

# BLOOD AND THUNDER

and withdrawn from its territory. It has made similar offers to its remaining enemies. Israel is surrounded by those whose stated aims are to destroy it. Israel has shown considerable restraint in light of the recent unprovoked attacks against it. It is not Israel which should be condemned, but Iraq. To suggest that Saddam Hussein, a brutal dictator who has massacred thousands of his own people and initiated two major wars, has any legitimacy is to assume a position which is not only illogical but immoral. It would be even more immoral to sit idle and allow such individuals to run amok. The Allies in the Gulf are attempting to check this aggression and should be highly commended for their efforts.

Hopefully Saddam's actions will not result in massive casualties on either side, as the impetus for beginning this conflict were his and his alone.

Dean Chappelle

## Two wrongs....

After reading Prof. Yaqzan's letter to President Bush in last week's issue, I feel I must respond. I must say that Prof. Yaqzan's letter, though somewhat true, was very one-sided. He failed to mention the brutal, sadistic ways of Saddam Hussein; a man who was responsible for the murder of his own people, and members of his government; a man who will be responsible for instigating terrorist acts all over the world; and a man who is using POW's as human shields to avert military attack.

Before I go any further, let me start by saying that many people do not understand the history behind what triggered the present situation in the Middle East. The creation of the Israeli state in 1948 and their close ties with the U.S. government have had negative effects on the surrounding Arab nations. Palestinians were driven

from their homes and forced to live under Israeli occupied territories; and also in refugee camps on the surrounding borders of Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. These nations have been burdened with the task of supporting these people financially and pleading with Israel to lift their occupation of the Palestinians and allow them to live in peace. These and many other complicated issues have been the major source of the frustration felt by the Arab nations.

I have been following events in the Middle East for many years now and I must agree with Prof. Yaqzan that the Arab people, especially the Palestinians have been unfairly treated. The United States has once again demonstrated a double standard when it comes to its foreign policy. With the support of the United States, Israel has become a fierce and intimidating presence in the Middle East. The U.S. has had the same presence over the entire world. They make a great pair don't they.

It has been said that Israel conspired with the U.S. to strike against Iraq months before Kuwait was invaded. I am enraged to think that this may be true. With this in mind, it is obvious that oil is not the only motivating factor for U.S. involvement in the Gulf war. The United States stepped into this situation so quickly and with such fervor, it makes me wonder why for instance, they haven't shown the same support for the Palestinians who have been living under brutal military occupation for decades. Why hasn't the U.S. reprimanded the Israeli government for its occupation of southern Lebanon? Why haven't they shown the same force against the South African government? Instead they have, in the name of "democracy," come to the rescue of countries such as Panama, Grenada and Vietnam with questionable results. The U.S. has demonstrated over and over again its hypocrisy in dealing with Middle East policy.

Terrorism has become synonymous with the Arab world. Arabs have been viewed

by the Western world as crooked, violent, aggressive thugs, and Saddam Hussein has, through his actions, perpetuated this stereotypical view. It is really sad that we must base our views on a minority of people who use such violent acts to get their message across to the world. What about those innocent men, women and children of the Arab world who do not have a voice.

Only wish the U.S. government and the allied forces would have had a better understanding of the possible consequences before initiating the attack. I am reminded of the suicide bombing of the American armed forces base in Beirut and I am afraid that history will repeat itself. I'm also thinking of the innocent people of Iraq and Israel who will be killed at the hands of the Iraqi and American forces. The fact remains that two wrongs do not make a right. Other means could have been used to achieve a peaceful solution. This war has destroyed any immediate chance of holding peaceful talks between the Arab nations, Israel and the United Nations. Now, as the world is watching events unfold in the Middle East, it is sadly inevitable that Arabs will face more hatred from the Western world due to the actions of a handful of madmen. Likewise, the United States will continue to face anti-American sentiment throughout much of the Arab world.

Tanya M. Matthews

## Editorial inconsistencies

To the Editor:

At the end of his editorial last week, *The Brunswickan's* Editor-in-chief hopes that "this crisis in Iraq will not be producing another world of bigotted (sic) and limited (sic) individuals with misguided perceptions of people who look different from them". A laudable aspiration indeed! Kudos to Kwame Dawes who consistently, through both his prose and his lyrics, has portrayed himself to be a peace-loving

man with a highly-sensitive social conscience.

But, one must wonder whether the Editor-in-chief actually puts actions behind his words. Does he inspect the rest of *The Brunswickan* before final layout to check for questionable pieces? The infamous "Hot Rod" incident last term did more to hurt this paper's credibility than any episode in recent memory. Mr. Dawes did not stop it. Again, last week, I found myself dismayed at the lack of journalistic (and humanistic) integrity within the pages of *The Brunswickan*.

I take issue with two segments in last week's paper. I can only wonder what was served by targeting Saddam's likeness and writing "Dead Meat" in bold letters over it. I find the target itself offensive and I feel it unfortunately brings Mr. Dawes' social conscience into question. What happened to a general respect for humanity? Even the American government has claimed to restrain itself in targeting Saddam directly. No matter one's personal view on North American involvement in the war, this full page pictorial was in bad taste. If it was as a joke, it was still in bad taste. If nothing else, the quote at the bottom of the page should have been attributed. Who the hell said this, ... George Bush?!

In a time of war, I would hope *The Brunswickan* would give us enlightened commentary and unbiased reporting. I must say I am saddened *The Brunswickan* has chosen to abandon it's (sic) traditional role as an anti-war, anti-hate activist.

Though angered at this first example of hatred, I read on. I then came upon "The War-Monger's Anthem". Well, well, well...now what exactly was that? One would hope it was a commentary on the mind-set of war-mongers and their obvious distension from the reality of war. Yet, even if the War-Monger's Anthem was simply a political commentary and not somebody's personal opinion, the question must be asked whether such blatant, unattributed trash needs to be run in *The*

*Brunswickan*. I take personal offense to the lines "women and children are soldier factories; eliminate them". I suspect this is, philosophically, bordering on hate-literature. And I can only sit and marvel at the depth and significance of the lines, "Obey me: play rock and roll". This Apocalypse Now-version of reality is all nicely (and quite ironically) juxtaposed with a USC Canada add for "sharing your joy and happiness this holiday season". The USC deserves, at the very least, to get their money back!

Kwame, how could you let this happen?

My friends at *The Brunswickan*, in this time of madness, if some of you feel the need to share your pro-war feelings, then please attribute them, so that we can vent our frustration at you and not the paper in general, nor the editor-in-chief. Above all, I urge each one of us to remember that all human life is sacred, not just the ones the American-led coalition deems sacred.

Thank you

Brent M. Staeben

The Brunswickan

125 years and still going strong



# College Hill Social Club



the  
**LeSLie**  
spit  
treeO

Coming Attractions

Tuesday

Jan.

29<sup>th</sup>

Sister  
**Moon**

Thu. 31 & Fri 1 (Mat. Only)

Hotel  
*California*

Feb. Fri. 15

FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS ONLY

January 25, 1991

The Brunswickan 21