

**WORLD ORDER**

# Foolish games

*Saddam should be held accountable to agreement*

"Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." When it comes to confronting the threat to global security posed by Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, Bill Clinton seems more like a meddling grandmother than the Commander-in-Chief of the world's premier military force.



**DONNY FERGUSON**  
columnist

For seven years, Saddam has renewed and blatantly defied United Nations' demands he open his chemical weapons sites to U.N. inspectors.

Rather than reply to Saddam's obsequy with proper force, Clinton and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan forged another "diplomatic solution," which Saddam will simply defy, as he does all others.

Make no mistake about it. Saddam Hussein is no weak, ineffectual spot. His regime possess vast amounts of deadly chemical and biological weapons.

He has used them in the past and will use them in the future, and to amount of mealy-mouthed international negotiations will magically open up chemical weapons sites locked tight for seven years. Saddam Hussein poses a dangerous threat to the United States and his chemical weapons capabilities must be dealt with immediately — with full military force.

Saddam's chemical weapons (CW) capabilities are appalling. Prior to its April 1993 discovery by U.N. inspectors, one CW site in Al Muthanna held 13,000 15 mm artillery shells loaded with blistering mustard gas, 6,200 nerve gas missiles, 800 aerial bombs filled with nerve gas, 60-70 tons of the nerve gas Sarin, 250 tons of mustard gas, 75 tons of the ultra-toxic nerve gas VX and the capability to produce VX gas, the most toxic chemical weapon around.

Also in Saddam's Al Muthanna arsenal were 28 SCUD missiles loaded with Sarin. Remember, this is just one site. Countless others are scattered around Iraq and hidden from U.N. inspectors. Only Saddam Hussein and United States spy satel-

lites can pinpoint them all.

Not only does Saddam possess these deadly weapons of mass destruction, he has repeatedly used chemical weapons against his neighbors and even his own people.

During the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq border dispute, Iran lodged over a dozen complaints with the United Nations over Saddam's frequent use of banned chemical gasses, the first such battlefield use of chemical weapons since World War I.

Saddam has already launched conventional SCUD missiles against Israel, and has both the capability and hatred of the Jewish state to launch a CW assault. The United States should be obligated to protect our Israeli allies from genocidal assault. Saddam Hussein's hatred of the Jewish people should be reason enough to destroy his military capabilities.

Saddam's most viscous use of banned CWs is against his own people. Kurds, who make up 15-20 percent of the Iraqi population, are frequently the victims of Saddam's genocidal gas attacks.

Classified documents indicate Iraqi artillery batteries shelled the Kurdish village of Al Tannamah with CWs, killing hundred of innocents. If it were not for the fact the shells were some of Iraq's older ordnance, many more Kurds would have died. Other villages were not as lucky, as Hussein's genocidal impulses drive the Kurds north and into Turkey.

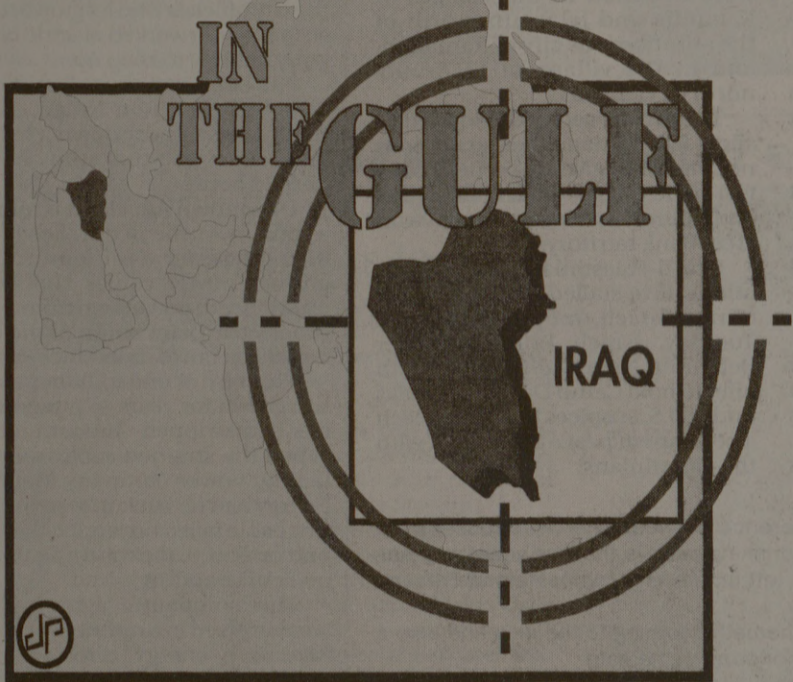
Clearly, Saddam's CW arsenal and his will to use it against the United States and Israel pose a serious threat to the prospects for peace in the Gulf region. A real president would have dealt with Saddam's CWs by now, as Reagan did with Soviets in Grenada and Bush did with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

For Bill Clinton, however, swift action in foreign affairs means getting a date with the Swedish ambassador after only one glass of wine.

