

All sides back troops

The war in the gulf has already started to tear this country in two. People have been divided into the pro-war and anti-war factions. However, despite what has been implied in *The Register-Guard* and other publication headlines, the pro-war movement does not have a monopoly on concern for the well-being of American troops.

People on both sides of the issue are concerned about the sanctity of human life. The two sides simply take different approaches in showing that concern. People in the peace movement support the troops by telling policy makers that this war is not justified and is not worth a single American life.

Those in the pro-war movement support the troops by letting the president know he should do whatever it takes to win this war.

It is ironic that the group claiming they have a monopoly of concern for the troops, supports them by unquestioningly sending them to face battle-hardened Iraqi troops in a war for oil. Yet, the group that has been stereotyped as not caring for these young Americans wants to bring them home before any more of them die.

People in the pro-war movement may want to take a step back from the issue and consider that their "support of the troops" may lead to more American deaths than the "non-support" of the anti-war movement.

RCN ignored obligation

The closure of Eugene's Rape Crisis Network has left the community struggling to set up another source to counsel rape victims and provide a much-needed service.

RCN's handling of the closure is deplorable. The network administrators gave no notice to the community that it would be closing. They simply shut the doors and cut off the phone lines. People who called RCN for support in difficult times found themselves listening to a phone company recording.

Even RCN volunteers were not notified of the impending closure.

RCN administrators displayed no sense of accountability to its sponsors or the people in the community it served.

While RCN administrators have claimed they closed because the ASUO pulled some of its funding, the issue remains clouded. There have been reports of internal conflicts and personality struggles within the organization, leading to its demise. The issue of how reliable the network was also played in the closing of RCN.

People in the community need to know that there is a reliable, stable organization that will continue to provide short and long-term help for those who need it. No matter what the reasons for the closure were, people who run future organizations that provide such an important community service should conduct themselves in a more responsible manner.

Letters keep on coming

Letters continue to pour in to the *Emerald* as fast as they can be printed. Readers are encouraged to continue writing, but please be patient. Only so many letters can be printed a day.

The best letters are short and to the point. More importantly, original thoughts and comments add spice to the myriad of opinions at the University. Nobody enjoys reading the same ideas again and again.

We have received more than 20 letters in the past two days, and we have more than 40 in our files waiting to be printed. Add to those another nine or 10 commentaries, and it's plain to see that University students and staff have a lot to say.

Letters will continue to be printed in the order we receive them, unless they are longer than 250 words or are illegible. We still reserve the right to limit the number of letters on one subject if the same arguments are constantly rehashed.



LETTERS

Do your duty

"My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride. From every mountain-side, let freedom ring."

I do not wish to sound melodramatic but my grandfather died in 1942 and my uncle died in 1966, serving in the forces which defend our American way of life. I sincerely believe in America, freedom and democracy.

On the evening of Jan. 15 I was involved in a peaceful rally which protested the U.S. involvement in the Persian Gulf. At approximately 11:45 p.m. the Oregon State Police launched a chemical weapons attack on our peaceful demonstration, which was already dispersing.

As is common practice with the local authorities, they quickly resorted to violent conflict with the protesters. Police officers seem to love to sport riot gear and intimidate citizens; citizens who are involved with fundamental American rights to peaceful demonstration and freedom of speech.

This, I believe, is tyranny. When the actions of the governing authorities are unjust, it becomes the duty of the governed to disobey. The time is here when we must make difficult decisions as a nation.

Perhaps it would be best if we returned to the grassroots ideals of our nation, namely the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the United States.

Stephen F. Deatherage
Political Science

Uprooted

Darn. I guess I never saw the connection between war and football. I guess I shouldn't really bother to try to figure out who's right and who's wrong in the gulf crisis.

Matthew Morin's letter (*ODE*, Jan. 16) says "regardless," you better root for your team — or get out of "his" country.

OK, Matt. Let's think of the impending war as a Duck game. We'll pretend it's just a nasty tackle when a "player" is

dismembered by a bomb; we'll cheer when our man blows off the head of another human being. Texaco can sell concessions and root alongside us.

Hey, Matt — what are you going to do if the NFL alters the game schedule this year? Will we see you "playing" with the team in Iraq?

Maybe you'll find out that dead and mutilated humans don't get up and run around again like they do on a Nintendo screen.

Maybe for now you'd better play your G.I. Joe games in the safety of your own backyard — reality might be more than you can stomach.

Rachel Paschke
Student

Go yourself

When Matthew Morin (*ODE*, Jan. 16) showed me the deed, then I'll be glad to get out of "his country." Until then he can take his silly game plan and stick it.

But, to stay with the metaphor, it's very easy to "root" from the bleachers; try going out and bucking the line yourself, champ.

Your Danny Quayle impersonation doesn't impress me.

Bill Smee
Staff

What if?

Yeah, but then suppose Kuwait's main export was marijuana.

Mike Shannon
Eugene

Last resort

Concerning Ron Williams' letter (*ODE*, Jan. 17): I was at the protest and I do not recall being asked how I voted on Measures 8 and 10. Nor did I hear anyone else being asked.

Now I will ask you a question: Is it not also ironic that the College Republicans, those who were very vocal in expressing their pro 8 and 10 beliefs, are fully in support of the U.S. military/murder action

now taking place?

Is it also ironic that a U.S. ambassador told Hussein that the use of force in invading Kuwait was acceptable? In the words of Shawn Boles "violence is the last resort of the incompetent."

Matt Emrich
Eugene

Pull together

I am deeply concerned about the growing anti-war sentiment on this campus and around the country.

Nobody should want a war. And I have no problems with peaceful forms of expressing genuine concern (e.g. church service, vigils, private prayer, letters to Congress, etc.) However, as we learned from the Vietnam conflict, radical protesting can lead to an upheaval in the very fabric of society, divide communities and tear families apart.

I am not opposed to free speech. But I am opposed to the "mob mentality" which often accompanies the escalation of public protests. Loud chanting of obscene slogans such as "Hell no! We don't want a f---ing war" and the disruption of vehicular traffic are divisive and disrespectful in nature. The cost of additional law enforcement required at these "gatherings" is a further burden on an already unsettled budget crisis. And what about the federal employees who have to sit and listen to the protesters as they try to do their jobs.

My main and concluding point is that this is a time when we should be pulling together to support our president, whether we agree with the current administration or not.

I urge and encourage restraint on the part of would-be activists. A country divided cannot and will not appear strong before Hussein and the world theater.

We must place the national good over individual satisfaction.

Michael Lindley
Sociology