

OPINION

A QUESTION OF CASUALTIES

■ Casualty Counts Have Failed to Consider Civilians Killed In Operation Desert Storm

Mark Dewitt

"Body count means nothing, absolutely nothing," says U.S. Army Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, in reference to the Iraqi dead and injured. Both Iraq and the Allies have a vested interest in concealing from the media the extent of civilian casualties in Iraq. Iraq will not report the high number of civilian casualties for fear that it would break the spirit of the Iraqi soldiers and spell defeat. The Allies will not report the true death toll of civilians for fear it would raise moral questions at home about the war. Even one photograph on prime-time television of the thousands of children being massacred by "carpet bombing" would weaken the overwhelming support for the war. Instead, the screams of children running through the streets of Basra, with their hair and backs on fire, is concealed from public view. Instead, the bombing of the oldest church in Iraq is withheld from media discussion. Instead, we are given false numbers of casualties and are told only of the cities being bombed, without mention of the people who lived in them. By not counting Arab civilian casualties, we are assuming they do not count. We are denying them their place as members of the human family.

With the heavy censorship of what the sorties are doing to civilians, we can at best only make inferences. For example, when General Schwarzkopf announces that, due to the U.S. bombing of water facilities, the Iraqi soldiers "have no water in which to bathe" so that "many are infested with body lice and many of them have open sores on their bodies" (*L.A. Times*, 1/31/91), and we know that the Iraqi sol-

diers are privileged over civilians, we can infer that living conditions for civilians deprived of water may be much worse. This essay is based on inferences derived from a careful reading of military reports as published over the past five months in the *Los Angeles Times*.

We knew only after the Panama war of the mass graves, which were covered over to conceal from public knowledge the reality that the Panamanian casualties were higher than the media were reporting. We know that after the Allies "complete" the decimation of Iraq, a five-year occupation is planned, to be followed by the installation of a puppet government there. This is ample time to destroy all evidence of the massacre, and we may never know if Iraqi civilian casualties too will be concealed in mass graves. But if, years from now, the truth of the real casualty numbers from the massive aerial bombing is unveiled, the recognition of the sheer carnage may produce a decade of remorse among Americans and others complicit in the killing spree.

In the first week of bombing, an Allied pilot complained that he was bored of bombing all day and all night because there was no resistance or challenge as he flew over cities and bombed continuously. According to Army Lt. Gen. Thomas W. Kelly, director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in the air "we can go anywhere we want, whenever we want. Every time they send up an airplane to do something about it, it gets shot down" (*L.A. Times*, 1/29/91). Bombing "wherever we want" includes bombing mosques, museums, suburbs, factories, universities,

See DEWITT, p.2A

INSIDE

■ All for Nothin' Vietnam Vet's Son Asks Why We Haven't Learned

PAGE 3A

■ War of Courage Marine Reservist Questions Policy But Is Committed to Serve

PAGE 4A

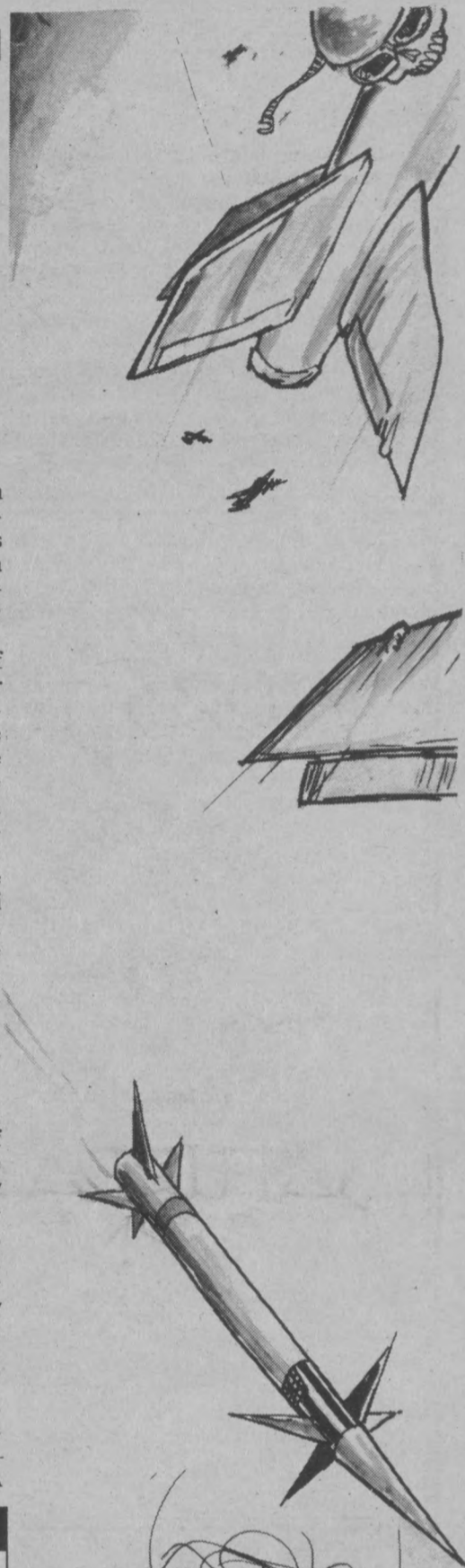
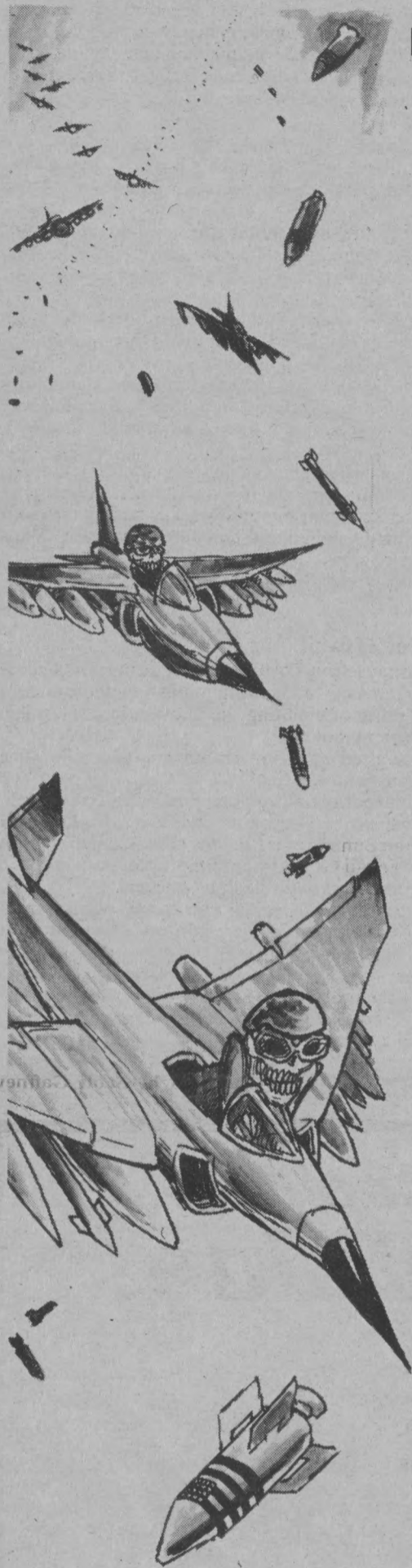
■ Buying Into War In Wartime, Patriotism is Manifest at Checkout Stand

PAGE 5A

■ Retreating from Words Have We Lost Our Ability to Communicate on the War?

PAGE 6A

Art by Todd Francis



DEWITT: About the War's Decimation of Iraqi Civilian Life

Continued from p.1A

and electrical and water facilities in downtown areas. Not to mention levelling residential neighborhoods in the cities of Najaf, Kufa, much of Baghdad, and Basra, which includes tens of thousands of children. A kinder, gentler massacre!

