

Media provides sanitized war

Who will cry for the Iraqi children?

I vouch that no one will, save for other Iraqis across the world.

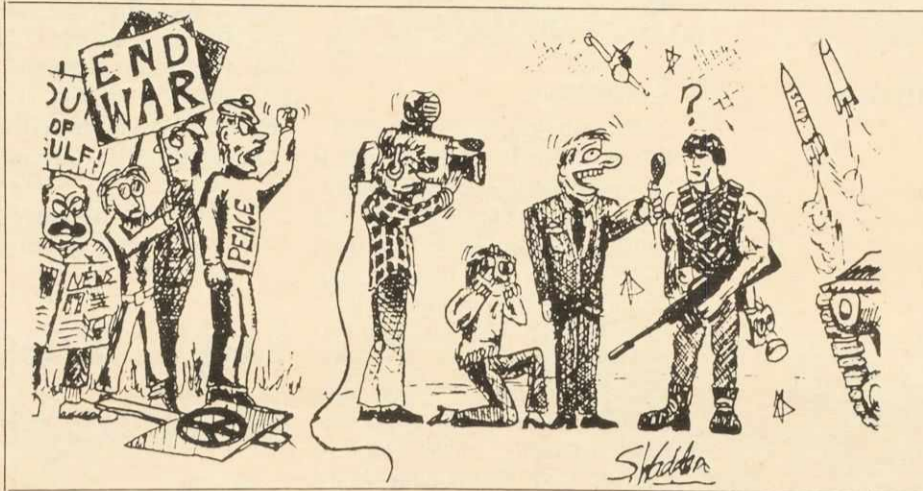
Last Thursday on the news, an American soldier, having just returned from his successfully completed mission, had this to say: "I have a good woman, a great country, and the best fighter plane in the world. God bless America!"

Another had this to say, "The fireworks were better than the 4th of July. Baghdad was lit up like a Christmas tree!"

I believe that it's much easier to say these things when your target is one man, and not an army filled with frightened sixteen year-olds, and people tired of ten years of war.

The media has been awful with its complicity, leading the American and Canadian public to believe that Hussein's face is on every tank driver, and his finger pushing every button that fires a missile at Israel.

The extent of the glorification has been incredible. What has the public been shown? Have any pictures of the hundreds (by this Thursday possibly thousands) of dead been shown? Instead, the viewers are inundated with the success of the wonderfully named 'patriot' anti-missile missile, and American fighter pilots impressed by their vast potential to slaughter.



Even when the human factor has been shown, it has always been the allies. For instance, Canadians always want to know what has happened to our men and women halfway around the world. The only shots of people in fear have been of the Israeli's, who unlike the Iraqi's, fear only a handful of missiles a night, instead of the largest bombing attack in history.

We are all guilty in this complicity, because we accept the situation at face value, instead of seeing this for what it is — a big lie... the big lie.

There have been shots of the Iraqis, but never in fear, only in defiance, a false front at best. It is the only weapon that the non-military Iraqis have left, and it is

one that will doom them.

The American-censored media wants us to believe that they are all defiant, all unafraid, but the Iraqi people are out of faces left to show. To ask us to believe that every person of twelve million is not worried about their sons, daughters, fathers and mothers being killed, is obscene, and it is the final link in the big lie. But that is what is thrown at us in between Bill Cosby Jello advertisements.

Are we, the public of the allies, the only ones privileged enough to worry about our loved ones? The media wants us to believe that. Are the twenty year-old men of the allied countries worried about twenty year-old Iraqis dying? No! Instead we worry about being conscripted ourselves, my-

self included. These two questions point out the double standard that we are asked to believe, and complicity with the big lie allows us to do that.

The media asks us to believe that Saddam Hussein is evil, that he seeks the death of everyone. Yet it is easier to believe that, than the fact that he is a cold calculating man willing to kill to achieve goals. It is easier to believe he is evil, that he is against God, but I believe that God is out of faces, because all sides claim him or her for their own.

In the US, internment laws are being drawn up, for those Iraqi citizens deemed 'security risks'. In thirty years will we have to look back in shame and buy off the

grief of Iraqi citizens old enough to remember the internment, like we did with the Japanese? Will we ever learn? And why isn't the media focusing on this disturbing possibility? I say because it doesn't bring good ratings.

But what can we do? We have the Charter right to assembly, something that the Palestinian children don't. So we have used it. And pictures of Haligonians demonstrating against the war have made it to Iraqi TV, to further brainwash the Iraqi public into accepting the war. But if the public doesn't demonstrate against the war, then our honourable leaders like Mulroney would use that as a sign that we agreed with their deplorable actions.

The public cannot win. The game is designed that way. But are these games of war just games? Unfortunately for the Iraqi children, they are not.

We cannot even turn off our TV's, because that leaves us in a condition of ignorance, the kind that was smeared like excrement across that US fighter pilot's face. So we are forced to watch, and to accept the lie for what it is, a big, stinking, fucking lie. Somewhere, Ernst Zundel and Jim Keegstra have smiles on their faces. For their kind of lie is being forwarded, and their lie is our lie.