Clinton should make this latest agreement with the United Nations Hussein's final chance to give U.N. inspectors full and total access to his CW sites.

If he refuses inspection of suspect site, a GPS-guided Tomahawk missile will make it a smoldering hole in the ground. If Saddam moves Sarin and VX gas mixtures to hide them, a B-52 Stratofortress will bomb his presidential palaces into

## STAND-OFF



aquarium gravel.

And if Saddam Hussein ever uses chemical weapons against his people or the people of Israel, B-2 Stealths from Whiteman AFB will make the short trip from Missouri to drop a few GBU-24 BunkerBusters into his living room.

Bill Clinton has allowed Saddam Hussein to toy with the United States and the United Nations long enough.

For the last seven years, Saddam has violated inspections agreements, barred entry into suspected CW by UN inspectors and continued to manufacture his weapons of mass destruction.

They have already been used against his Iranian neighbors and his own Kurdish people, and now they threaten the United States and Israel, our most important ally in the Mideast.

If Saddam Hussein violates the latest agreement with the Secretary Annan and does not give unre-

stricted and unlimited to any and all of his suspected CW manufacturing sites, President Clinton should not hesitate to bomb Saddam into compliance with the will of the global community.

Saddam has fooled us once. He will not fool us again.

The time has come for Bill Clinton to make our intentions in Iraq perfectly clear. We will not tolerate Saddam's defiance of weapons inspections. We will not tolerate his continued manufacturing of chemical weapons. And we will not tolerate the terrorist threat he poses to our national security and that of Israel.

Any violation of agreements or threat to a neighbor or his own people should be met with full, merciless military force. A real President would have done so by now. Sheesh, I miss Reagan.

*Donny Ferguson is a junior political science major.*

**PERSPECTIVES**

# Mardi Gras falls prey to trend of Americanization

Beads, booze and bums. Nothing says fun like Mardi Gras. At least, that is what Mardi Gras is to us.

Mardi Gras is only one in a long line of holiday traditions that have been fully Americanized. What started out as a last-minute party before a period of fasting and self-denial has become an all-out monument to hedonism.

But nowadays, what isn't? Christmas is for the mass accumulation of gifts (a season of out-and-out gluttony that gives glee to all retailers), Valentine's Day is for the giving of love in the form of chocolates and St. Patrick's Day and Mardi Gras are apparently for getting plastered in public.

It is all a little crazy, really. But most traditions tend to deviate from their origins eventually. Bonfire started out around a trash can and look at it now — every November people come from every possible location to see hundreds of trees being traditionally burned down to the ground, all in the name of school spirit.

It isn't just an A&M thing, it's the American way. Each year things have to be bigger, better, stronger and faster. If there weren't city ordinances, no doubt A&M would be determined that Bonfire stand taller than the Sears Tower.

As traditions evolve, they don't necessarily get worse, but the focus tends to get lost in the midst of all the celebration. Years ago, when Catholics started having small get-togethers to commemorate their last days before Lent, it is doubtful they had in mind what happens every year in New Orleans and Galveston, among other places.

What is this fascination of ours with making things more extravagant than they already are? Improvements are one thing, but you have to admit some things are just getting ridiculous. Christmas is so big now that it starts the day after Thanksgiving.

But hey, it's cultural. Because we're Americans, we have to have the biggest and the best of everything. That is why Mardi Gras appeals to so many people. It's not just a Catholic thing anymore. Everyone is welcome at Mardi Gras. We are unified by bad taste.

(Scratch that — make it bad taste and large quantities of alcohol.)

What is ridiculous is most Americans tend to believe the biggest, gaudiest thing equals the best thing. Mardi Gras may be the biggest and showiest party around with its masked balls and wild parades, but it doesn't necessarily present the most lovable side of human nature.

Then again, maybe the unruly behavior is the real draw of Mardi Gras, one that even surpasses our love of the grandiose. Maybe it is the presence of soaring blood alcohol levels and women exposing themselves for cheap beads that really brings in the crowds. For a lot of people, that apparently makes Mardi Gras into one swinging party.

Either way, Mardi Gras is one very large ordeal that seems incredibly pleasing to most people.

As it is often quoted, Americans are guaranteed "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." If happiness is really just the drunken pursuit of beads, looks like we're all set.

*Beverly Mireles is a freshman microbiology major.*



**BEVERLY MIRELES**  
columnist

**WORLD ORDER**

# Backing down on Iraqi policy promises dangerous for future

About a year ago, I placed on the wall across from my desk a sign which reads "DWYSYWD." It means "Do what you say you will do." For me, it is a daily reminder that when I pledge to do something (no matter how small) that promise becomes a part of someone else's life. For my own sake and the sake of others, I cannot afford to make those pledges lightly. Right now, the United States is implementing the "do what you say you will do" philosophy on a grander scale as it copes with the situation in Iraq.