SURPRISE ATTACK

The surprise attack on Iraq is more properly a massacre than a war. A war consists of two or more nations fighting competitively; a massacre is one people decimating another. On Jan. 16, Bush claimed that the resolutions by the United Nations and Congress were not in themselves a declaration of war, but that on any date following Jan. 15, he would have the right to declare war if and when all means of negotiation have been exhausted. While discussion between Iraq and Europe about a third-party mediation for peaceful negotiation was still in play, with the view of an international discussion involving mutual withdrawal of all occupying countries in the Persian Gulf, the United States — without declaring war — attacked the Iraqis in their sleep, bombing Baghdad by surprise at two in the morning. In this foggy, moonless, starless darkness, a fleet of bombers, invisible to the human eye, flew over Baghdad and immediately began decimating. There were no dogfights — the planes were parked and unmanned when the United States came in and bombarded them. There were few shots into the foggy black sky and no means for the Iraqis to see who was killing them off.

But this was only the first night of continuous aerial bombing. The Allies' plan was to continue round-the-clock, heavy shelling for "as long as possible" in order to liquidate the nation's military capacity, as well as kill off a million armed women and men. Iraq would remain with only unarmed civilians unable to defend themselves from an Allied invasion. Focusing last on what former Chief of the Air Force Michael Dugan called "cultural targets," the bombing of cities is designed to kill off the intelligentsia, to "bomb them back to the stone age" and keep them there, leaving the rest of the 17 million Iraqis for cheap labor and, of course, leaving the oil for Allied forces to take over. When the bombing has substantially destroyed the Iraqi troops, the ground forces will merely come in to perform what the U.S. military calls "a mop-up job," — shooting down any remainders who have failed to surrender their resources over to the Allies and finally stepping over the dead bodies, entering into buildings and taking them over.

BIOLOGICAL WARFARE

The United States has been involved in an indirect massacre of Iraqi civilians by cutting off the structures that support life. This kind of indirect killing began before Jan. 15, when the blockade deprived the Iraqis of food and medical care for five months, causing the deaths of over 4,000 children and many elderly people. All of these victims should be included among the civilian casualties. In the first night of bombing, the U.S. destroyed the electrical and water facilities of the city of Baghdad, which has left all of the hospitals of Baghdad without water or electricity. People on kidney and cardiac machines, people undergoing operations, and, in fact, all medical patients are indirectly victims of this war. The destruction of the water facilities has led to contamination, so that typhoid and cholera may be spreading throughout the city of 4.5 million civilians. With the phone lines down, no one can call a doctor, and with the hospitals incapacitated, it would be meaningless to do so. These people, particularly children and the elderly, who are first to be affected by a disease such as cholera, are bound to die. Destroying water facilities in order to provide the contaminating conditions that spread cholera is a type of biological warfare against civilians, and all of these victims should be included among the casualties. Unless there is an immediate cease-fire, there will be no way to bring in the international Red Cross/Red Crescent to treat the thousands of victims of the U.S.-caused disease outbreak in Baghdad and other cities.

Meanwhile, the U.S. has bombed nuclear facilities and chemical- and biological-warfare sites in more than 535 sorties (*L.A. Times*, 1/31/91), and no inspection to determine whether there is radiation leakage is possible while the war goes on. In these weeks of heavy rains in Iraq, the possibility of radioactive rain spreading to other countries — just as the



"black rain" from the oil leaks has spread to Iran — can only increase. The bombing of chemical- and biological-warfare plants risks the unleashing of poisonous gases and far-spreading diseases upon millions of civilians.

According to Lt. Gen. Stanislav Petrov, commander of Soviet chemical-warfare troops, Iraq's chemical weapons may include "2,000 to 4,000 tons of ... mustard gas, cyanide gas, Tabun and Sarin nerve gas, as well as biological agents including Siberian ulcer plague and cholera.

bombing these plants, the U.S. is *de facto* using chemical weapons against the civilian population of Iraq.

PEACE NOT AN OPTION

This bombing could have been avoided if Iraq, which had signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (the U.S. has refused to sign it), could have been allowed by the U.S. to engage in peaceful negotiations, including them in the project started last summer of dismantling chemical and biological weapons. According to an interna-

The United States has been involved in an indirect massacre of Iraqi civilians by cutting off the structures that support life. This kind of indirect killing began before Jan. 15, when the blockade deprived the Iraqis of food and medical care for five months, causing the deaths of over 4,000 children and many elderly people. All of these victims should be included among the civilian casualties.

"Iraq could also have various exotic African disease germs and botulin toxin, a bacteria that Petrov described as the most lethal known to science.

"One hundred grams of such a substance could bring death to hundreds of millions of people," Petrov said. "And if there is a strike on the storage sites of this weapon, the consequences could be most unpredictable" (*L.A. Times*, 1/29/91). By

tional chemical-research organization, before the war, the U.S. had enough chemical weapons to kill every human being on this earth 5,000 times. The Soviet Union had twice the number. While the two superpowers have been trying to dispose of their chemical arsenal by peaceful means, Iraq is not allowed to participate in this peaceful dismantling.

In fact, as a matter of policy, the U.S. has

never considered peace an option for Iraq. The plan from the beginning has been to destroy Iraq's military capacity "even if Iraq were to pull out from Kuwait" (*L.A. Times*, 1/28/91), and military officials have repeated this periodically since Aug. 2. Iraq's occupation of Kuwait was simply an enabling force for Britain and the U.S. to invade the Middle East and destroy the defense capabilities of a country that challenges the legitimacy of the puppet dynasty system which had been imposed by the West to protect European oil interests. According to the British defense secretary, U.N. Resolution 678, which permits the U.S. to "restore peace and security in the region," legitimates the complete destruction of Iraq's military capacity.

The decision to destroy Iraq's military capacity includes calculating the risk that when bombs hit the storage tanks of weapons plants, poisonous-gas and germ-warfare containers may break open and be unleashed upon civilians. Such a decision reveals the utter lack of concern for the lives of all individuals living in these residential districts. Though there is a chance that the bombs may hit in such a way that the poison gas will not be unleashed, the decision to risk these lives on a chance is itself a crime against humanity.

There are some people still under the illusion that this massacre is designed to "free Kuwait," despite reports that the U.S. plans to level the city of Kuwait (*L.A. Times*, 1/23/91). The Kuwaitis who were not wealthy enough to move to Saudi Arabia are being left there to die when the Allied forces level the city. Business contracts for the \$40 billion cost of rebuilding after bombing have already been set for U.S. corporations such as Motorola, Bechtel and an architectural firm in Irvine so that Kuwait, erased of resistance, can be repopulated by the wealthier Kuwaitis in exile. Of course, the spread of disease could affect Kuwait as well, and there is no telling how many years it will be before that region will be safe for human or any other life.

NEW COLONIALISM

Despite his war crimes, Saddam Hussein has popular support from the civilians of most Arab countries. This popularity is based not on respect for this ruthless dictator, but for the hope that an Arab country could stand up to Western imperialism and a belief in the principle that through the reunification of the Arab nation, oil could serve as leverage to provide both oil-rich and oil-poor Arab countries with the economic means to industrialize and become competitive with the West. The Allies have a vested interest in preventing the Arabs from tearing down the oil puppet-dynasties set up by the Western powers. The Allied plan is to expand bases in every Mideastern country in order to turn the oil into international corporate property rather than the property of the people who live there. This new colonialism will prevent the Arab countries from industrializing, while giving the Western countries unlimited ability to exploit them as a Third World people.

Darkest of all is the danger that an "Allied victory" could set a bad precedent. Whenever a Third World country stands up to the West and declares the right to the control of its own resources, this interpretation of U.N. Resolution 678 will give the U.S. a freebie for liquidating the military forces of other Third World countries such as Iran, Libya, Syria, Jordan, Mauritania and Yemen. And this leaves open-ended how many more military forces will be liquidated — African, Asian and South American peoples have militaries, too. Who can stand up to the ruthless Security Council's plans for a New World Order, which permits massacres and fosters a new colonialism?

As we cannot depend on Third World countries to defend themselves in the face of this slaughter, perhaps we should turn to our own nation and demand an immediate cease-fire. A cease-fire is necessary immediately to allow an investigation of the extent of the massacre, to allow medical teams to stop the spread of disease in the bombed cities, and to prevent the U.S. from bombing chemical and germ weapons plants, which may unleash what could only be compared to a Holocaust upon Iraqi civilians. As soon as we have set in place the power structure for the New World Order, the U.S. will already be preparing for a New World Re-Order. We must not only stop the massacre, we must stop the U.S. from rearming and preparing for the next extermination.

