

Persian Gulf not a U.S. playground

Just as Iran and Iraq are repairing the damage and burying the dead from their eight-year war, a new dispute has recently threatened to turn the Persian Gulf into a sea of burning oil tankers and drilling platforms.

Earlier this week, Iraq claimed the oil-rich nation of Kuwait was conspiring with the United Arab Emirates, another small, oil-producing Persian Gulf nation, to overproduce and keep the price of oil low on the world market, thereby ruining Iraq's economy. Iraq put 30,000 troops and 200 Soviet-made tanks on the Kuwaiti border in an attempt to "persuade" Kuwait into rethinking its petroleum policy. Kuwait responded by putting its military on alert.

The situation was already delicate enough, and the United States responded in a predictable nature. It sent six U.S. Navy ships on joint Persian Gulf "maneuvers" with the United Arab Emirates, like Kuwait a U.S. ally. At the same time, White House spokesman Marlon Fitzwater said, "It is a delicate situation. We urge all parties to avoid violence."

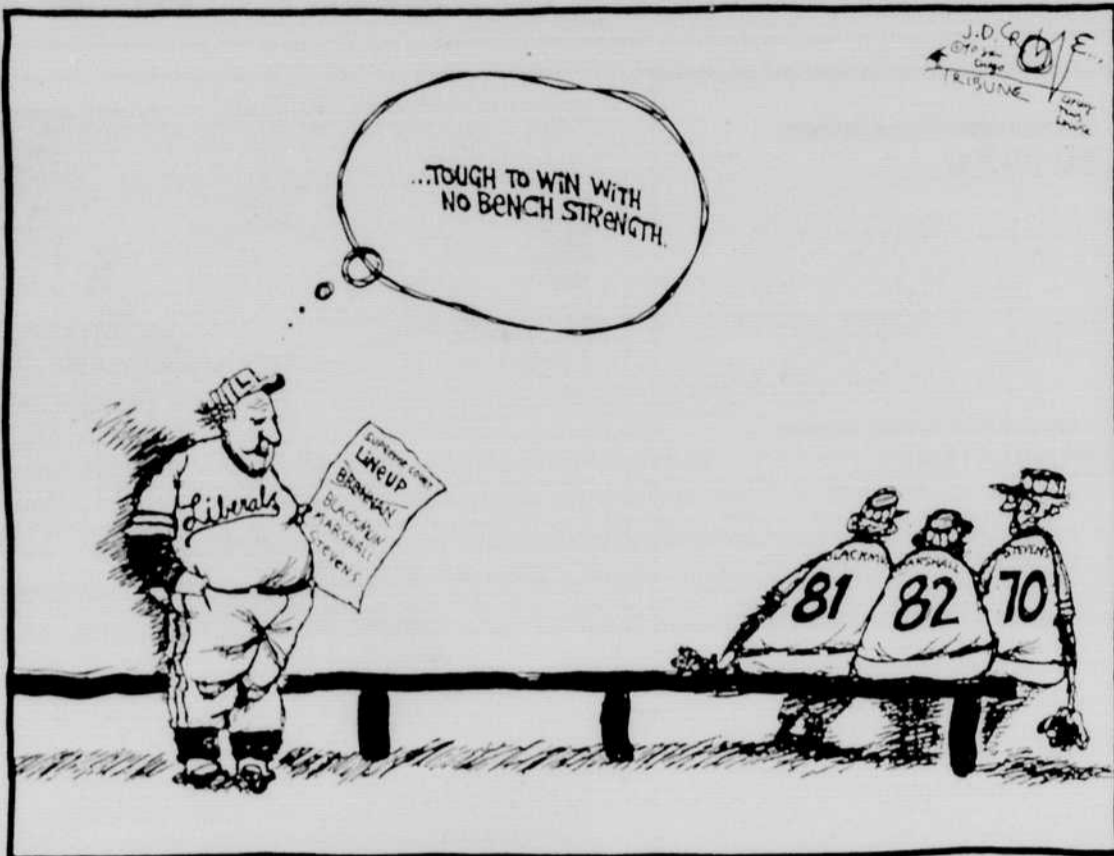
If the situation is so delicate, why the added pressure of U.S. warships? If the United States is concerned about avoiding violence, why is a show of force necessary? Didn't the deaths of the sailors on the *U.S.S. Stark* in 1987 teach us anything?

The U.S. government has, throughout its history, behaved like a drunk and disorderly tavern regular, pitching in its two cents — or violent behavior — into every argument it can find. This particular argument is between Iraq and Kuwait, and if there has to be an argument, let it stay that way.

