

Bush administration distorts history to justify war

Considering its own history, is our current administration in any position to express righteous outrage at Kuwait's wrongful invasion by Iraq?

George Bush presented the United States as the champion of the United Nations in his speech Wednesday. But where was this driving desire to uphold the United Nations when it condemned the recent United States invasion of Panama?

Keeping that in mind, let's consider the following scenario.

Suppose our entire economy was built on oil production, as was our neighbor's economy.

Suppose we had formed a coalition with these neighbors so we could peacefully coexist and prosper with the same economic base.

Suppose we had a neighbor country, who in an effort to maximize its profits, suddenly started breaking the agreements of the coalition.

Suppose this had the effect of driving the price of oil down to the detriment of our economy and the economy of other oil-producing countries.

Suppose this country violating the agreement doesn't care if the price of oil is low because they are increasing their profits by selling more. Where are they getting so much excess oil?

We discover they are drilling laterally from their borders and getting oil from stores belonging to the United States. Considering the current administration's willingness to use military force, would Bush have ordered an invasion?

He ordered the invasion of Panama with far less justification.

Cara Shannon Clark

Reader's Opinion

Our administration wants us to forget these were the exact events leading to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. I would prefer for us to remember only the claim that Kuwait and Iraq were once not separated by the current British-drawn border. If we remember only that, Saddam Hussein can be portrayed as a madman and compared to Hitler.

But, if we reach back further and remember the whole chain of events leading to the Iraqi invasion, Hussein can be compared only to other cold, rational national leaders all too willing to spill innocent blood in the pursuit of self-interest — such as George Bush.

I am beginning to feel like Winston Smith in George Orwell's "1984." I'm going to have to start writing things down as they happen. Then I can't be deceived and manipulated by this administration's distortion of the past.

That Americans could be depended on to forget the position of the United States toward the United Nations when we invaded Panama such a short time ago, that we could be depended on to forget the events leading to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, allowing a Hitler comparison as justification for this war, scares me incredibly.

Bush's claim that "all reasonable efforts to reach a peaceful resolution" have been exhausted is preposterous.

Saddam Hussein is not given any opportunity to leave without a loss of

face and a lack of recompensation for Kuwait's theft of oil and violation of contract.

It would have been better to have dealt with Hussein through negotiation than to deal with the atrocities that will come with war.

The Bush administration is painting this war as the pure and just defending the innocent against the insanely unjust.

When we objectively consider the facts of this war and of the United States actions under Bush, however,

we can see it only as the unjust avenging injustices against the unjust by the unjust.

Let's find a way to stop the killing now, before another life is lost. *Cara Shannon Clark is a 1989 Texas A&M graduate.*



'A Modest Proposal' to rid economic woes

Editor's Note: The following is a modern-day revision of a satirical essay by Jonathan Swift.

I move that we reinstate the institution of slavery in this country. I'm not talking about the subjugation of an entire race of people. That would be flagrantly racist.

No, what I'm talking about is not racially prejudice at all. We could take everyone on welfare and auction them off to the highest bidder.

This would probably solve two of our nation's most pressing problems. First, we could allocate more funds to more worthwhile pursuits — for example, protecting American business interests that tangle with foreign governments. Next, proceeds from the slave auction would make a huge dent in the federal budget deficit.

We no longer permit slave ownership in this country because it is "immoral." And why would the United States seek to stop legislating morality on the issue of slavery? This country has a long history of adjusting its legal code to fit current perceptions of morality.

Of course, there's no reason to feel guilty about adjusting moral codes, since there is no such thing as universal right or wrong. We now are enlightened enough to recognize that morality is determined by culture "a la mode," and not by some omnipresent God.

The U.S. government passed, then repealed, the prohibition of alcohol. The government has called a de facto



Timothy Truesdale
Columnist

in 1973. Now then, why is the abolition of slavery "ripe" for judicial review and repeal? Quite frankly, the right to life — no I meant to say the right to freedom — has been superceded by two important points of morality in our society.

First, our government has become poor — it can't afford to continue paying increased amounts of borrowed money to keep people alive. Second, and perhaps more important, people on welfare are "unwanted" by society. Even if there were enough monetary resources, there's just not enough emotional support to go around.

Obviously, as things change, our legal environment must change as well. This is clearly a case in which it would be more "responsible," and therefore more "moral" to auction off the poor. Due to our current circumstances, reversing the abolition of slavery has become the "right" thing to do. We hold these truths to be self-evident; that every man is created equal. Not for the moment.

Tim Truesdale is a graduate student in urban planning.

Mail Call

Tree protesters not radicals

EDITOR:

In Matt McBurnett's most recent column, he compared those involved in the MSC expansion issue to anti-war protesters in San Francisco. I resent this analogy.

It seems if he is not personally interested in an issue, he labels it "worthless" and accuses those who do feel it is important of being "self-righteous morons."

He said he questions the motives of people who rallied for the trees. In my mind, a few trees around the MSC were beautiful and majestic old oaks, something to be treasured. Rallying for them was not a hopeless or idealistic cause.

After all, this is my school, and I live on this campus. Shouldn't student opinion have some impact?

The students, faculty and community members involved weren't violent or radical. We didn't chain ourselves to trees. We didn't block bridges!