Marc DeWitt is a senior triple majoring in philosophy, German and English.

Since the beginning of military action against Iraq, both the press in general and the *Daily Nexus* have devoted an inordinate amount of their coverage to the war protesters and their antics.

Despite this coverage, and despite the great number of people that have spoken on behalf of "peace" in the Kuwaiti theater, they have only succeeded in demonstrating one thing: that they really have nothing of value to say.

For months now, these people have been yelling and screaming and protesting for peace but have presented exactly zero serious and reasonable ways of achieving it. For the most part, they just lament the past and what a terrible predicament it has led us all into. Thanks for the revelation people, but hindsight is always 20/20. Instead of repeating the same history lesson over and over, it would be much more constructive to live in the present and to try to formulate a solution.

But, of course, most of these people feel they have the solution that has eluded every major world leader. These generally fall into three categories: unilateral Allied withdrawal from the region, sieging Iraq into submission, and bowing to Iraq's demands for linkage with the Palestinian issues. People support the first category for a variety of reasons. Most of them are inane.

The only one that really merits attention makes all of the others moot. It is the idea that oil isn't worth fighting for. This is a

e F a E W A N S W E R S

■ Yes, It's a War for Oil and Other Things. But Think Where We'd All Be Without It

By W. Christopher Moses

blatant fallacy. Oil is the lifeblood of our modern world. To cede the Arabian Peninsula to Iraq by withdrawing would be handing Hussein a knife with which to cut our throats. It would give him control of roughly 40 percent of the world's oil supplies. This is much more than enough to wreak havoc with the world, both economically and politically. If anyone doubts this they have only to look at the results of the past oil production cutbacks. Jeffery Robinson's *Yamani: The Inside Story* chronicles one such a disaster:

"Throughout Britain electricity got turned off at odd times.

"Sales of storm lanterns and candles boomed. Garbage piled up in the streets. Business ground to a halt. There was talk of fuel rationing. The government was about to topple."

As the nations of the world began to realize how severe this was, they one by one began to bend their political positions in order to appease the Arab oil producers.

All of this was from just a 20-percent reduction of oil supplies. Saddam would have control of more than twice that.

Some people advocate sieging Iraq out of Kuwait. Though the idea is admirable, it is also a pipe dream. In order to contain Iraq and to enforce the sanctions, a very large military force would be required to stay in Saudi Arabia for quite some time. Over months and perhaps years, popular support would wane. As casualties occurred at a slow but steady rate from training exercises, border skirmishes, and attempts to run the blockade (induced by cheap oil prices), people would begin to say "Oh just let him have tiny Kuwait. It isn't worth all this money and all these deaths. Besides, he has already made it part of Iraq, none of the old Kuwait even still exists." In addition, Arab support for foreign troops upon their holy land would not last. In the not-too-far future, especially around the time of the pilgrimage, significant pressure would be put on the Saudi family to expel

the infidels. Whether they do it or not, this instability in Saudi Arabia would ripple throughout the Arab world with unforeseeable short- and long-term consequences.

A great many people favor simply linking Iraq's occupation of Kuwait to Israel's occupation of the occupied territories as Saddam Hussein requested. Saddam Hussein cares for the Palestinians as much as he cares for the Kurds. His call for linkage was intended to do many things, but helping the Palestinians was not one of them. Had people heeded his call and some form of dialogue been started, he could have easily dragged it out for years. During this time he would still be raping and pillaging Kuwait. This solution is nothing more than a siege with an idyllic fantasy attached to it.

Hussein, however, was smart enough to put himself in a no-lose situation. If the world community did not fall for linkage, then he still gained the support of two major groups of people: the Palestinians, who will ally themselves with anyone that sounds like he cares, and the naive-war protesters in the Allied countries. The war protesters have played directly into Saddam's hand.

I hate to say it, but we need a war and the sooner the better. I hope everyone prays for peace, but in this case peace will only be achieved through Iraq's surrender to military force.

W. Christopher Moses is a senior majoring in economics.

ALL•FOR•NOTHIN'

Desert Storm Proves We Ignored Big Lessons of Vietnam

By Roger L. Worthington

The last shred of my innocence has been stripped away. The loosely tethered anchor that once secured me within a mostly peaceful harbor has been violently yanked from its resting place. The dream I once had (one that began to grow and flourish in the brightness of the light in Eastern Europe) that I might belong to a unique generation of Americans has withered and evaporated into dust. The harsh reality has taken 14 days to completely sink in and take hold. We are in the iron-clad grips of another war.

It seems too complex to question what would have happened "if only..." but there is no question that Saddam Hussein is brutal, aggressive, and probably even insane. And there is no question that our government is motivated by more than the idealistic beliefs in liberty, justice and freedom it pretends to support. Those are the two most straightforward truths that neither side of the war debate can deny.

The simple matter is that the kind of sadness I have lived with all of my life is about to descend upon the world once again. The Vietnam War took my father 22 years ago. The dream I have lived with all of my life has been that someday I could answer back to all of those well-meaning people who told me that it was a tragedy that my father had to "die for nothing." The dream was that Vietnam wasn't "for nothing" after all — that it could be the war that taught our nation how to avoid the painful tragedy of another war. We were supposed to learn that our nation should never export its soldiers to fight on foreign soil. We were supposed to learn that it was dangerous to blindly follow our government into con-

flicts we did not create or fully understand. We were supposed to learn that our government will lie to us in pursuit of political and economic gains, for which we are supposed to sacrifice the lives of young Americans, who are too often also impoverished and ethnic Americans.

Too many people have already compared this war to Vietnam; it only goes to show how we had only just begun to heal the wounds of that war before allowing our government to catapult us into another. I only want to draw on a frightening parallel. During the beginning of the Vietnam conflict, there was a great deal of support for our "involvement." Only after the casualties began to increase did the American public begin to recognize how sickening that war really was, and public support diminished into a massive public outcry for peace.

Even our own government knows how important the memories of Vietnam will be in the Persian Gulf. That is why George Bush has stated that our forces will not fight with one hand behind their backs. That is why the military has moved to gag the media with limited access and the implication that it was the press who really lost the war in Vietnam (how ludicrous!). That is why there is a flood of propaganda to "Support our troops" — because nobody, not even the anti-war protesters, wants to be the cause of the kind of suffering Vietnam veterans had to go through when they returned home. Indeed, even Saddam Hussein believes that the memories of Vietnam will surface in the minds of Americans, so that we will not be able to bear the loss of thousands of troops in this

war.

Because my father (a hero by military standards) died in Vietnam, I have a somewhat different perspective on this whole issue. You see, it wasn't public opinion that ended the war before my father's death had a chance to mean something. It wasn't public opinion that caused the post-traumatic stress suffered by so many Vietnam veterans. It was our "involvement" in the war in the first place. It had to do with trusting a government that believed it could shape the world in its own best interests. It had to do with the people of the United States failing to question our own motivations for war until we were already losing lives that a withdrawal could not justify. It had to do with the denial we all succumb to in our own everyday lives — that death will never touch us.