Already, the leaders of other Middle Eastern countries, among them Egypt's Hosni Mubarek, wasted no time in trying to settle the dispute. Negotiations seem to be working, and indications were that Kuwait and Iraq would reach a settlement without armed conflict. It is a shame the United States chose instead to respond with ships rather than diplomacy.

What can the United States gain from armed confrontation, or even a simple, self-gratifying show of force in the Middle East? The answer is plain: dead Americans, and continued hostilities between the nations of the Persian Gulf. If our government feels a burning desire to meddle in the affairs of Kuwait and Iraq, let it do so as a mediator.

Rather than spending American tax dollars, and possible lives, protecting the country's oil supplies, maybe it is time to use those resources to research long-term alternative sources of energy so that we are not dependent on this unstable region for the fuel that keeps the United States moving.



Observance of rules applies to bikes also

Stop. Dismount. Walk your bike.

Easy enough words to read for any college student. So why do so many have trouble comprehending them? Unfortunately, the scant amount of rude, discourteous, and dangerous bicyclists overshadow the large majority of safe, respectful riders.

Eugene and the University campus have wonderful bike lanes. Signs that are easily readable are posted at intermittent points along the paths. But all too often some riders choose to use the sidewalks as if they own them.

Sidewalks are for pedestrians. People should be able to walk on them in comfort without any fear of being run over by overzealous bicyclists. If bicyclists were held accountable for their observance of vehicle laws, the streets would be safer for everyone.

Bicyclists are supposed to adhere to the same rules and regulations of the road as motorists. They are supposed to stop at stop signs. Yield to pedestrians. Walk their bike when the situation calls for it. But many seem to think that they are merely walkers-with-wheels.

Most of us that have spent an ample amount of time strolling the campus have

had close calls with bike riders. Avoiding the few belligerent cyclists who think they own the road is a common, everyday occurrence. However, we have no recourse for reporting these abusers of road safety since licenses are not required for bicycles. We settle for cursing under our breath and promising ourselves to clothesline the next rider who comes within 50 feet of us.

Bicycles should be registered just like automobiles. Riders should pay a fee for a license plate on the back to help fund bike-paths and signs. Licenses would also make it possible to trace unruly riders.

Anyone, for a nominal amount of money, can look up license plates of cars at the DMV. The same should hold true for bicyclists. If they know they can be traced through their license number, they just might ride a bit more cautiously.

Just because bicycles are non-motorized does not mean riders have carte-blanc of the streets. And while the walkway under the EMU is a walk-your-bike zone, some riders zip through as if it is their own private driveway.

It's a classic case of a few giving a bad name to many.

Liberalism

The fact of being subjected to

yet another fictitious, political diatribe from the *Emerald* editorial page is lamentable.

In reference to president George Bush's candidate for nomination to the Supreme Court, the editor favored to embrace quintessential liberal drivel: "The senate ... should take its time and make sure it does not appoint a Bush ideologue." I doubt the editorial concupiscence would have a perspicacious if the editor was writing about the Roosevelt court of the late '30s and '40s. Let's wake up and allow the chief executive officer to exercise his constitutional privilege to select a replacement nominee rather than continuing an unnecessarily ostentatious editorial aficionado.

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Just say yes

In the 1990s, let's say YES TO LIFE. You have a choice between two things: to one you say NO; to the other YES.

When you say no to drugs,

you are saying no to a lifestyle which includes drugs, alcohol, school dropouts, runaways, jobless, prison, poverty, suicidal, hate, violence, crime, loss of family, prostitution, teenage pregnancy, AIDS and other birth defects, crack and cocaine-addicted babies, unwanted babies dumped in trash cans, child abuse and parental neglect. We are saying NO to the conditions we don't want. If you are into the above lifestyle, take control of your life by making a new decision, rehabilitate. Rehabilitation prepares us to be noble men and women. No effort is too great. Your life is a gift. Life is for living and giving. Make the right choice. A positive lifestyle allows us the freedom to be the loving, healthy, successful, happy people that we are created to be.

We all have the ability to lift our vision to see new values, to establish new goals. Say YES

TO LIFE and to what we really want. As parents, we choose to build the new civilization, a healthy, happy and drug-free, peaceful, community and country. We say YES to health, happiness, abundance, freedom, love, trust, respect, faith, courage, honesty, goodwill, laughter and humor. Say YES to developing your talents, YES to education and job training, YES to sharing, YES to good relationships with all people. Do something good for somebody. Volunteer your time and talents; work is fun; friends are fun; parents and grandparents are fun.

When you say YES TO LIFE, you are a POINT OF LIGHT and you are playing a vital part in creating a new civilization. You are helping to eliminate the cause of human suffering.

LIFE IS PEACE!! LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL!! LET IT BEGIN WITH ME!!

Mrs. Lee Burns
Bushnell, Fla.

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