

# PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
Ryan Frank  
EDITORIAL EDITORS  
Kameron Cole  
Stefanie Knowlton



## Do the ends justify the means?

*As the U.N. discusses taking action against Iraq, nations need to realize that air strikes will do little to change the situation in the Gulf*

As 21,500 troops make their way to the Gulf to join the 23,500 others already positioned to take action against Iraq, war may be inevitable.

Frustrated by Iraq's non-compliance with the U.N.'s weapons inspection team, the United States refuses to be swayed by last minute letters promising the long sought compliance. It is difficult to fight the feeling of déjà vu that one gets when hearing the play-by-play.

The United Nations tells Iraq they have to comply. Iraq says yes, but when it comes time to produce the goods, it quickly changes its mind. The United States demands compliance and threatens military action. France and Russia exclaim, "Let's try diplomacy," and the cycle begins again.

This time, however, threats appear genuine, and there is mounting support from allies for military action. The problem is what do we, the United

Nations of the world, plan to accomplish by a military attack?

If the goal is to teach Saddam Hussein the lesson that we are not to be trifled with, that is a tough sell considering that he refused to get the point last time we took military action. It is clear that Saddam has little respect for the U.N. when he continuously ignores its demands.

Therefore, it is doubtful that air strikes will suddenly persuade Saddam to see the light and have a new-found respect for the power of the United Nations. In addition, the air strikes and the sanctions that continue to make thousands of Iraqis suffer, will lead the Iraqis to blame the United Nations for their situation. This would only validate in their eyes any measure Saddam chooses to take against the United Nations.

If, however, the point is to destroy their weapons capability, and the U.N. is just using the inspection as an excuse to do it,

then what would stop Saddam from amassing weapons after these have been destroyed?

Do we plan to conduct air strikes every five years or so to prevent Saddam from building weapons of mass destruction? But why are we so afraid of Saddam's weapons capability?

For one, we are afraid he will actually use them. But wouldn't continuous air strikes fuel the fire we are trying to stop by giving him a reason to use these weapons? It could almost be argued self-defense in such a circumstance.

The air strikes could also be promoted by the fact that we have repeatedly threatened military force but yet fail to do so. The United States' reputation is on the line. Hussein, in addition to others, may start to question the validity of threats made by the United States and the United Nations.

Maybe the point of the air strikes is to accidentally hit Hussein in one of these air strikes. If this is the point, we have been incredibly unlucky

so far. It might be because Hussein is rumored to hide in civilian houses during air strikes in fear of becoming a target.

With the money the Pentagon invests in weapons research, surely we could come up with a Hussein seeking missile. This cannot possibly be the mission of the air strikes because our government does not like to be so overt about such operations.

When weighing reasons for the strikes, one question continues to come to mind: Do the ends justify the means? The end result of air strikes will be the loss of innocent lives and a temporary reduction in the weapons capabilities of Iraq.

Saddam will undoubtedly build up his weapons again. And Hussein's non-compliance after the Gulf War reminds us that this situation will not be resolved with air strikes.

*This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.*

### Thumbs



#### TO STATE SENATOR LENN HAN-NON

In order to truly understand the struggles of the poor, he is going to live off food stamps for one month. He and his wife will need to make \$154.73 last through the month of November, which of course includes the Thanksgiving holiday.

#### TO KHELA SINGER-ADAMS

For putting lots of hard work and effort into last week's child care awareness week. The non-traditional student advocate organized campus activities that focused on heightening the awareness of the demand for quality child care.



#### TO THE GROWING TREND OF VIOLENCE

Stabbings and the recent fatal shooting of a Lisa Sue Thom, a Lane Community College student, leave Eugene residents to question the safety of our city.

#### TO BLAMING THE UNIVERSITY FOR THE RIOTS

In a recent report on the damages caused by the Halloween riots, KVAL's graphics department decided to place the University's insignia along with pictures of the damages.

#### CORRECTION

The article "Acting troupe pokes fun at piety" (ODE, Nov. 12) should have labeled the troupe as WYM-PROV!

The Emerald regrets the error.

### Letters to the Editor

#### Good news goes uncovered

There was certainly no shortage of news coverage on the recent campus Halloween violence and irresponsible behavior of a very few students. And in the aftermath many letters to the editor were published condemning this incident and those involved. Yet, isn't it interesting that on the same Halloween night Sigma Nu Fraternity was engaged in a fund-raising event for the benefit of at-risk kids in our community? And not a bit of new coverage was dedicated to this event, nor were there follow-up letters to the edi-

tor for weeks afterward. So, for the record, student members of Sigma Nu put in a great deal of effort and many hours of planning and gathering support from local businesses for a haunted house fund-raiser. They decorated and staffed the first annual Sigma Nu Fraternity Halloween haunted house. As a result of their efforts, more than \$500 was raised for the benefit of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

I know that good news doesn't sell, but I do know that many less fortunate kids in our community are very grateful. And on their behalf, I say thank you to these and many other Univer-

sity of Oregon students.

Tom Diamantine  
Program Coordinator  
of Big Brothers Big Sisters

#### Radio column rocks

I thought this article ("Eugene radio is hardly music to the ears" ODE, Nov. 6) was excellent. I work in a chemistry lab, and my co-workers and I listen to the radio almost constantly. There have been many times when we wished Chia would be replaced by, well, anyone. KNRQ is the only radio

station we can stand and only just barely. Alas, we do not have enough tapes and CDs to last the entire day. The promos are not just stupid, they are unbelievably, astronomically stupid. Being hired for an hour? How ridiculous can they get? Not to mention the incredibly limited play list.

Mr. Bach did a good job of reviewing the qualities of our three undesirable stations. I am sure he had to exercise restraint from rebuking them more vehemently.

David B. Kimball  
Graduate student in chemistry