

OPINIONS

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Battalion 162 Infantry in Eugene, disagreed with Carrigan. He said many people wanted the United States to remove former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein from power, but they didn't want U.S. forces to remain in the country.

"It would be far more careless to go in there and remove the dictator and turn around and leave and leave (Iraq) in disarray than to stay there and put the pieces back together," Ressel said. "The logical position and the intelligent position is to go over and help that country establish a sound political structure. In one year, you've gone from having a ruthless dictator running the country, to reestablishing the country under a democracy. To me, I would have to say they've made incredible progress."

Ressel said the United States has also made progress in establishing a working infrastructure and in ensuring oil industry profits "have an opportunity to get turned over to the people, not just Saddam."

But University political science Professor Jane Cramer, who has been an outspoken opponent of the United States' unilateral actions in Iraq, wrote in an e-mail that the war has "increased the threat of terrorism."

"At this point, the U.S. is seen as a threat by too much of the world,"



Tim Bobosky Photographer

On March 20, protesters displayed unified opposition to the war in Iraq as they marched down Southwest Columbia Street in Portland.

Cramer wrote, adding that it's important to prevent the outbreak of a civil war in Iraq, but that it doesn't look like they have a "real plan to make peace."

Ressel agreed that the United States must remain in Iraq and oversee a "decent" transfer of leadership to prevent a power grab by armed factions that would result in more instability.

Carrigan, however, said the United States' presence in Iraq is causing international instability.

"We feel the U.S. and U.K. occupation in Iraq is causing more instability in the world and, ironically, may result in more terrorism directed against America in Iraq and also here in the United States," Carrigan said.

Ressel said the attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq are terrorist in nature, but the war in Iraq has helped divert terrorist actions away from U.S. soil. He said it's easier for terrorists to attack Iraqi civilians or U.S. troops in Iraq than it is to attack people in the United States.

Whether calling the U.S. military an invader or a liberator, most people still support the troops.

"We want to honor the men and women serving in the armed forces by bringing them home alive," Carrigan said. "We feel we are patriots for peace."

Ressel said troops are just small pieces of a large puzzle, and their duty is to follow orders, not politics.

"Their pride in their job comes

from realizing that they are providing basic freedoms that we here take for granted," Ressel said. "That's pretty rewarding for a soldier."

Cramer said she feels sorry for the troops because they don't have the support of many of the Iraqis they are "attempting to liberate."

"Under different circumstances, if they were viewed as legitimate liberators, they would be in much less danger," Cramer said. "So, I do not approve of the way the U.S. leadership got the troops involved — it is very unfortunate for the troops."

Contact the campus/federal politics reporter at jaredpaben@dailymerald.com.

NEWS BRIEF

Panel to discuss Middle East

There will be a panel discussion about the political situations in Iraq, Iran and Pakistan featuring three University international relations experts on April 6 at the Knight Law Center.

Associate law Professor Ibrahim Gassama, geography Professor Alec Murphy and international studies Professor Anita Weiss will speak about stability and security challenges in the countries since the United States' war in Iraq.

Gassama specializes in post-Cold War politics, challenges to international stability and the connections between human rights, environmental degradation and economic development, according to a University press release.

Murphy, who specializes in cultural and political geography, is president of the Association of American Geographers and a vice president of the American Geographical Society. Last fall, Murphy traveled to Iran, where he met with officials from the local government and university community.

Weiss is an expert on Pakistan, south Asia and comparative Muslim societies. She co-edited the book "Power and Civil Society in Pakistan."

The panel, which is sponsored by the University Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, is free and begins at 4 p.m. in Room 175.

— Jared Paben

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 29). A person who's trying to make you live by his or her rules may be quite annoying to you this year, but this person is to you important, too. If you accept the coaching, you'll get much stronger. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today is a 6. If you can manage to keep your mouth shut, you'll probably make others think you're the perfect person for the job. Don't reveal your doubts now. Make a list privately.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today is a 7. The odds are good that whatever you're worried about won't end up amounting to much more than a medium-sized hill of beans. Don't stress.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Today is a 6. You can get what you want for your home, possibly at great savings. It's not a good idea to spread this news around, however. Just act on it.
CANCER (June 22-July 22) Today is a 7. There's likely to be a misunderstanding, especially if you argue. If somebody orders you to do something, comply if you can. This is not a good time to bring up old hurts. Save them for later.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is a 6. You sure could use some quiet time. So after you make a few calls to tie up a couple of loose ends, why not take your phone off the hook?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is an 8. A person with more experience can HELP YOU find an error or a leak. Don't be embarrassed — go ahead and ask for an expert's advice.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is a 7. You and your partner may feel that all the rules are dumb. You should know, however, that an older person can read your thoughts. Don't lip off. Don't even think about it.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 7. It's not your fault, but the best-laid plans are liable to go astray. Traveling is apt to get complicated. Too, so it's best to stay close to home.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is a 7. Money is tight, but that won't stop you. Stick to your budget and keep making plans. You'll find a way. If not, somebody else will. Don't overlook the possibility of a miracle.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 7. A domestic disagreement could be expensive and take up valuable time. Try to work out a compromise to minimize costs and stress.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is a 5. There's always a gap between how you think it will be and the way it turns out. Don't fall into a depression if that happens now. Better yet, plan for it.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is an 8. Curtail your spending for a couple of days. With the help of somebody you love, figure out what you have left and what you still need to get.

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