August. On Feb. 15, they met behind closed doors for the first time in almost 20 years, and at that meeting, the United States vetoed considering any conditional proposal. The question remains: is this war being fought for U.S. interests with the U.N. resolution used only as a handy excuse?

The second problem raised by Bush's rejection is that the Iraqi forces are in a double bind. As long as they remain under what some have called the heaviest bombardment in history, it is impossible for them to leave Kuwait. In the Feb. 15 briefing by Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams, he said that for the bombing to stop, Iraq must "start with action, not words," and "a statement alone is not enough." The bombing will not stop until the Iraqi army has left Kuwait, yet while the bombing continues, the Iraqis cannot leave. When asked by a reporter what would happen if the Iraqi soldiers left the protection of their bunkers, perhaps under cover of a white flag, and started walking toward the Iraqi border, Williams replied that they would be killed, as they might be repositioning for an offensive. When asked repeatedly how the Iraqi forces were supposed to leave Kuwait when they could neither declare their intentions to leave, nor leave without being killed, Williams replied: "I'm not going to give a checklist," but that an unconditional withdrawal "will be obvious when it hap-

pens." In a war where nothing has been obvious, whether it is the extent of damage to Iraqi forces or which bomb shelters house civilians and which house military command centers, how "obvious" will the withdrawal be, and how likely is it that the Iraqi forces will leave the protection of their dugouts when they have already been told they will be killed if they do? How can the Iraqi army withdraw under these circumstances when they won't be taken at their word long enough to end the war? The result is that Iraq cannot withdraw from Kuwait. Ironically, it is the United States that is blocking Iraq from complying with the U.N. resolution.

We need to ask ourselves and President Bush why we are fighting this war. If it is being fought to liberate Kuwait, why do we make it so difficult for Iraq to comply with the U.N. resolution? At the start of the war, Bush said his quarrel was with Hussein, and not with the Iraqi. people. Yet who is dying but Iraqi soldiers and civilians? By prolonging this. war, and refusing to talk about peace, will we destroy Iraq and Kuwait in order to save them from Hussein?

Lastly, how many of our own soldiers will die? The Pentagon spokesman said figuring out how Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait is "their problem," but when the latest estimate is for 20,000 Americans to die in a ground war, it becomes our problem as well. If. we are to be a shining example of the possibilities of peace and justice for the world, we must strive for a peaceful settlement. As Gandhi said, "War is the law of the jungle." Are we enforcing international law or only the old refrain, "Might makes right?" We should stop. acting like animals and start thinking. like human beings. We must end the war before it is too late.

Andrew Gooding is a graduate in speech communications.

gifts courtesy of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Illogical protests hinder needed war efforts | U.S. desire for oil motivates military action

c ince August, one theme has pre-dominated our lives: war. War is always a troubling and controversial event, and with loved ones in harm's way, we should be troubled.

Many opinions have been expressed since the war's outbreak. Although freedom of expression is our constitutional right, I've seen and heard protesters encouraging military disobedience and promoting racial distinction. Such statements are illogical.

One such incident appeared on the news last month. A man explained why he left his military unit: "I joined the service to get an education, not to fight." At a protest rally in Atlanta, Ga., a captain proudly advertised she was AWOL. And war protesters at a Washington, D.C. peace march carried placards reading "disobey and resist."

I don't understand these incidents

Richard R. Share, Jr.

Guest Writer

and why people want to openly display their dishonor. This nation's military is based on the voluntary enlistment of its citizens. We join or don't join based on what we want. If you don't want to be a soldier, then don't join the military (this concept can be independently formulated, no batteries required). The military is synonymous with weapons, war and death. Who could not know these things upon enlistment? The military is also synonymous with life, freedom and peace. Without our military, the liberties we enjoy would not exist. The self- biology.

serving and indiscriminate individual who enlists to serve his own end is a shameful soul indeed.

In the news recently, a protester claimed "her people (African-Americans) were unfairly over-represented" in the gulf forces. But our military personnel (and citizens too) should be Americans first, and African-Americans and whites second. It's hard to believe the government would purposely recruit and deploy a black majority; and together with the voluntary nature of military enlistment, this refutes the protester's discriminatory statement.

