

Israel

Israeli actions reverse progress with treatment of Palestinians

Most people in the world were outraged at the Iraqi missile attacks on civilian targets in Israel. These attacks were a coldly calculated plan to draw Israel into the war and turn fundamentalist Muslim opinion toward Iraq.

Israel was praised world-wide for its refusal to retaliate. It showed courage and faith in the United States that Israel let American forces defend it from attack.

That makes it so much sadder that Israel continues its ruthless suppression of the Palestinian people. Israeli Navy vessels shelled Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon in response to rocket attacks from Lebanon. As usual, Israel attacked the Palestinian civilian population to respond to terrorist attacks from a small minority of Palestinian extremists.

Even more disturbing are the allegations that Israeli-operated Patriot missiles were not fired to stop an Iraqi SCUD that was heading toward the West Bank (where most Palestinians in Israeli territory live).

The Israelis deny this charge, but it would not be the first time the Israeli government has shown a callous disregard for Palestinian safety during the war. Palestinians were the last to receive gas-masks when they were distributed to all Israelis. Even tourists had been given masks before the Palestinians. As of last week, many Palestinians had still not received chemical-protection gear.

The Israeli general in charge of the distribution said that the Palestinians didn't have to worry as they were not targets of the Iraqis. This has proven to be wrong as at least two Iraqi SCUDs, whether by accident or design, have now hit the West Bank.

Israel has also imposed a 24-hour curfew in the Occupied Territories (the West Bank and the Gaza Strip) since the start of the war. This is racism pure and simple, with no justification other than a desire to oppress Palestinian resistance to Israeli rule.

One of the few good things to come out of this war is the promise by Secretary of State Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh to address the Palestinian issue at future Middle East peace talks following the war.

Israel should not use its new-found support in the Persian Gulf War as cover to hide its mistreatment of a people within the country's boundaries. The whole world is watching.



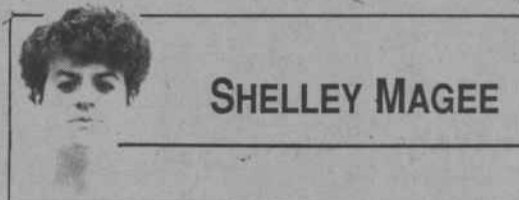
Reporters push limits with war coverage

Iraq, Iraq, Iraq, Iraq... Can you stand it if I say it one more time?

As an obscure member of the media community I do understand the importance of that word at this juncture in history. Hell, this is a war and war means lots of extremely important news. But the key word in that sentence is important news. Now is it just me or is the American public being drowned in a murky ocean of "reporting" that is becoming just plain silly.

Live coverage is a great way to get the audience involved. Strategic diagrams are informative. Interviews with families and soldiers are touching. Periodic updates keep us constantly on top of the situation. Right now I'm still trying to figure out how desperately the American television audience needs to know about the effect of the war on the tattoo industry.

No, this is not something I made up. Many of you probably saw that story on the tube, too. And I was really disturbed when I saw the sto-



SHELLEY MAGEE

ries about the impact on fashion. With boutiques selling desert camouflage jumpers and gas masks, I'm just positive we'll see a whole new look in spring wardrobes. Maybe it's just me, but I like to be educated by the news, not have my intelligence insulted.

But since the journalism world seems so pressed for stories, maybe they could pilfer one or two of these beauties:

- Coverage of a sting operation impounding all copies of *Playboy* shipped to Saudi Arabia bound like the Koran.
- Guest appearance by a psychological ex-

pert to discuss the instability of people who purchase Saddam Hussein shower heads.

● Special report that Exxon is sending over public relations directors to help Hussein cover up the fact that he was under the influence of "some incredible Turkish hash" when he ordered them to open the pipeline.

● Live coverage of nude oil wrestling featuring pans of the crowd holding up banners saying "Good try Saddam, we're rolling in it anyway!"

● The shocking story: "What's Really Under There." Saudi Arabian women wearing veils to cover unsightly facial hair are actually draft dodgers.

● Story on record sales of new "Combat Barbie" (Barbie tent with air conditioner and Barbie B-52 sold separately.)

● Airing of top-secret CIA tapes of Saddam Hussein's bunker bantering with God.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nation twists truth in war

To the editor:

We are appalled by Michele Marple's letter to the editor (Wednesday, Jan. 23) likening the war in the Persian Gulf to a basketball game. We find it hard to imagine that, in this day and age, anyone can hold such a callous view of warfare.

Before we all jump on the "fight now" bandwagon, as Ms. Marple suggests we do, we ought to at least examine what we are being asked to support.

Do we know why we are fighting in the gulf? We hear a lot of high-minded talk about the "liberation of Kuwait" and defending against "naked aggression." But neither of these reasons approaches the truth. If Zambia invaded Mozambique, would President Bush have responded by deploying tens of thousands of American troops and immediately demanded the "liberation of Mozambique?" Of course not.

If Kuwait had no oil, Bush would have no interest in its "liberation." Besides, the "legitimate government" of Kuwait is a feudal monarchy. A country must be free in the first place before it can be "liberated."

Is the Gulf War entirely about oil? Perhaps initially, but as time as passed, it became more of a personal vendetta for Bush. Having put his reputation on the line with the United Nations resolutions and the Jan. 15 deadline, Bush backed himself into a corner.

Neither he nor Saddam Hussein could back down without suffering a serious international embarrassment. Thus, as the deadline approached, the administration pushed several arguments for war, often distorting the facts in the process.