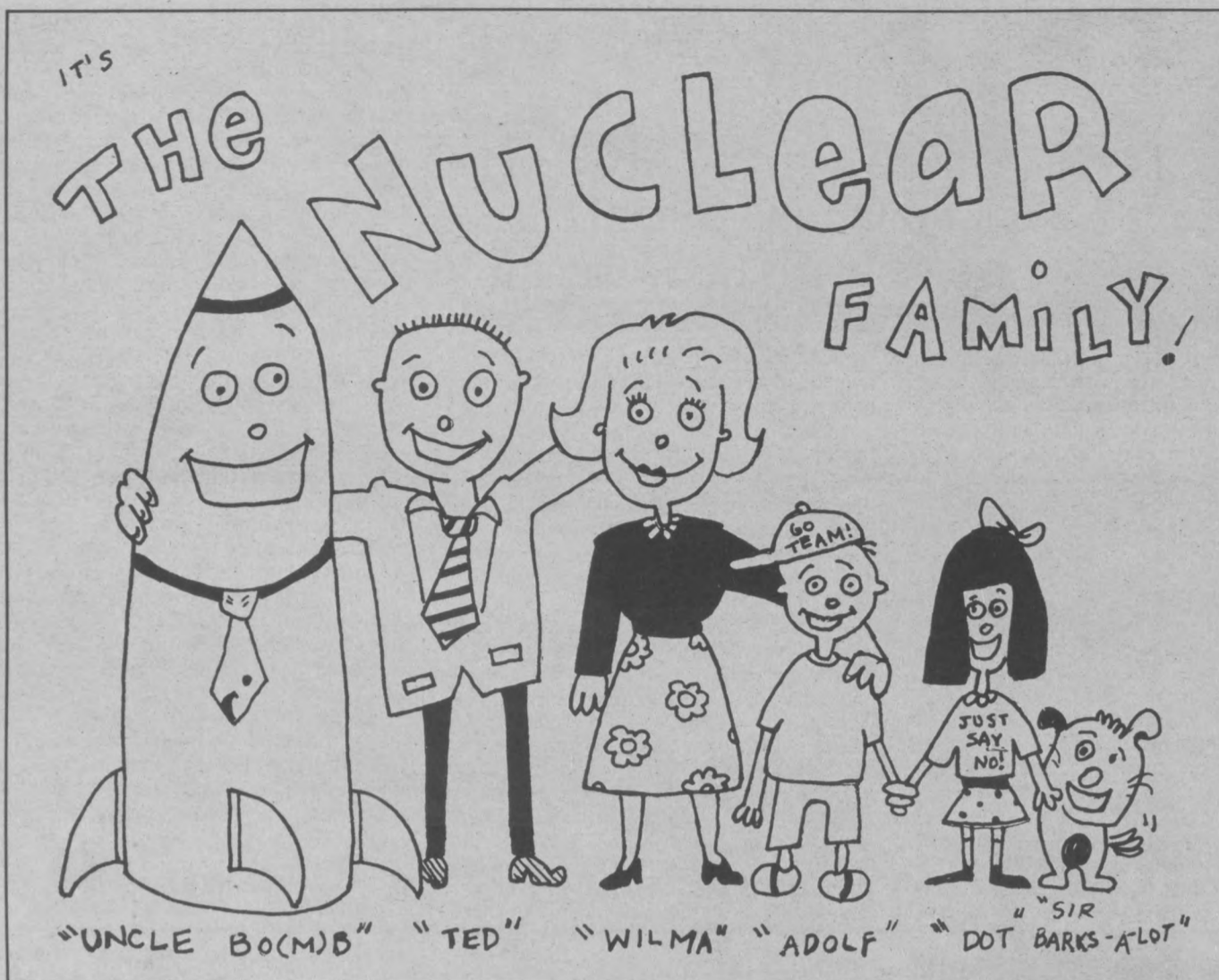
Before we work so hard to consider what will happen when the heroes of this war return home, we should consider the men and women who will take their last breaths in the "desert storm." Rather, then, consider how we let ourselves rush half a million young men and women onto the desert floor and into the arms of death.

We are, it seems, going to allow all of those thousands of people to die (Americans, Iraqis, and all of the others). The question still burns deep within me, causing my hands to shake, my stomach to burn, and my soul to weep...

This time, what will we learn? Roger L. Worthington, a graduate student in counseling psychology, dedicates this column to the memory of Laurence D. Worthington, June 14, 1938 — Jan. 11, 1969.



JAY SCHWARTZ/Daily Nexus



The Spider's Web the Tomahawk

■ Going Home Expecting to Escape the War, a UCSB Student Finds Her Family Making Missiles, but Setting Black Widows Free

BY KIA NERI

The outbreak of violence in the Persian Gulf upset everyone. I know that Jan. 17 found me a jumbled mass of emotion, along with thousands of other Americans. I decided to go to school but could only think of war. PEACE! Everywhere I looked people were advocating peace. On campus, people were saying "Boycott classes." I wondered if I should. I was too upset to actually study, anyway. I wandered around, feeling lost. I was helpless. I was worried about people I know and the people I don't know, who are now in the middle of a battle zone. The very idea of war made my stomach turn. Maybe if I wandered far enough, I would find an old friend who would comfort me on this day of confusion and help me decide. But I only got more lost and went to class for lack of more constructive activity.

The long weekend came up and I saw it as a perfect opportunity to escape the intense tide of emotion that was rushing through UCSB. I went home to Los Angeles. My cousins from San Diego would be visiting my parents. I really love spending time with their kids, so I thought I'd be able to play with them and forget about the war. I was wrong. Gulf events infiltrated almost every moment of the weekend.

My cousin and her husband both made the Tomahawk missiles used in the Persian Gulf maneuvers. At first I thought, "Well hey — it's a job, right? After all, they need to support their yuppie lifestyle. That's reasonable." However, as I spent more time with them, I soon discovered that it is more than a job — it is a career.

The TV was continually turned to CNN. My parents' living room was scattered with dolls, Ninja Turtles, Legos and other toys. I sat glued to the news channel, trying to tune out a "let's catch up on family gossip" conversation between my cousin and my mother. I prepared myself to hear the latest number of casualties and try not to burst into tears. My cousin sat right next to me, chatting away, trying to bring my mom up to date. However her attention was diverted away every time the word "Tomahawk" was mentioned. She would stop suddenly, turn toward the TV screen, listen briefly and then repeat "Tomahawk" like she was watching a sports segment and Tomahawk was her favorite team. "Can we really be related?" I wondered. This woman works a double shift at General Dynamics, a company that supplies the government with Tomahawk missiles.

My cousins, with their two children, ages five and six, seem to be the all-American family. They live in a suburban com-

munity of San Diego called Santee. All the houses look alike, and I wonder how anyone ever finds their way home in the dark. The contractors of this community placed their domestic heaven at the base of a mountain and displaced nature with a yuppie civilization. As a result, their sterile yards are visited by snakes, coyotes, tarantulas and other natives.

One day her children were out playing, and the youngest ran in saying that they had caught a black widow. My cousin went outside and sure enough, her daughter had a black widow held prisoner in her Holly Hobbie tea cup. She had brushed it into the cup with a leaf. My cousin reprimanded her child and warned of the possible danger in handling a black widow spider.

"And so," my cousin narrated later, "I took the spider and put it back in the bushes."

This sounded so absurd. Why would she let the spider free on her property, with a chance that it actually might bite one of her children?

I asked, "Why didn't you step on it?"

"Because!" she said in a loud, maternal tone, "I do not kill bugs in front of my kids."

"But it could have bit them!" I said.

"Yeah, but that's just nature."

It seems she didn't want her children to witness destruction of nature. This woman wouldn't destroy something that could have killed her own child, yet her paychecks come from General Dynamics.

The weekend was a whirlwind of political opinions: "Hus-

She would stop suddenly, turn toward the TV screen, listen briefly and then repeat 'Tomahawk' like she was watching a sports segment and Tomahawk was her favorite team. 'Can we really be related?' I wondered. This woman works a double shift at General Dynamics, a company that supplies the government with Tomahawk missiles.

sein is a cancer, and the U.S. needs to be the surgeon," "It's not the U.S., it's the U.N.!" "Aggression!" "Peace!" — "That's only dream;" "What about the soldiers?" "What about the Iraqis?" and so on. The war of emotions continued all weekend. Nothing is as simple as "good guy versus bad guy." Nobody is going to win, like my cousin and newscasters suggest we will. Win this war? They can't! You win a baseball game or a poker game. I just can't see who will win anything in this war.

Spending the weekend with my conservative family and going to school with peace-shouting students has forced me to realize the complexity of this situation. It's hard to say who is right and who is wrong. My cousin's husband has it rationalized in his mind, and business is booming right now. It must be nice to be able to simplify this war. All I know is that human life is invaluable, be it Iraqi, Italian, Soviet, American or Kuwaiti. Regardless of political views, most everyone can agree that destruction is senseless. My cousin and I agreed on that, and when we parted Sunday night, pinned to both of our shirts were brilliant, yellow ribbons.