The war in the gulf is not easy, but we must get through it. Disobedience, resistance and racial discrimination won't make it any easier.

Richard R. Share, Jr. is a graduate in

here are lots of nasty dictators all around the world. Many of them receive American financial and military aid. Some, like General Pinochet of Chile, were only able to come to power because the CIA helped assassinate the democratically elected leader of Chile. General Pinochet slaughtered thousands of his own people who dared to express opinions that were different from his own. Instead of attacking him, our government treated him with friendship.

Guatemala is another country where dictators have killed a lot of people. In 1954, Guatemala had a democratically elected government that cared about the needs of its people. In a country where a few families and companies owned all the best land, President Arbenz tried to get the government to buy land at its tax value so that it could be redistributed

Lisa M. Peterson

Guest Writer

among the landless masses. Because we considered him to be a socialist and, therefore, "a threat to us," he was overthrown by the United States and replaced by a military dictator. Today, as a result of the murders of thousands of civilians carried out by the military, Guatemala has a huge orphan population. An edition of the TV weekly "Prime Time" on ABC showed how the military in Guatemala is pursuing a strategy of dealing with its large orphan population by killing them in the streets. A lot of the weapons these soldiers use are

So what makes Saddam Hussein so different from the bloody dictators we call our friends? I think the answer is oil. I do not support the war, and I wish we would at least admit it is about oil and stop pretending to be the knights in shining armor that have come to rescue freedom and democracy in a region of the world where kings and emirs still hold sway. Currently, our actions are too hypocritical to swallow.

Secondary reasons for this war include the government's need to distract attention from our serious domestic difficulties and to justify the waste of \$300 billion a year on the military while education and most social programs go down the drain.

Lisa M. Peterson is a graduate in microbiology and immunology.

Residence Hall Association board endorsement was justifiable

he Residence Hall Association would like to address the recent concerns raised by various individuals on campus regarding the Feb. 15 RHA endorsement. As the two highest ranking officers in RHA, we feel obligated to clarify the many misconceptions that have been fostered since the endorsement process took place. We too are greatly disturbed by the recent events that have occurred pertaining to the endorsement, particularly the accusations of racism and unethical behavior being directed at our organization.

We acknowledge that the timing of the endorsement was wrong and that it cast a questionable shadow on the process. The endorsement itself, however, was not a mistake. The rumors indicate that people believe it was an act of an organization desperate to ensure that a particular candidate would win the election. This assumes that we knew what the outcome would be before the

Civilian

Gret Diffendal/ Aundrea Creech

Guest Writers

governing board even voted. This is not true, though, as all of the governors had a close working relationship with the three candidates and, with a few exceptions, had made no public statement regarding their feelings about who should win the election.

The endorsement was, however, the act of a governing body that felt the issues had been sorely misrepresented throughout the campaign and saw a need to refocus and make an endorsement solely on the basis of the candidates' qualifications, experience and leadership abilities. It is known that I, Gret Diffendal, struggled with the issue of endorsing throughout the semester

and had not allowed it to occur prior to Feb. 11 because of my personal feelings that it was inappropriate. Effective leadership dictated, however, that I could not continue to reject the wishes of my governing board simply because I disagreed. My role as president is to be responsive to their desiree and needs and not dictatorial in the decisionmaking processes of the organization. The original motion voted on by the governing board was whether or not to endorse. When this motion passed, the mandate from the board to me was made clear.

There are numerous assumptions that have been made that we feel are unfair and illogical. First, that our endorsement was racist. The basis for this argument is non-existent. If RHA had demonstrated an unwillingness to address minority concerns throughout the year or had ignored the minority voice on campus, there might be some evidence for this claim. This has not been

the case. The behavior of the governing board this year reflects a sincere concern in relation to the numerous minority issues we have needed to address this year. To simply disregard the work of the past year because the white candidates were endorsed seems ludicrous.