The unsubstantiated and exaggerated claims include:

1. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was unprovoked. (The two countries have a long-standing dispute, and Iraq has accused Kuwait of "economic warfare" in driving down the price of oil.)
2. Hussein would soon have nuclear weapons. (Experts said it would take him five to ten years.)
3. Iraq would invade Saudi Arabia. (The CIA predicted the invasion of Kuwait but said that Saudi Arabia was not in danger.)
4. Saddam Hussein is another

Hitler. (Hussein is by no means an exemplary character, but he has neither the military might nor the genocidal ideology which Hitler possessed.)

So, on Jan. 16, 1991, the United States launched "Operation Desert Storm" (no longer "Desert Shield") and initiated the war with Iraq. In essence, Bush started a war to save his reputation. This is inexcusable.

A responsible world leader does not begin offensive wars on personal whims. And while our bombs and cruise missiles continue to "light up Baghdad like a Christmas tree" (we suppose this is what Bush really meant by a "thousand points of light"), we should not get lost in the excitement and forget what war is all about.

War is death, destruction and devastation. War is licensed aggression. War is organized murder. According to some predictions, a ground war in Kuwait could bring 50,000 casualties and cost over 10,000 American lives (not to mention Iraqi casualties, which would be even higher).

If Bush indeed orders a ground assault, he will have on his hands the blood of thousands of American soldiers. And for what — to save him from an embarrassing situation? Inexcusable.

We realize the value of a strong national defense and even of an active foreign policy. But no reason — no excuse — justifies launching an offensive war. If our country is attacked, we certainly should be prepared to defend ourselves. But we must always remember that war is not a game; it is an extremely serious matter.

One final thought: both George Bush and Saddam Hussein claim that God is on their side. Supposedly, they worship the same God — a God who believes in good will toward mankind and the sanctity of human life. Would such a God not favor peace?

David Cohn
Interdisciplinary studies senior
Tom McPherson
Art history senior

Students aided by safeguards

To the editor:

For the past two years, I have lived in the Towers dormitory area. The heavy congestion of Sumter Street has always posed a grave danger to pedestrians such as

myself in getting to and from the main area of campus.

Many times I have almost become another unlucky student struck down by oncoming traffic from both Devine and Sumter streets. However, I was pleased to see in the Friday, Jan. 25 issue of *The Gamecock* that there is a plan for improvement about to be implemented.

Hopefully, this plan will alleviate the situation and insure pedestrian safety. I would like to thank Sen. Tom Young of the Student Senate for his initiative in urging the university to endorse the plan, and I look forward to the beginning of the construction to improve this area.

Kevin Beach
Chemistry junior

Giants aren't stupid, lucky

To the editor:

I am writing in response to Mr. Johnson's Super Bowl article ("Soldiers Anxiously Awaiting Super Bowl Sunday," Jan. 25). Maybe, Mr. Johnson, you should sit back during the football season and actually watch a few Giants games before you make pathetic accusations about the team.

For example, you stated that the Giants have no receivers (sic) worth mentioning. Any football fan will tell you that Stephen Baker, Mark Ingram and Mark Bavaro (*Bavaro is actually a tight end, not a wide receiver, ed.*) were a great asset to the team. Next, I must refer to your brief history lesson about backup quarterbacks.

This lesson said backup quarterbacks get up for one game, but then flop the next week. Just because Cody Carlson had a great game one week and then flopped hard the next day does not mean that it will happen to all backup quarterbacks.

Jeff Hostetler took the Giants through the playoffs and was the winning quarterback in the Super Bowl. This fact obviously proves your brief lesson invalid — sorry.

Now, I'll bring up a name you might not be too familiar with — Jumbo Eliot (sic). He was the man who handled Bruce Smith very well through the whole game. Smith did have a sack for a safety, but that was due to a Hostetler trip.

Don't get me wrong. Bruce Smith is a great defensive player, but he wasn't the best in this

game. You know that.

I did not see Phil Simms throw his crutches in disgust after the game like you said he would. If he did throw it, it was either in pure joy or the fact that he didn't get to win the Super Bowl for the second time in 4 years (*Super Bowl XXV was the Giants' second in 5 years, ed.*)

Watch football during the season before making stupid predictions about the Super Bowl.

Doug Raynor
Business sophomore

War must end immediately

To the editor:

People of this world must learn to accept what they have — rejoice in what is their own, not lust after another's possessions. Having those possessions will not make you happier, but strengthen your desire for more.

People must learn that there are differences among us. They must recognize the variety of culture and ideas in this world. They must understand them and accept them. If everyone was the same there would be no point of existence. We were all put here to learn from each other — not to live in ignorance of one another.

Through ignorance comes distrust and through distrust comes hatred. This hatred leads to mistrust which manifests into reality — WAR. In this game, blame is wholly placed on the opponent, but as Francois Luc de la Rochefoucauld said, "Quarrels would not last long if the fault were only on one side."

And there are rules placed on this game — rules that say how you can or cannot kill people or use them. There should be no killing at all. People see their enemy as "the enemy" when, if they would stand face-to-face with "the enemy," they would see that he/she is a real human being just like they are.

I do not want to see this war go down in history as one ending with death — the deaths of many men and women on both sides and those not involved. I want to see this war end with life — the lives of those men and women who strive to make peace despite the hatred and resistance before a few casualties turn into many.

Susan E. Burdick
Chemical engineering sophomore

THE BACK-TO-THE-FUTURE MACHINE



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