Kia Neri is a sophomore majoring in literature in the College of Creative Studies.



PAT STULL/Daily Nexus

A Time for Courage

■ A Reservist Once Questioned Gulf Policy, but Commits Himself to His Country

BY RICHARD HUNTER

When the Gulf crisis began, I had some serious misgivings about the possibility of war in the Middle East, like most people. I am an E-6 Drill Sergeant in the Army Reserve, and also a senior in UCSB's ROTC program. I was not at all interested in getting yanked out of ROTC in order to have to train recruits to fight a probably hellish war in the desert.

During my enlistment in the Marines in 1983, I spent three and a half months in Beirut and saw the effects of war firsthand, although on a comparatively small scale, and I had no desire to repeat that experience or to have to train other boys for it unless it was absolutely the last possible resort. I had enough doubts that I was willing to jeopardize my position in the program to speak out during a free speech rally in front of Cheadle Hall prior to Christmas vacation. Although I was against Bush's Gulf policies, I didn't put myself in the same category with the so-called "conscientious objectors."

I made my choices with my eyes wide open, accepted the risks involved and took Uncle Sam's money, and, for better or worse, I will honor my agreement. I would never allow myself to be counted among the ranks of those whose sudden injection of intense morality against the use of violence (which is what a true CO feels) was nothing more than an expedient excuse for a lack of "intestinal fortitude," better known as guts or more to the point, cowardice.

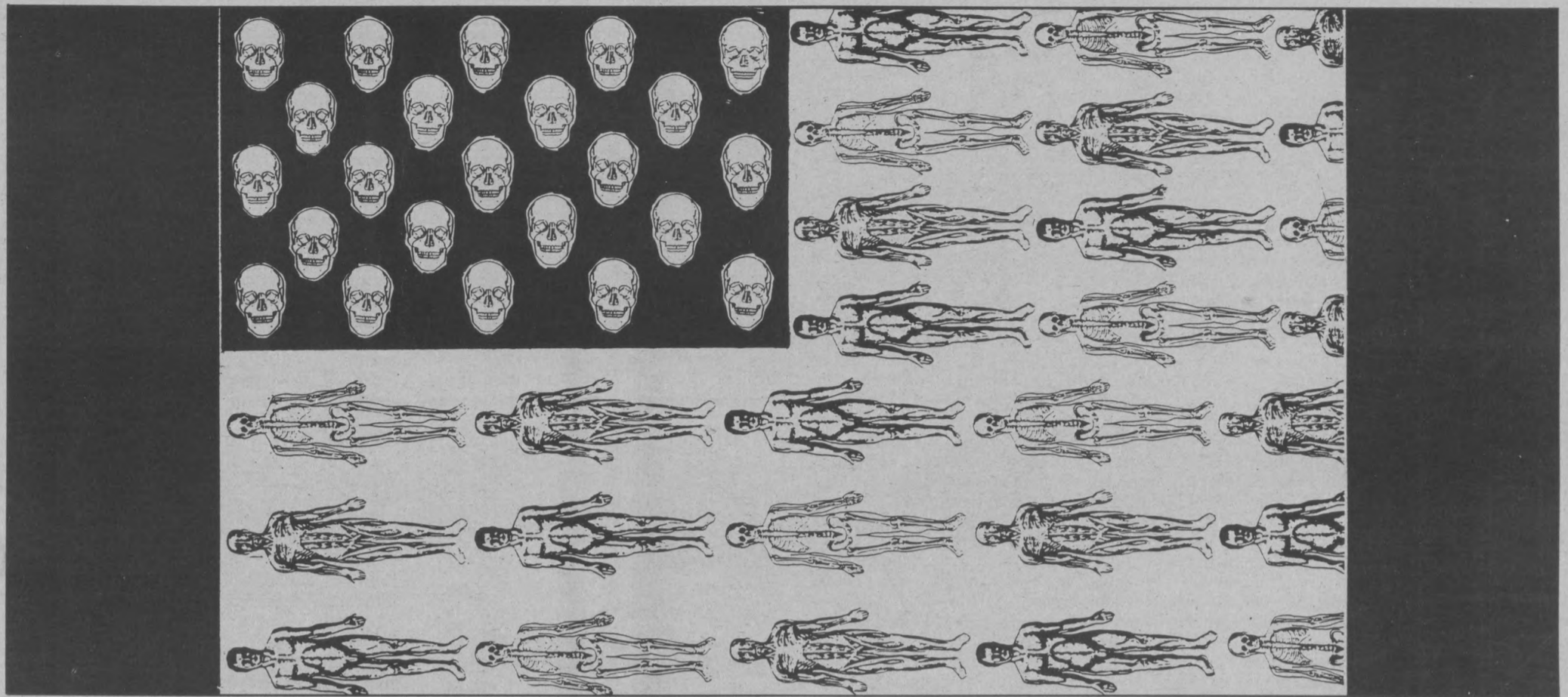
This is especially true in view of the training they've received and their volunteer enlistment contract. (The contract asks, "Are you now, or have you ever been a Conscientious Objector?" During a peacetime volunteer enlistment, answering "yes" terminates the enlistment process.) Legally, as

far as I'm concerned, that constitutes a fraudulent enlistment as well as an intentional defrauding of monies from the federal government — money that you and I and every taxpayer in America have given for the costs of training an army should we ever need one. History has taught us that it is better to have an army and not need it than to need one and not have it. You simply can't tell a potentially aggressive enemy, "Wait, time out, I need to train an army."

Yeah, the sudden COs are real heroes all right. They can take the training and the money and the inherent risks involved, but when the bill comes due, their character comes up short. Was I afraid of going to war? Hell yes: War is something to be afraid of — anyone who says he isn't afraid is either a liar or a fool, or else he isn't living anymore. The only difference between a man and a coward is that the man controls his fear and faces it, while the coward allows his fear to control him and runs from it. If I were to refuse to go, I could never be sure that my steadfast morality wasn't a mask for my own possible cowardice.

When I expressed my opposition to the president's policies at the rally, I was swept up with an overwhelmingly idealistic desire to do the right thing. Now I've spoken with a number of people and taken some other points of view into account. Start with Hussein's record: Here is a dictator who spent 10 years building up his military machine and used it to wage a war of opportunity against Iran. Did we supply him? Yes, as did our NATO allies France and Germany, who gave him the technology for chemical weapons.

That, however, is not what's at issue here. His intention was to take advantage of the civil strife and internal revolu-



DEBBIE URLIK/Daily Nexus

Inside a Goleta drug store stands a display which once held alkaline batteries, but has recently been commandeered for a more topical purpose. A hastily written sign on the display read: "Support our troops! Buy a flag."

Apart from a few D-cells and one small plastic American flag, the store appeared sold out of Old Glories. Patriotism, it seems, hasn't been keeping up with the demand for it these days.

The *Los Angeles Times* and CNN report similar shortages nationwide for American icons and other Gulf War necessities. Word has it you couldn't locate and buy a map of the Persian Gulf if you had to rip it off a globe. Looking for a gas mask? Try more than a few Army surplus stores because they're going fast. A factory in the Midwest that stitches up flags has added a shift.

Welcome to Wartime America: a time, a condition, a surreal surge of nationalistic epinephrine, which this country experiences every generation or so. Our folks tell us this is what they went through in the early days of Vietnam or Korea. Grandpa might mention war bonds and victory gardens, but what do we, the baby bust generation, know of national combat?

So far, I can't eloquently express what this War, capital "W," means to me (although I bet I could offer some pretty good profane opinions right now). For the rest of this country, however, I can safely say that, so far, America's response to the Iraq War is the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veteran's Day and above all, Flag Day packed into one jingoistic holiday.

It's hard to equate mass death and destruction with a national holiday, but the analogy seems wholly appropriate. Regardless of the run on American flags and the latest fashion to wrap oneself snugly with it, regardless of the widespread "anti-protest" rallies marching on nearly every American town, patriotism tastes as if it's been added to the drinking water.