Bruce D. Gilchrist

Heads in the sand

by Alex Mason

George Bush is one hell of a conductor according to some "experts" on the panel at the Anti-war Teach-in held at Dalhousie University January 15. If you believe everything Palestinian-Canadian medical professor and doctor Ismail Zayid said, then the United States is responsible for everything from the Iraq invasion of Kuwait and the eight year Iran-Iraq war to Zayid's inability to find his other sock that morning.

"This war is orchestrated by the US," he claimed, and even sited Saddam Hussein as a "victim of entrapment."

The anti-American atmosphere was astonishing and overwhelming. One panelist even commented that he was pleased that his anti-American sentiment had been "stroked".

And stroke themselves they did. The current Middle East crisis was blamed on George Bush and the United States and Brian Mulroney and Ottawa's Conservative government. Blame lay everywhere but at the feet of the man who began this conflict five and a half months ago when he ordered Iraq's forces to invade the tiny emirate of Kuwait.

Panelists spoke of US hidden agenda and even alleged that the entire situation had been staged by Bush to maintain the American war economy. While speculation and opinion is fair game in any discussion what was obvious in its absence was any opposing opinion. There were even instances where the chairman of the panel, Dalhousie Faculty Association President David Williams, dismissed questions that expressed ideas contrary to the panel's view.

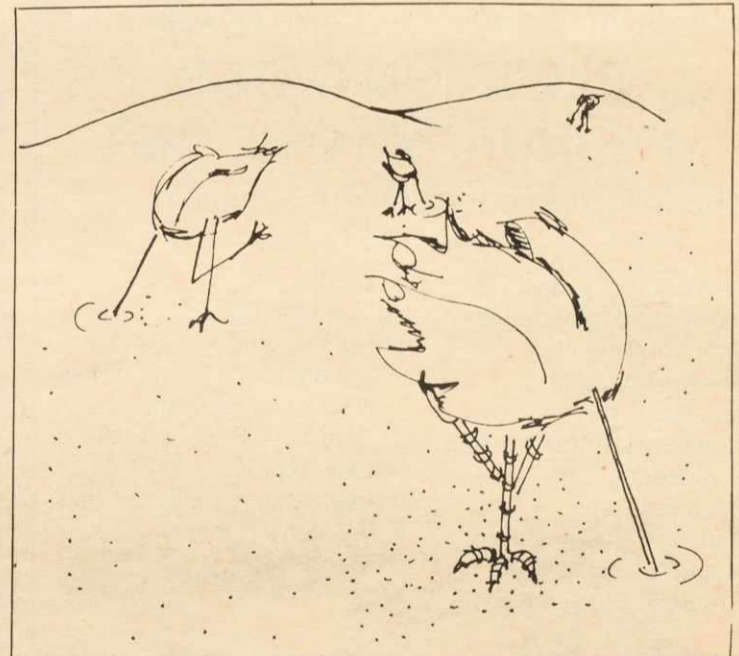
One student raised the point that there was nothing particularly humane about starving a country to death with trade sanctions, and questioned the panel's anti-war stance which seemed to be based on the idea that sanctions were a viable alternative. There was little attention paid to this subject, and the question was quickly dismissed as Williams declared the panel was spending too much time on each student's address.

In light of this comment another student asked the panel for other alternatives to the crisis and asked them whether they believed Saddam Hussein would just go away if they "buried their heads in the sand." Williams replied, re-endorsing his belief in the use of

sanctions and dismissing the question at that without further discussion. That was certainly one of the finest non-answers of the afternoon.

In elaboration of his claim that the US had orchestrated the entire incident, Zayid referred to an incident in late July when the American ambassador to Iraq told Saddam Hussein that the United States has no position on the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait. This alone was taken as evidence that the incident had been staged to assure American military dominance in the region. Peculiarly enough Zayid failed to mention that Iraq had already promised to withdraw its troops from the Kuwaiti border and that, given the guarantee, the US had no reason to warrant its involvement in any talks or negotiations.

The panel also failed to address the validity of Saddam's alleged claims against its neighbor. Firstly, the claim that Kuwait was over-producing OPEC oil limits has yet to be proven in any way. (Given Saddam's record most are inclined not to give him the benefit of the doubt.) Secondly, Iraq's demand that their \$15-billion debt to Kuwait be forgiven is yet another



river-boat fantasy with no precedent in the world's money markets.

Most outrageous of all, however, is Iraq's claim that the emirate was a former Iraqi province. Kuwait has been accepted internationally as a sovereign nation since 1899 when the British government sponsored it as a protectorate. Iraq did not exist in any form until 1922 when the League of Nations rather arbitrarily drew a line around three former provinces of the Ottoman Empire and made the area a British mandate. It seems impossible that the emirate could ever have been a province in a country with no his-

tory of pre-existence.

And throughout discussion and questions not one person bothered to mention the tiny emirate of Kuwait or its right to exist as a sovereign and independent state. Not one person mentioned the unflinching resolve with which Saddam has held onto his conquered territory. And no one in the room seemed to notice the pathetic manner in which, blinded by their paranoia of the American administration, they swallowed the Iraqi propaganda linking this issue with the Palestinian question. The first casualties in this teach-in were the facts.