

Warpath

With combat an ominous threat, inexpensive support proves valuable

Signs seem to indicate that war is right around the corner. With an added 150,000 troops, the total is now near 400,000. Tanks in the Persian Gulf are being exchanged for 750 tanks designed for chemical warfare. Commercial airplanes are being held on strategic reserve — just in case. A blood pipeline has been set up by the Pentagon to prepare for 1,000 casualties per day in the event of war. The crisis' objective is not defensive but is an "offensive military option."

Like it or not, the threat of war is an aspect of everyday life for all of us. Not a day goes by when the news does not report on the Persian Gulf Crisis, a term which has become a cliché. Yellow ribbons can be seen on trees, buildings, clothing, shoes and bookbags. If we don't have a loved one that has been deployed, we don't have to look far to find someone who does. Directly or indirectly, this crisis is effecting each and every one of us. Looming larger over our shoulders each day, the threat is not likely to fade. Almost every indication points toward war.

The Vietnam Syndrome makes us hesitate, and the approval rating for this crisis is lower than ever. Fortunately, the American public has not abandoned our servicemen, some of whom are only 18 years old. Support in the form of letters, cards, packages, calls and fax messages is being sent in mass quantities, letting "our boys (and girls)" know that we have not and will not forget about them or take them for granted. Servicemen, who are being told to send valuables such as wedding rings home, are likely to feel more detached if correspondence wanes, especially with the holiday season only a week away.

This war might not be within our own individual power to prevent or control, but we can do our share to lessen the feelings of detachment and isolation. If you know someone, even if it's only an acquaintance, keep in touch. Let him or her know you care and are aware of their presence. If you want to do your part, come by the second floor of the Russell House and take a serviceman's name off the Christmas tree. Send packages, cards, letters or just a note. It'll only cost you a quarter for a stamp.

Those of us in the twenty-something generation have been labeled as having few anthems of our own. Let's take a definite stand and rally around this international issue. Although we might not all be in favor of this imminent war, let's keep our peers in the Middle East in our thoughts. Think about them, don a yellow ribbon or just spend a quarter to send a note. Think before you grab that mid-afternoon caffeine fix — save the money and let a few servicemen know they are in your thoughts. If we all do our share, it will add up.

"REALLY, I COULDN'T SWALLOW ANOTHER THING"



MAILED Chicago Tribune



Americans apathetic to side-show conflict

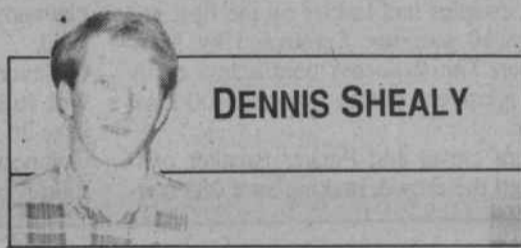
A friend of mine at the University of Montana sent me some clippings of articles from the college and local newspapers on a peace rally recently held at the university's campus.

The 600 students at the rally were against U.S. involvement in the Middle East. They chanted "Hell no, we won't go, we won't fight for Texaco," as they passed the local headquarters of the Republican party. The newspapers reported this rally as the biggest in the country since the Middle East occupation began.

With war imminent, this shows just how apathetic the American people have become and what a side show this conflict actually is.

If there was something worth fighting for in the Middle East, the United States would have gone to war at the start instead of playing this waiting game.

Instead, the military and the companies they have contracts with don't have to worry about losing any money from their slice of the budget. They are not worried about the economy or young Americans in body bags as long as the military can keep spending money on



DENNIS SHEALY

new toys and industry can keep getting that money.

It also must be considered that Bush will be up for re-election very soon. Saddam Hussein apparently doesn't have any plans for backing down any time soon, so the public will probably look none too kindly on a president who has a faltering economy, thousands of troops and billions of dollars flowing into a desert on the other side of the planet. Bush will probably push for war to save face and to ensure his re-election. The public doesn't change presidents in the middle of a war.

American or Iraqi bodies and the wasted time and money are not worth this. If the Evil Empire can break down and admit communism

just doesn't work then America's government can get it through their ever-so-thick skulls that the United States does not have to be the world's big brother.

The United States hasn't been worried about other small nations that get over run in the past, so what is so special about Kuwait? If it is because of oil, then let the oil companies hire mercenaries or send over a few battalions of board room executives to protect their interests. Otherwise, the United States should cut the military budget and use the money for more important causes inside the country, maybe even on something like alternative energy sources.