War Bonding

By
Tim
Hoffman

Rallying Around the Flag
Can Also Transfer to the
Local Cash Register

Across the country, the new patriotic mood has inspired entire towns to rebel against peace movements. The local government of Arcadia ended the town's short-lived status as a haven for AWOL soldiers or potential draft dodgers after over 1,000 citizens threatened to recall the town council.

Flag-waving anti-protesters have been spotted marching outside CNN's offices in Atlanta. Even Vice President Dan Quayle has been on-the-record against the latest peace protests, saying that they undermine the war effort.

Close to home (i.e. Storke Tower), the Patriot Push came in the form of 70 or so self-proclaimed UCSB "Saddam Busters." During the course of a well-attended anti-war rally, the "Busters" sang a rendition of the National Anthem and pumped their fists and "barked" Arsenio Hall-style. One attendee held up a homemade placard which sported an inspired felt-pen caricature of the Iraqi dictator, under which was printed the words "Oh shit."

The war supporters — each waving flags and posters large and small or brandishing bumper stickers which read, simply, "Marines" — jeered and cheered the estimated 3,000 UCSB war protestors for three hours. Some speakers at the rally, although loudly amplified through a PA system, were sufficiently drowned out by the chants of "free Kuwait" that shouting matches between factions caught the attention, if cursorily, of the attending police.

The scene was of course a mere H.O. Scale version of the national mood and debate. From the Executive Branch

("This country is fundamentally united," ordered Bush recently to the advertising industry (those latest Boeing ads), patriotism is the order of the day.

The home-front euphoria that accompanies battle is not new in this country. Without the sight of body bags or the bantering of casualty figures or the need to attend loved-ones' funerals, war is more Us vs. Them, Ford vs. Chevy, or Less Filling vs. Tastes Great. Hence, the flags, the Arsenio-barking and rounds of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

During World War II, the euphoric and racist mood of wartime America gave rise to "Kraut" and "Jap," and even the notorious Merrie Melodie "Bugs Bunny Nips the Nips" (1944). Such was the national psyche.

So far, the Persian Gulf War has inspired a similar psyche, if with more prosaic propaganda: Saddam Hussein voodoo dolls and "Wipe out Hussein" toilet paper. When will the "Fake Hussein Doo" sell out at Lucky's?

This holiday mood is unnerving and saddening. Certainly we are not the callous society as we appear to be when conflict erupts... are we?

Whether our national goal is "nipping the nips" or "Saddam busting," such euphemistically cruel and facile slogans shed no light on the tragedy of conflict. Indeed, flag-waving and name-calling directed toward the "enemy" (and peace protestors) only heightens the belligerent atmosphere during wartime.

Perhaps nationalism and patriotism mixed with a little xenophobia is our own defense mechanism against the horror of war. War is death. War is humanity at its most absurd and horrific; no one needs to remind us of that. But as absurd as nationalism itself is at times like these, it's our easiest attainable relaxant during the rigor mortis-like angst of wartime.

So we'll continue to sing off-key versions of the Anthem and buy "Hussein Exploding Golf Balls." It's a stupid habit we humans, especially we American humans, have. If history tells us anything, we haven't begun to grow out of it.

Tim Hoffman is a graduate student in economics.

tion in Iran and hopefully make an easy conquest. Although he was wrong in his judgement, it cost over one million Iranian lives and involved the unleashing of nerve gas against his own people. After an eight-year war in which no real successes were achieved, he withdrew and set his sights on Kuwait.

Did the lack of any expressed U.S. policy toward Kuwait prior to the Iraqi invasion act as an open invitation for Saddam? Probably, but that doesn't make the U.S. policy "entrapment," at least not in the legal sense. We may have set it up, but we certainly didn't force him to invade Kuwait — he already had a mind to do it.

Syria, a nation which has repeatedly supported terrorism against the U.S. (the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 and the suicide bombing of Marine headquarters in Beirut in 1983), has now formed a reluctant alliance with the U.S. against Hussein. Their reason for doing this is obviously that they're seriously scared of him.

Hussein threatened, and then made good on his threat to attack Israel if the U.S.-led Coalition attacked Iraqi forces. This, despite the fact that Israel has sought to stay out of the conflict. His reasoning was to tie any possible peace talks to the Palestinian issue, despite having never shown concern for them before. He simply means to redirect the public's attention away from the immediate issue, his withdrawal from Kuwait.

Hussein claims that Kuwait is rightfully part of Iraq. But Kuwait doesn't want to be absorbed; it has been an independent country for at least the last 40 years. Anyway, you don't loot, ransack and terrorize a country and then murder its citizens if you are genuinely interested in "liberating" them.

Now Saudi Arabia is an interesting country. When Hussein first went into Kuwait, the Saudis refused to allow us to set up positions in their country. We were the ones who built the facilities there in the first place, anticipating a war in the Gulf against the Soviets. The Saudis don't enjoy having U.S. troops in their country, and we were only allowed in there after they saw satellite photos of a massive troop buildup not only on the Kuwait-Saudi border, but also on the Iraq-Saudi border. If we didn't make a stand where we did, Hussein would've taken Saudi Arabia, along with its oil fields, and we

would've been left asking "Where would we be able to mass enough forces to mount an offensive to stop him from taking over the entire Middle East?"

Make no mistake, he wants control of the industrial world's oil supply, and he still would attack Israel at some future date, drawing the U.S. into the war because of the strength of the Israeli lobby. Let's not be naive and think this is only about oil. It is about U.S. profits and imperialism and the added rhetoric any dictator could hold if he controlled the pulse of the major industrialized economies. Remember the Arab oil embargo of the 1970s?

If he took Saudi Arabia, he would control a vast majority of the Middle East. The other countries would either capitulate

Being a superpower has its share of responsibilities. We are our brother's keeper, and if everyone did their part, the world would be a lot nicer place. Unfortunately, the real world is sometimes a cruel son of a bitch, and there are times when history will not allow us the luxury of 'not getting involved.'

— as France did with the Nazis — or be conquered. When it is taken into account that he could then try to unite all of the Arabs under the religious banner of Allah, you have the frighteningly real possibility of a force that would be impossible to stop without a massive loss of life such as we have not seen since World War II.

The lessons of that war are worthy of mention. Great Britain learned in 1938 that appeasement of dictators doesn't work. Neville Chamberlain signed a treaty with Hitler, and before the ink was dry, Hitler had rolled into Czechoslovakia. What is most important to note here is that America kept

an isolationist policy then and stayed out of the war until we were attacked. Had we not gone to war when we did, it is almost certain that Hitler would've taken Western Europe and Africa. The Germans were also frighteningly developing both jet engines and nuclear weapons at the time. Had we involved ourselves right from the beginning — when the dangers were obviously present — neither Hitler nor Japan would have grown to the size they did, nor would we have had to fight for as much territory or suffer as great a loss of life.

We need not repeat these mistakes again in the Middle East. Being a superpower has its share of responsibilities. We are our brother's keeper, and if everyone did their part, the world would be a lot nicer place. Unfortunately, the real world is sometimes a cruel son of a bitch, and there are times when history will not allow us the luxury of "not getting involved." The men and women who are serving now understand that, and they are doing their part. They are willing to accept that, so long as their sacrifice accomplishes something and is appreciated. In that respect, there really isn't that much difference between World War II or Korea and Vietnam and what will probably take place in the Persian Gulf.

General George S. Patton said, "There is one tactical principle which is not subject to change. It is to use the means at hand to inflict the maximum amount of death and destruction upon the enemy in the minimum amount of time." That is the bottom line, period. It is for that reason that war must be understood as the last possible resort. When all other options have been exhausted, as I believe is now the case, we must be steadfast in our determination to support the final option, as awful as it may be.

Sanctions won't remove Hussein — his army will be the last thing to suffer. If something isn't done, it sets a dangerous precedent. If something is done, especially through the U.N., it has the possibility of strengthening the viability of international law, which will help to keep this from repeating elsewhere. Let's not have history repeat itself. Let's grit our teeth, swallow hard and show our support for the decisions our government has made. Let's accept whatever comes with the most amount of courage we can muster. Those in the Gulf are doing just that; can we do any less?