Second, the accusations that we are an elitist, North Campus-focused, white organization are also based in misconceptions of the RHA. Over half the governing board is from South Campus, including three of the five appointed executive staff members. Although the number of minorities on the board is low, it is a higher percentage than that of the minority population at UNC. We have attempted to work closely with the executive assistant for minority affairs

Editor's note: The following letter

e are writing, not in defense of,

but in support of our director,

was signed by ten employees of the

UNC division of purchasing and stores.

▼ Mr. Frank Fearrington, a most

caring, encouraging and employee-

conscious man who has given the past

42 or so years of his life to this University

and to the smooth management of its

operations. Mr. Fearrington has always

gone beyond simply fulfilling his

management obligations to actively seek

ways to benefit not only the members of

his own department, but those campus-

wide as well.

Student Movement to ensure that we were always mindful of and represented those concerns. Not until recently have these opinions been brought to our attention. They are not based in fact and have no strength on the basis of the recent endorsement alone.

The RHA governing board has done many wonderful things this year, including the work accomplished in the area of minority concerns. No one can take that away from the board. We are proud to have served the residents with this year's board and know beyond a shadow of a doubt that their endorsement was based solely on qualifications and not race. Anyone who knows us personally should know that we would

and organizations such as the Black not allow any such attitude to prevail

within RHA. To those who have concerns about the issue; we do understand your point! But understand also that people are hitting the nail on the head when they claim the endorsement process "appeared" unethical and racist. The key word is appearance; none of this is fact. We are willing to discuss this issue with anyone who wants further clarification or input. Please call the RHA office at 962-3901 and ask for either one of us.

Gretchen R. Diffendal, a senior political science/speech communications major, is RHA president. Aundrea D. Creech, a senior biology major, is RHA

Fearrington deserves respect

IRAQI GLOSSARY OF TERMS

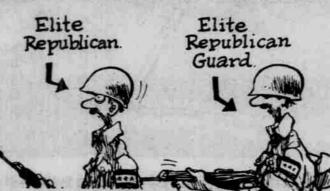
Bomb Shelter.

Baby Milk Plant.











It is with regret that we prepare for his retirement. Mr. Fearrington is a part of this department that will truly be hard to replace, if not for his skills and superior knowledge and understanding of the purchasing scheme, then certainly for his support of and dedication to his staff. We know that it is certainly his turn for reward-and relief of the day-today hassles of a job so closely tied to public relations, but we certainly are going to feel his absence Feb. 28 when he retires.

Mr. Fearrington is at the point in his career when he should be commended, praised and rewarded for his efforts and loyalty to this institution. It is ironic that

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he has been bombarded now with criticism of what, until a year ago, was considered by all to be a job well done. It is definitely a tragic flaw in human nature that causes us to "jump on the bandwagon" in an instant to promote those things that can destroy another human being's sense of humor, enjoyment and will.

We feel it is time that someone stands up to give Mr. Fearrington the recognition he deserves for past, present and what could have been many future accomplishments in the work of the purchasing department and in the University as a whole. We appreciate the things he has done for this department: his support for all staff members under his management and encouragement to all employees to "go the extra mile" in all we do in our service organization.

The idea that we are all customerservice representatives has always been in the forefront of Mr. Fearrington's management style. He has never lost sight of one of the major goals of the department: to fulfill the needs of the University in the most appropriate, friendly and complete way possible. He has trained each of us in things that

cannot be gained from an employee handbook or trainer's manual. His knowledge of different computer software and hardware has been a help to each of us at one time or another. His understanding of the legalities of contractual agreements is something we can definitely not replace. His listening ear to problems or complaints and his strong desire for cohesiveness within the department will surely be missed by

Mr. Fearrington is simply a wellrounded manager, helper and friend to all those willing to work with him and for him. It is no secret due to recent newspaper coverage and word of mouth. that purchasing has had its share of problems and that some employees in this office do not feel as we do. However, to those who work against him, Mr. Fearrington has attempted to respond in the same helpful way and shows no hostility toward any employee's requests. This is certainly a commendable trait and is not common in most people.

Among his other fine traits, Mr. Fearrington is a most humble and giving person, and we are certainly sad to see him go, though we know that he deserves the reward of retirement greatly. and will benefit from it.