**ADAM COLLETT**  
columnist

By that simple statement, I don't mean to suggest other political and economic factors aren't at play. However, the United States is justified in its actions at

least in part because it is trying to honor pacts into which it entered. That is the definition of resolve.

It is deeply disappointing that certain members of the international community and in certain components of the American public for not having the strength of character to stand up and be counted when that resolve is being tested.

If the United Nations collectively signed off on the post-Desert Storm sanctions and terms, and if certain member nations individually voted for or accepted them, then it is incumbent upon that body and its members to follow through with them until they are completed or rescinded through legitimate channels. Thus far only Australia, Britain and Canada have publicly joined the United States.

Saddam's unilateral decision to alter the terms does not fall under the category of legitimate means. If Iraq has evidence the sanctions are no longer appropriate, or if France, Russia and other nations are having second thoughts, then they have the ability

and indeed the responsibility to pursue a formal change. Such a change could have been advanced prior to the current showdown and can still be sought once this crisis has passed.

Furthermore, a vocal percentage of the American people have been unable to deal with the issue on this level. To be sure, there are those who conscientiously object to any endangering entanglement, and then there are those who are concerned that a partial reaction will do more harm than good.

These people have legitimate concerns. But those who have had a change of heart about the value of enforcing the sanctions must, along with the dissenting countries, realize that in international politics such turn-arounds are dangerous.

Acceding to Saddam's illegitimate change method would hurt the stature of the United Nations and of each of the participating nations. And ultimately, such a stature loss would come back to haunt the American people. Holding steady and empowering

the executive branch to live up to its freely-entered-into accords is what is most needed right now. An investment of resolve at this juncture will clear away any doubts about our country's willingness to do what it said it would do and will pay dividends in international relations and stability on down the road. In fact, Clinton's resolve under pressure thus far likely is one of the driving forces behind Iraq's yet-to-be-confirmed settlement with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Those who think that it may be time to ease up on or otherwise alter the sanctions may indeed be right. And once we have ensured compliance under the current terms, we would do well to invite those people to the table to help form any changes. Trying to sit down prior to full compliance, however, would be disastrous.

*Adam Collett is an educational administration graduate student.*



**MAIL CALL**

### Debating at public forums is acceptable

In response to Frank Stanford's Feb. 23 column:

I write to you trying to explain actions that occurred on Friday, when Norma McCorvey appeared at Texas A&M. I spoke out, ques-

tioning her. However, amidst her ignoring my question, my question was lost.

As a Christian, I understand many anti-choice arguments against abortion; I contended however, that as a political science student, one who studies law and constitutional rights and liberties, that her argument, much like most anti-choice arguments, are founded solely in moral and religious indictments and beliefs.

Laws and government here in the United States aren't founded in her Christian beliefs and should remain separate as the much maligned and inferred separation between Church and State doctrine calls for.

I am upset at the traditional upheaval surrounding a simple question. I, and other dissenters, had as

much of a right to be at this forum on a public university, as anyone else.

This was a public forum, although one would think it was a sermon with the passage of baskets around to gather donations. I was respectful and by no means patronizing.

McCorvey, under any level scrutiny, would come closest to being an expert in this field. As an advocate for the right to choose, she worked in abortion clinics, those clinics she now denounces. She above any person, is able to see both sides to the issue. I simply wished to question how she could argue her position without the religious indictment she now professes.

Abortion, and one's belief about it, is a personal conviction, one of which usually is unchangeable. I can tell anyone that I am pro-choice, not anti-life, and rest easy

at night. I could not however, profess and advocate a pro-choice stance, and speak out about it, write books about it, and profit from my position then change it.

For McCorvey, I applaud her finding God. For the Christians here at A&M who questioned how I could profess to be a Christian, and how could I speak out at a public forum, in the United States, not communist Russia, I say, shame on you.

My speaking out at this forum, is protected and guaranteed by the First Amendment. This holds true for any anti-choice sentiment. I do however with that as Christians we should all judge less, and practice more.

*Misty Hataway Class of '98*

### Money making stands as reason for speech

Between the praying, the passing of collection plates and the guitar strumming, one might have thought he was at church last Friday night instead of on the campus of a public university.

Norma McCorvey certainly thought she was. She thought she could get away with simply representing a generic, diluted conversion experience wrapped in uncouth humor. However, when she was challenged with the simplest of questions about her actual beliefs, she folded saying, "I didn't come here for a debate." She should have added, "I only came to collect money and sell books" because that's all that was accomplished.

Being at a public university, some of us thought this presentation would be a forum for a discussion. The ads certainly didn't say that only dull-witted, pro-life Christians were welcome. We were not warned that Norma has the speaking ability of a 10-year-old and the conduct of Roseanne. How were we to know a monologue on such a serious issue as abortion would turn into a two-hour long stand-up comedy routine?

The fact is such single-minded, uninteresting speeches belong at church, they always have. In such a controlling, protectionist environment, McCorvey would have been safeguarded against such searing questions as, "What are you doing to advocate contraception?"

*Brandon J. Logan Class of '98*