It has been reported that Hussein is mining uranium and could have crude nuclear weapons in the next two years. This isn't good, but they wouldn't be the only country in the Middle East with nuclear capabilities. Maybe the smart thing to do would be to abandon the Middle East and just let it turn in on itself. They've been fighting among themselves for thousands of years, so just what does Bush think he can do in his last few months in office?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Closing area not solution

To the editor:

After reading on Nov. 9 that the D-2 parking lot next to the law building has been proposed to (1) have an armed gate and (2) be closed to students 24 hours a day, I was outraged. A 24-hour ban on a parking lot is an extreme solution to an admittedly difficult problem.

Of the solutions proposed for the parking problems, most seemed to be reasonable with this one exception. I agree that increasing ticket fines (although it is one more example of "taxing" an already taxed student body in this time of ever rising inflation) and towing will be effective deterrents to those who do park illegally. However, in many cases students have no choice but to park illegally or walk almost a mile to class.

Specifically, in reference to the D-2 lot, enforcement of the parking rules definitely needs to be increased. I can see faculty members' problem with not being able to use a lot rightfully theirs if it is full of illegally parked students. However, that problem is no one else's fault but USC's. Enforce the rules, make the fines count, tow repeat offenders or students parked illegally for too long, but don't ban the use of that lot.

Most faculty members only work from 8 a.m. to 4 or 5 p.m. So as it stands now with graduate students beginning to park there at 4 p.m. and other USC students after 5 p.m., there should not be a problem. Many chemistry, biology and geology graduate students who work in (the Physical Sciences

building) across the street, and the law students, need that lot for after-hours parking.

So, make stricter rules, limit the parking time, but don't eliminate useful space for people (students, staff and faculty) who legitimately need it for hours other than 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come on parking committee, let's be resourceful with the space we have, not limit it in an act of frustration.

Melinda Denny
second year graduate student
analytical chemistry

Sex column in bad taste

To the editor:

I am totally appalled at the recent addition of the column "Sexually Speaking" to the Carolina Life section of *The Gamecock*. It dismays me greatly that a publication dedicated to provide a service to the students of this campus would encourage the participation of those students in casual sexual encounters. The Nov. 7 article on positions is a strong case in point.

Being a born-again Christian, I have a strong moral stand to express. However, for the purpose of this letter I will only express the health risks involved. Casual, sexual encounters can have the following negative impacts on campus life:

1. Rapid and irreversible transmission of venereal disease and AIDS.
2. Dramatic increases in abortions, which are the largest contributor to infant mortality in this country.
3. Continued increase in sexual

attacks as people increasingly view sex as a right and privilege as opposed to a responsibility.

And all for what, a few moments of physical pleasure?

I feel that *The Gamecock* needs to publish articles that would educate the student population concerning these risks, not encourage their blind participation.

And concerning the hygiene portion of the article, I think there are plenty of other sources available for a woman to receive the proper guidance in this area.

Mark C. Bradley
USC communications manager

Cult speaker not valuable

To the editor:

I am writing with regards to the recent (Nov. 7) visit of Steve Hassan to the USC campus.

As an alumni of USC (journalism, Class of '71), it distresses me that this New Age flam artist was allowed to bring his medicine show to the campus. Hassan's panacea for those afflicted with "cult paranoia" is not worth the price you could get for selling a single copy of his book to a paper recycling center.

His prescription for dealing with so-called cults is "don't talk to them under any circumstances." I would suggest that the only way people will ever be cured of their paranoia is by meeting so-called cultists face-to-face. For it is in this face-to-face encounter that people discover that while their beliefs are not those of the status quo, they are otherwise quite normal and intelligent people who are not to be feared.

Hassan's packaged tripe is not a part of the cult solution; it is a part of the cult problem. His ideas smack of the dark ages, not of the Age of Communication.

I say all of this not only as a concerned alumni of USC, but also as a 15-year member of the Unification Church, which is concerned by many a mediocre mind to be a cult.

I would suggest that if the students of USC really want to know something about the Unification Church they should talk to someone who is a member and has been a member for a long time. Perhaps they would like to talk to me, or to some of the people at the Homeless Shelter here in Charleston that have worked with us over the last couple of years, or perhaps with one of the dozens of ministers we have worked with on various projects here in Charleston, or perhaps my neighbor who invited my 3-year-old son to her son's birthday party even though she is fully aware that we are "Moonies."

And if USC students want to read books about "cults," why not read *The Odyssey of New Religious Movements* by John Biermans, who is a member of the Unification Church, a practicing lawyer and a member of the American Bar Association.

In conclusion, I would like to say that if USC is going to give time to the voice of fear and paranoia represented by Hassan, it would be much healthier for the whole campus if it gave equal time to the voices that call for communication and understanding.

John D. Doose

Director, Unification Church of Charleston
Charleston, S.C.

The Gamecock

News: 777-7726

Advertising: 777-4249

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