

OPINION

Differing opinions expressed on conflict in the Persian Gulf

Saddam Hussein's actions justify gulf war

War is a horrible, nasty, brutal event, but it is not the worst evil to blight the face of the earth.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Gene Godbolo is a graduate student in biochemistry.



U.S. fighting an unjust war for own interests

Andrew Gooding

Guest Writer

The U.S. dismissal of both the Iraqi and Soviet peace plans seems to reveal fundamental contradictions in the prosecution of Operation Desert Storm.

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.

The bombing will not stop until the Iraqi army has left Kuwait, yet while the bombing continues, the Iraqis cannot leave.

list," but that an unconditional withdrawal "will be obvious when it happens."

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?

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?

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.

Andrew Gooding is a graduate in speech communications.

Illogical protests hinder needed war efforts

Since August, one theme has predominated 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.

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."

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.

The self-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.

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 biology.

U.S. desire for oil motivates military action

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.

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.

gifts courtesy of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

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.

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

The Residence Hall Association would like to address the recent concerns raised by various individuals on campus regarding the Feb. 15 RHA endorsement.

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.

Mr. Fearington is simply a well-rounded 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

It is with regret that we prepare for his retirement. Mr. Fearington 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.

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.

Mr. Fearington 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

and organizations such as the Black Student Movement to ensure that we were always mindful of and represented those concerns.

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cannot be gained from an employee handbook or trainer's manual.

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Fearington deserves respect

Guest Writers

Editor's note: The following letter was signed by ten employees of the UNC division of purchasing and stores.

We are writing, not in defense of, but in support of our director, Mr. Frank Fearington, 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.

It is with regret that we prepare for his retirement. Mr. Fearington 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.

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IRAQI GLOSSARY OF TERMS. A grid of political cartoons with labels: Civilian Bomb Shelter, Baby Milk Plant, Baby Milk Mask, Tehran Shuttle, Family Station Wagon, Elite Republican, Elite Republican Guard.