Richard Hunter is a senior majoring in political science.

The Reader's Voice

Take the High Road

Editor, Daily Nexus:

While President Saddam Hussein deserves courteous address as the leader of a prominent nation, he should not benefit from the conquest of Kuwait. So far, he has not and will not, so long as U.N. economic sanctions remain in force. Indeed, the Iraqis have suffered and, until Kuwait is free, will continue to suffer deprivation because of President Hussein's aggression.

The Coalition's 30,000 air sorties have stopped further Iraqi development of unconventional weapons. Now that this has been accomplished, the Coalition should unilaterally declare an immediate cease-fire subject to proportionate reprisal by the Coalition for any attacks by Iraq.

On the ground, the advantage is with defensive forces; our forces should dig in and stay put. Vindictiveness is no justification for the sacrifice of the lives of Coalition troops or for taking the lives of Iraqi soldiers. We should view the Iraqi populace, including those in military service, as President Hussein's victims, not as his accomplices.

The circumscription of Iraqi trade and communications should continue indefinitely, subject only to humanitarian relief — particularly for the young, the aged and the sick.

The United States and most of the rest of world has long sought an international conference to attempt a comprehensive resolution of Middle Eastern problems. We should not allow President Hussein's preferences in this matter to affect us one way or the other. Presently, our lapse in pursuit of a conference is linked to the reverse psychology of President Hussein's rhetoric. We should sever that linkage and announce our intention to work through diplomatic channels in the United Nations and elsewhere to broaden Camp David so that it embraces the entire region.

High moral ground is the most effective platform for reversing Saddam Hussein's conquest. We teach by example. We should provide the example of peaceful resolution, through fortitude and patience. There is no road to peace. Peace is the road!

STANLEY ANDERSON
Professor, Political Science

Wasting Words

Editor, Daily Nexus:

Let me begin by saying that I am a proud American. I don't agree with everything the government does, but I support our country. One of the best things our government has ever done was to permit free speech. This is what makes America America. Even though I don't believe in what the anti-war protesters are saying, I believe they should have a chance to say it.

I also think that this right should not be abused. It does not mention anything about destroying property in the Constitution. This right should also be used with control. Everyone should remember that we voted Bush into office. In 1992 you will have a chance to vote him out.

The main problem that I see with the protests are the adverse effects that they will have on our troops. Let's face it, the protests during Vietnam failed to do much but hurt our soldiers. I am sure that none of us want to turn this into another Vietnam.

Finally, I would like to add that I seriously doubt that the protests will actually affect the government. The chance that Reagan will see the UCSB protests on local TV from his ranch and call up his buddy George to persuade him to stop the war is extremely slim. So I think all our efforts should go into the support of our country so all this bullshit can be over quickly.

GREG HAHN

Fatal Error

Editor, Daily Nexus:

The anti-war protests last week were as good as any in the country, but maintaining momentum will be even more important in the week to come. This week will mark the attempt to make a smooth transition from the air war and its video kills to a ground war and its sea of blood. Not just protesting but stopping the war becomes even more critical than in the early phase, as the government attempts to clothe the already unbelievable destruction with inevitability.

This will be tricky for Bush because support for the war nosedives as casualties modestly rise. One study predicted a one-third loss of support if American casualties number 1,000. A ground war will kill 10 or 20 times that fairly quickly. It also seems that, far from surgical military strikes, our air force has all along been bombing hospitals, churches, museums, entire neighborhoods, civilian infrastructure generally, even cities. The truth about the number of Iraqi dead is probably being withheld by the military, which holds a long and consistent history of such concealments. What seemed a clean war of technological superiority will turn out to have been from our side a war of retribution and slaughter. The sickening films of beaten Western POWs is only a minute fraction of what we have been doing to the Iraqi military and general population, and what, unless we stop this, they will soon be doing to us. To picture this war, forget the parade of hireling generals at the network "war desks." Multiply the POWs' pictures by thousands.

Anti-war allies: It's not enough that every bit of actual

war data is controlled by the military; much of the public wants equally to regulate your reaction. The stupider and more avoidable the war, the more panicky the efforts to control its opponents. One trusted way is to charge dissenters with treason. If you don't support this war, this charge says, you don't support our troops, or America, or what America stands for, standing up to Hitler, or saving babies from pirates, or fighting slavery in the Civil War, or separating from Britain in the 18th century. The charge of betrayal is being employed to shame you into acting "normal" at a time when you need to refuse this creeping "normalcy."

How can Bush maintain the necessary momentum to keep this thing going? Only by making everyone believe that the war, though maybe not a moral crusade or a money-maker or even a good strategic idea, is an accomplished fact. Only our own fatalism can save the war now. Only a guilty ambivalence about betraying its uninformed victims on "our" side will let it leap the gap from televised omnipotence to a quagmire of mass destruction. Shut it down.

CHRISTOPHER NEWFIELD
Asst. Professor of English

Blame Hussein

Editor, Daily Nexus:

After reading some articles and letters in the Nexus this past week, we were deeply saddened and angered by the obvious ignorance that is inherent to many of the anti-war protesters. You cannot simultaneously "oppose the war" and "support the troops." Apparently you fail to see the hurt that you are causing the troops and their families through your protesting. All they see are news broadcasts that blare "ANTI-WAR PROTESTS." The troops associate themselves with fighting the war for the people of America and the world; if we are protesting, they think we are protesting them and their position in the Gulf. Now is not the time to divide our nation by resorting to childish antics like egg-throwing, vandalism or name-calling. We must unite and support our troops and our country.

What must be realized is that the "war supporters" are not warmongers. We do not celebrate war. We want peace like everyone else. We are supporting the Allied forces who have the courage to stand up to a man who has taken the whole world hostage with his terrorism. We can all argue this situation until we go blue in the face. It will not change the reality of the war. No one wants this war, but does anyone want to see Hussein taking over the world in two years? He must be stopped now. Do the anti-war protesters really believe that Hussein is the kind of man who will sit at a bargaining table and discuss a peaceful solution to this awful situation? We think not. He doesn't care about his people or anyone else but himself. You only need to look at the Allied POWs to see these atrocities. So stop blaming our leaders, our government and our nation for the situation that Saddam has created. He is the one who invaded Kuwait. He is the one who bombed Israel and attacked innocent people. He is the one who killed millions of his own people to satisfy his sick, insane needs. He is the one who rejected the United Nations' attempt for peace.

LORI ROMIAS
MELISSA PEACHEY

Vulgar and Meritorious

Editor, Daily Nexus:

Having grown up in a military family, I've always been staunchly American, but one of my earliest memories is of my father returning from active duty to break my toy rifle over his knee when I pointed it at my brother.

The recent Persian (Arabian) Gulf activity has had a profound effect on me. Turbulent ambivalence reigns supreme in my brain, churning nationalism and humanism so that I am immobilized. It was impossible for me to protest President Bush's actions on the 16th. I'm an American. Now, as the shock of war fades, I can see the emotional ties (indeed, blackmail) that control me — the "love it or leave it" syndrome again. (Am I no longer as American as I was just a few weeks ago?) I thought it was cured 20 years ago. The Gulf activity represents nothing that I value in America. The way I see it, it is the result of our national weaknesses: dependency on a military-based economy, the absence of an energy policy, and the failure to demand that the region take responsibility for its own peace and security. I feel as if my taxes, as well as my patriotism, are being misused by the government I love. I must now admit that it is this land, its people, and the priority that they place on freedom and justice that I love, and that these are not synonymous with this governmental administration.

I firmly believe that each man is responsible for his actions. Every man is accountable for his deeds. I don't know where this morality comes from, but it is not in league with the nationalistic morality that demands that a man kill or die for the freedom of sand. In the muddy water of Tony Pierce's Jan. 23 column ("A Few 'Brave' Men") lies the flower of truth that man is responsible and responsibility is freedom. It took obscenities to get my attention. Tony's expressed opinions overshadowed my war doubt. Somehow, seeing them in print paved the way for me to express my doubt, too. I have no problem with criticizing the president's policy. It is unfortunate that most people were polarized (paralyzed?) by Tony's column. Although vulgar, I found merit in it and in the *Daily Nexus* for printing it. Thank you.

