



FOCUS

With the recent Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and the subsequent United States reaction, the idea of American involvement in foreign crises is again brought to light.

Students at campuses nationwide have spoken out both in favor of and against this country's involvement in such affairs. Is sending American troops to protect foreign lands a good idea? Read on.

Yet another generation of wasted youth

By Robert Anglen
 ■ Orlona Monitor
 Orlona College

The winds are beginning to blow once again, bringing the imminent and frightening prospects of war to the next generation of prospective disillusioned vets.

To protect "our" assets in the Middle East, President Bush initiated a series of directives against Iraq for invading Kuwait which could leave Americans dying for another shadowy cause in a foreign land.

Embargoes have been effected. Alliances were made. Hostages were taken. Economic sanctions were instituted. Propaganda was created. Diplomacy failed. Shots were fired. And the military reserve was activated — a grim testimony. (The last time the reserve was commissioned was 1968 in an insignificant country called Vietnam.)

Domestically, the attitude is nothing short of congratulatory for Bush's quick actions toward stopping the "mad dog" Saddam Hussein, Iraq's leader.

Nationalism has been sold to a bigoted majority, taught to hate throughout history. Now, flag-waving pride can be directed at Iraq, mostly because we don't understand them and it is more convenient to hate than to learn.

The fact is, the assets "we" are protecting in Kuwait are two things only — oil and oil refineries. To use this as an excuse for military intervention is ludicrous. A very small percentage of our oil comes from Kuwait to begin with. Do people really need to die for big oil profits? Already we pay for the privilege of having oil. Gas prices in America averaged \$1.30 a gallon right after the crisis began.

Nobody owes anything to an oil company. If oil companies want to fight a war, they should hire their own army — not buy the United States armed forces.

And if by chance the winds of war blow past us it would do good not to praise Bush for his handling of the situation but to question how we allowed him to push us so close to the brink in the first place.

PRO

ARIZONA



WILL POWERS, STATE PRESS, ARIZONA STATE U.

Caring enough to send the very biggest... Arizona State U. student Rick Miller signs a giant greeting card, which was sent to American troops in Saudi Arabia. The card was designed by two ASU dorm residents, who wanted to show support for the U.S. military in the Middle East.

ALABAMA

Please, Mr. Postman . . . Students at the U. of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, wishing to write to U.S. military serving in the Persian Gulf can do so with stationery and envelopes provided by a campus organization. The Kaydettes, a group that serves to support Army ROTC cadets, purchased the stationery in the hopes that students would be more willing to write soldiers overseas. "Many of the letters will be given to those who aren't receiving mail from home," said Sgt. Maj. Carol Cochran, a former public relations chair for the Kaydettes. "Mail call is the most important time of day to a soldier overseas," said Lt. Col. Donald Crabtree. "The letters from university students will demonstrate to them that someone cares." ■ Melissa Tucker, *The Crimson White*, U. of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

INDIANA

Bag it . . . Students at Indiana U., Bloomington, are collecting Ziploc plastic storage bags to send to troops overseas. Military personnel need the bags to protect their personal hygiene items from desert insects, said Barry Porter, of the Red Cross. "This is our chance to help them find an item that they are specifically requesting," said Porter. "Plastic storage bags are in demand." If the university gathers 42 square feet of boxes of the plastic bags, the Red Cross agreed to send the packages overseas. "We're not involved with the politics," said IU sophomore Melissa Halaschak, organizer of the baggie drive. "We're just trying to make the lives of the men and women who are forced to be there a little easier." ■ Rebecca Velten, *Indiana Daily Student*, Indiana U., Bloomington

CON

IOWA

200 points of light. . . Close to 200 U. of Iowa students, faculty and community members of all ages gathered for a silent vigil in September to protest United States military involvement in the Middle East. The vigil began with a short speech from Dennis Gilbert of the Wesley Foundation, a Methodist student organization. "As a group . . . we were divided on many aspects of the situation in the Middle East, though we were united in thinking military solutions to conflict are no longer viable," Gilbert said. "What concerns us most of all is the implication that the military involvement has popular support — we have heard very little humanitarian concern," he added. ■ Jennifer Glynn, *The Daily Iowan*, U. of Iowa

KENTUCKY

Beers for bull's-eyes . . . In the desert-like heat, Western Kentucky U. junior John Morgan took aim at one of the most infamous figures in recent history. As Morgan fired his projectile, he narrowed his eyes and breathed out beer-tinged breath. His dart hit the mark — Saddam Hussein was dead. For his heroic efforts Morgan was given not a medal of honor, but a beer from the Fajita Factory. About 30 students gathered at the Bowling Green, Ky., restaurant to "kill" Saddam

Hussein. Participants paid 25 cents to throw two darts at a picture of the Iraqi leader, in hopes of winning a beer. "I think the board represents people's views about things," said sophomore Chad Chilton. ■ Paul Baldwin, *College Heights Herald*, Western Kentucky U.

CALIFORNIA



SUZANNE STATES, DAILY BRUIN, U. OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Oil and war don't mix. . . More than 300 activists, many of them students, protested near the U. of California, Los Angeles, against U.S. involvement in the Middle East. Claiming that the main purpose was to protect oil interests, one protester remarked, "A better solution would be for us to change our lifestyles so we don't need the oil."

'American' oil is worth the price of war

By Kay Gervais
 ■ The Nichols Worth
 Nicholls State U.

We've heard a lot of complaints that the United States' main objective in the Middle East crisis is not to re-establish the sovereign state of Kuwait or to protect our ally, Saudi Arabia, but to protect American oil interests.

Our main objective, after protecting American lives in the Middle East, should be our oil interests.

We import anywhere from 20 to 40 percent of our oil supply. What would happen if Saddam Hussein gained control of most of the world's oil?

How would we fuel our cars? How would we warm our homes? How would we transport food, clothes — or anything for that matter? How would society survive without environmentally dangerous non-biodegradable petroleum-based products?

This crisis should be solved quickly. If diplomatic measures aren't effective, then any means available to put an end to Hussein's reign of terror should be used.

If military force is necessary to stop the insane plans of a man who used the wealth of his country to fight an eight-year territorial war with Iran, then so be it.

Some American people seem cautiously supportive of President Bush's decisions pertaining to this crisis. And with good reason when comparing the Iraqi "crisis" with the Vietnam "conflict."

And there are those who, without question, will support any military action America takes regardless of circumstance or consequence. Seeing what's at stake, Americans can't afford to turn their backs on this one.

■ *Angella Champagne of The Nichols Worth contributed to this column.*