We were protesting something that involved us, something close to home. We were attempting to initiate change by working with the A&M governing systems.

In the future, Mr. McBurnett, please be a little more conscious of your analogies — get the facts straight.

There are many different types of protesters just as there are many different types of journalists.

Kimberly Brown '93

A questionnaire for jingoes

EDITOR:

Just a few questions to hopefully set those in favor of war with Iraq thinking for some good answers. There is no particular order, so feel free to answer them in any way you want, with the stipulation you consider each one thoughtfully, intelligently and free of jingoism.

Why are we over there? What percentage of our oil actually comes from Kuwait? If you are like Mr. Enloe, and profess we are there "to stop a brutal, oppressive government," is this the only instance of brutality and oppression in recent history? How long did Russian attacks on Afghanistan go on? The oppression of an entire race of people in South Africa? Why does the United States support a government (El Salvador) that kills its own citizens, a la Iraq? Why haven't

we acted prior to this? Is Ms. Hooper aware Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are monarchies, that is to say dictatorships, and that the "freedoms of all people" that we are supposedly fighting for never have existed in those countries?

What will happen after the war? Will the region become a bunch of Americanophiles? What if Hussein surrenders and lives? He's shown he's had the brass to stand up to the West, and at the least will end up with just as much power as before. Do you think he'll relinquish control of his government? If he's killed, who's next in line? Probably someone from his administration, right? Hasn't that region been involved, for thousands of years, in territorial disputes? Israel hates Iraq, and wants him bad as we do, and is a military powerhouse — why not let them take care of Hussein?

OK, now an easy one. If you were in Saudi Arabia, would you fight your own battles if you could to get some other fools to fight them for you? Why can't we let them battle it out, like we always have and buy our oil from Saudi Arabia?

Iraq owed Kuwait 15 billion dollars; the land had been in dispute for years; everybody (including President Bush) saw this coming last January.

Has the United States run out of problems to solve in its own land? Who would rather have "just" one soldier die in exchange for gas that costs less than \$ 1.25 a gallon?

This is not a conservative vs. liberal issue, although people are trying to turn it into one. If you can't answer thoughtfully each and every question, then you can't justify being in this war. I've tried, and I can't.

I don't know anyone who doesn't support our troops. Every protester I know cares about our troops so much, they don't want them to die needlessly. There is a difference between supporting our troops and protesting our President's policy. I hope everyone can keep this straight.

Ron Garza '91

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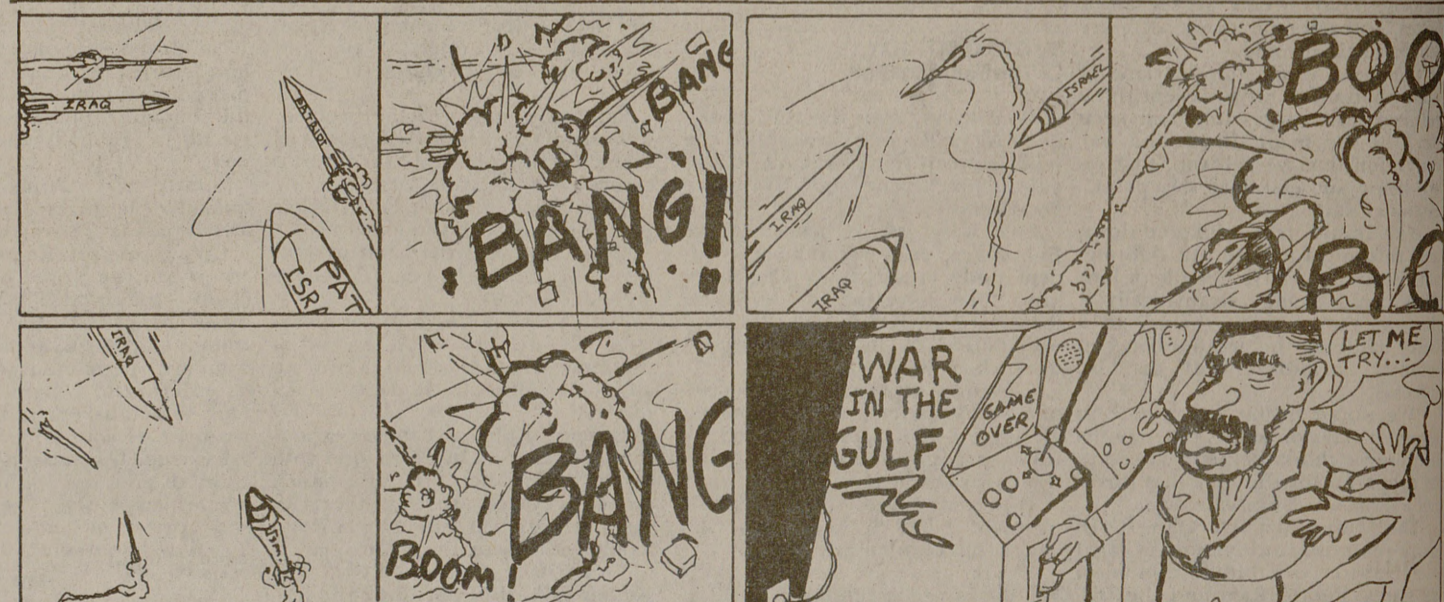
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