ERIC E. FINCKE

Some "Facts"

Editor, Daily Nexus:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Roger Crawford ("It's Now or Never," Jan. 28) for "giving some people some facts about the war." It's great to see caring and enlightened people like you, Roger, going that extra mile to share insightful "facts" about the war with the masses.

I was particularly impressed with Roger's "fact" that the war in the Persian Gulf is a "must" in order to pull the United States out of the current recession. "The war is a perfect tool to do this — it creates jobs and allows the production of military goods which will stimulate the economy." Well said, Roger. You learned your economics well. But don't stop now; share your facts with others outside UCSB. Tell Mrs. Speicher (Michael Scott Speicher died a violent, premature death in the desert skies over Baghdad) that her son's death was necessary to pull us out of our recession. Tell an Iraqi man that the death of his wife and children by carpet bombing was necessary to reverse the United States' leading economic indicators. While you're on a roll, go speak to the tens of thousands of Iraqis, British, Americans, French, and Saudis whose loved ones will die wicked deaths by implements of destruction. They'll be greatly consoled to learn the "fact" that this war was necessary to assure the Crawfords of economic prosperity.

CRAIG L. LINGHAM

Patriotic Protest

Editor, Daily Nexus:

As a faithful reader of letters to the editor, I have been inspired and appalled during this past month by various opinions and philosophies espoused by members of this university. On Jan. 23, however, I was so moved that I fought my ferocious apathy and began composing my own letter to the Nexus. My purpose here is not to downgrade the efforts of individuals who believe that the peace protests are damaging our war effort, but merely to explain to anyone interested why I have been attending the rallies on campus.

My grandfather fought in World War II on Iwo Jima. After being seriously wounded, he and his fellow Marines were again dropped on that island to be wounded and die. My cousin fought in Vietnam and was exposed to Agent Orange only to be diagnosed with cancer 10 years later. He has yet to receive any offer of reparation from the U.S. government. My family history in the military goes on. Our elected officials bear a very large part of the responsibility for what happens to our soldiers, not only when they are engaged in combat, but when they return home as well.

The anti-war protesters during the Vietnam period have been blamed for the ill-treatment of returning soldiers, as in Dennis Jordanides' letter to the editor on Jan. 23. In fact it was our government who sent them off to war, and it was our government who was and is still responsible for the fair treatment of our veterans. I have borne witness to the injustices war inflicts on my relatives, and I am attempting to raise the consciousness of the American public by peacefully protesting. I want more people to be aware of the atrocities that war itself commits. Not one protester at UCSB whom I have spoken to has voiced opposition to our soldiers. There are many students involved in the rallies who share my experiences. We all want our loved ones to come home and be welcomed.

How can Mr. Jordanides claim that our country has "taken a world lead in the preservation of world peace" by declaring war? I ask that those who are so hostile against the protesters (see Mr. Jordanides' follow-up letter Jan. 29 to "just stop it, ok?") begin to listen to each other's experiences before we judge who is being un-American for protesting. This flowery fluff from Mr. Jordanides ("let us unite, under God, for liberty and justice for all") may earn him a bid from a fraternity, but it does not make him any more American than I am when I'm telling others that I want "no blood for oil."

CHARLOTTE CARLIN

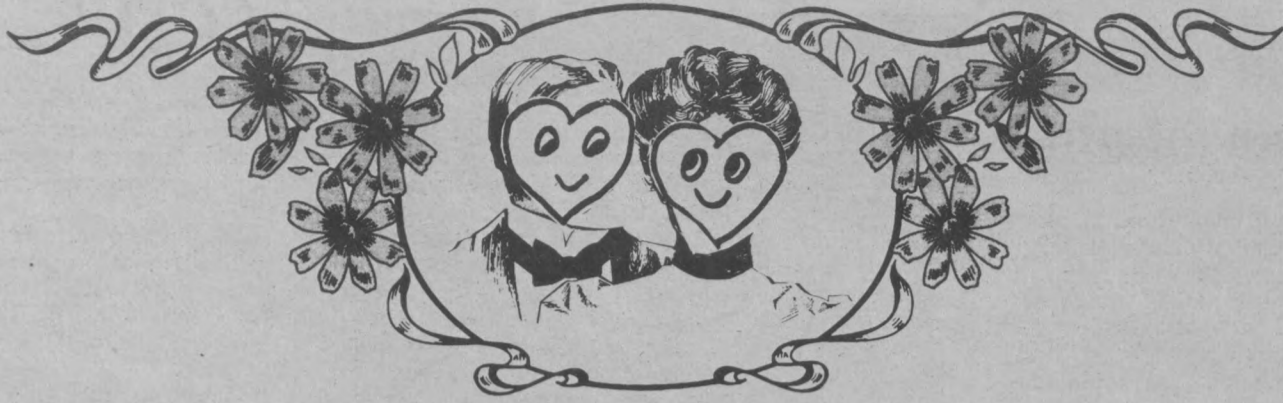
What Then?

Editor, Daily Nexus:

As the United States engaged in war in the Persian Gulf, I had mixed feelings as to what President Bush's motives were in fighting this battle. As a supporter of nonviolent movements, I questioned the president's decision of sending missiles to bomb Iraq. I did not believe such action could help solve the dispute between oil and U.S. occupation in the Gulf. Yet, since we have entered this war, I now am able to support the troops fighting for the United States. These courageous men and women are proudly defending their country and I commend them for their actions. I am not agreeing with Bush's decision for war, but rather supporting the forces that represent the United States.

The question to think about is what's going to come out of this war? If we proceed in decimating Iraq and risking the lives of the Israelis, how is that going to help us after the war is over? Are we going to really gain substantial amounts of oil and be satisfied with dominance in the Gulf? We all need to think about the long-term effects of this drawn-out battle. Although many individuals have negative feelings toward the war, we as a nation should come together at this time of crisis and support the decision that has already been made.

JENNIFER PARK



**It will be here soon...
That Day of Romance**

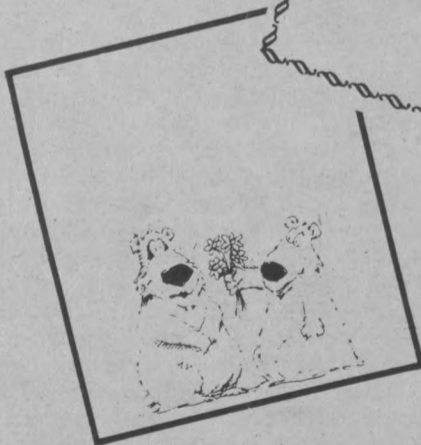
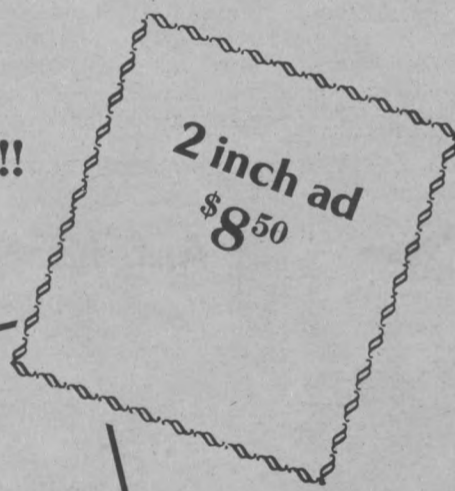


**And what could be more romantic
than a Daily Nexus Valentine?**

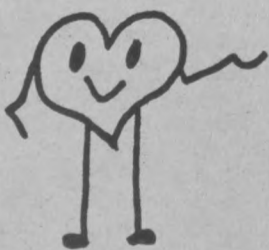
**Pick the size & the border that
pleases you most,
and let your creative juices flow!**



**It's Fun
It's Inexpensive
It's even in your own writing!!**



*More borders
to choose from*



**So, stop by the Daily Nexus Ad Office
and fill out a form today.**

**We're under Storke Tower —
open 8 am-5 pm Monday thru Friday (open during lunch).
DEADLINE: FEB. 11, 5 p.m.**

