

24 hours later New war shows progress

With the first 24 hours of military strikes over, the United States looks confident and poised to end the Iraqi conflict swiftly. The first assault, which began Wednesday night, featured "a barrage of 40 Tomahawk cruise missiles... (and) 2,000-pound bombs" in an attack U.S. officials say was aimed directly at Saddam Hussein and other Iraqi leaders, according to The Washington Post. While this sounds impressive, Fox News theorized that the initial attack could have been much more severe had U.S. intelligence not seen an opening and taken it, initially firing at one of Saddam's palaces while he presumably slept. If the current state of Baghdad is any indication, with air raid sirens blaring and buildings ablaze, Operation Iraqi Freedom looks like it may be over sooner than many imagined.

The cruise missiles, which The Washington Post says were fired from the USS Donald Cook and other ships, were a clear success, "slam(ming) into... targets near Baghdad." U.S. officials have yet to comment on just how devastating these strikes were, but nine targets were hit Wednesday alone, "including two long-range artillery emplacements and one surface-to-surface missile system," The Post said.

There were also reports of 17 Iraqi soldiers giving up before the bombing had even begun. By Thursday afternoon, members of Saddam's Republican Guard were expressing a desire to surrender, according to Fox News. Clearly, many of Saddam's own people don't support him and are not willing to fight for his cause. An early-morning address from Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein further verified U.S. progress.

In a televised speech to the Iraqi people that was intercepted and replayed on CNN and Fox News, Saddam looked visibly shaken and years older than in previous broadcasts. Analysts from Fox News and CNN said officials initially theorized that it might not even have been Saddam speaking, but one of his many doubles. But U.S. intelligence stated Thursday afternoon that they indeed suspected it was Saddam, according to Fox News.

In either case, the Iraqi dictator looked sickly, pale and hunched-over, with his voice quiet and his demeanor passive. This is a far cry from the arrogant man often seen walking with his chest bowed and talking proudly, firing rifles into the air. Saddam had on reading glasses and was reading from what appeared to be a handwritten address on a legal pad. This was clearly not a leader in control reassuring his people, but a man on the run, giving a speech that was hastily thrown together. With Fox News reporting a vital refueling stop "obliterated" and U.S. troop morale "sky high," Saddam's evil regime looks to be in its final days, though the war is only days old.

Perhaps more interesting, though, is the fact that U.S. forces had control of certain Iraqi television and radio stations within six hours of the bombing, broadcasting messages encouraging the Iraqi people to distance themselves from Saddam and his leadership, according to Fox News. Clearly, Saddam was losing control of Iraq even in the early hours of the bombing. With U.S. strikes strengthening by the hour, this trend will continue until the rule of Saddam ceases and Iraqi liberation is achieved.

In a televised statement Thursday afternoon, President George W. Bush listed 44 nations that are now members of his coalition, so international support may indeed be strengthening. This support is welcomed, but overdue. Perhaps Iraqi scud missiles fired at U.S. troops in Kuwait Thursday, scud missiles Iraq lied about possessing, played a role in strengthening such support.

As the United States launches a ground invasion, Americans should take comfort in knowing that the most devastating strikes are yet to come. And though the war is far from over, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is clearly rattled, (add comma) and his regime (is) crumbling. With few U.S. casualties reported and only limited bombing underway, the first 24 hours of the Iraqi conflict was an undeniable success. As the White House said in a statement released Thursday afternoon, "So far, so very good."

George Deutsch is a senior journalism major.

We are not bullies

World opinion of America is unfounded, untrue

The hatred that many countries harbor toward America has been fermenting for some time. Around the world, supposed antiwar protests broadcast by major news agencies are, in reality, anti-American rallies.

Reuters reports that in countries from Mexico to Morocco and from Turkey to Argentina, citizens are burning the American flag and shouting anti-U.S. rhetoric. In "The Arrogant Empire," Newsweek's March 24 cover story, writer Fareed Zakaria says that America's intimidating tactics and self-righteous attitude have ostracized it from the world's favor. However, just as Zakaria's analysis proves superficial, these anti-American protesters prove misinformed.

According to Zakaria, America is a bully. He uses Pakistan and Turkey as recent examples of America's domineering tactics. Even though many countries have faced terrorism, writes Zakaria, "after 9/11, suddenly terrorism was the world's chief priority. Every country had to reorient its policy accordingly."

Pakistan had supported the Taliban for years, and within months, it became the regime's sworn enemy." One should note that Zakaria fails to condemn Pakistan's support of the murderous Taliban regime. Instead, he portrays America as some leviathan, forcing any and all to bend to its will. However, the only countries that changed their foreign policies were those, like Pakistan, that were not supporting Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity or Doctors Without Borders, but instead were supporting a regime that oppressed women, destroyed 1,500-year-old religious sites and murdered thousands. That America's intervention should be seen as "bullying" is outrageous.

Turkey, according to Zakaria, was able to parry the assault of America, while Pakistan was not. "The Turkish people were deeply opposed to a war in Iraq. Yet the administration assumed that it could bully or bribe Turkey into giving it basing rights." Again, there was no bullying. The United States did not threaten force against a peaceful country. America offered Turkey money to the tune of \$15 billion, according to Fox News.

What was the harm in this? Turkey is a fledgling democratic state. Billions in exchange for the use of land should have

been a bargain. As a sovereign state, Turkey had every right to refuse the money—and it did.

The deep-seeded hatred of America is caused by nothing more than the fact that the United States has the power and resources to effectively secure its own safety, whereas many other nations do not. That the United States can topple a tyrannical regime 10,000 miles from its

own borders solicits envy from the world. Zakaria points out that Bush asked for a

helped build their countries, and that it is an American organization of American men and women willing to donate two years of service to developing nations.

The billions in aid not given directly to countries is compensated by the fact that the United States' economy, according to Newsweek, is larger than the next three. Forty-three percent of the world's economic production, 50 percent of the world's science, and 40 percent of the world's high-tech production comes from the United States. The fact that protesters can coordinate simultaneous anti-American rallies around the world via cell

phones and e-mail is the direct result of American efforts and American progress. That they can afford to spend the day shouting trite anti-American slogans instead of working like millions of Americans do is due in large part to the United States. Yet, these efforts are rarely recognized.

What is recognized and perpetuated is this foolish argument that America is an arrogant, imperialist state. As Dr. Victor Hanson, classicist and visiting military historian at the U.S. Naval Academy points out, ancient empires such as Rome demanded tribute from states to feed its legions and build its palaces.

American military bases around the world, the only real connection between Rome and Washington, are as expensive for Washington to maintain as they are profitable for the host country. And whereas Rome would have immediately marked out airfields in southern Turkey, Washington offered \$15 billion, was turned down, and left—hardly an imperialist strategy.

It is unfortunate that Zakaria's Newsweek piece, baseless as it is, will help fuel much of the world's hatred. Simply put, America gives back to the world far more than it takes. Perhaps the world will take note of this when both American and Iraqi flags will triumphantly wave together on the streets of Baghdad in weeks to come.

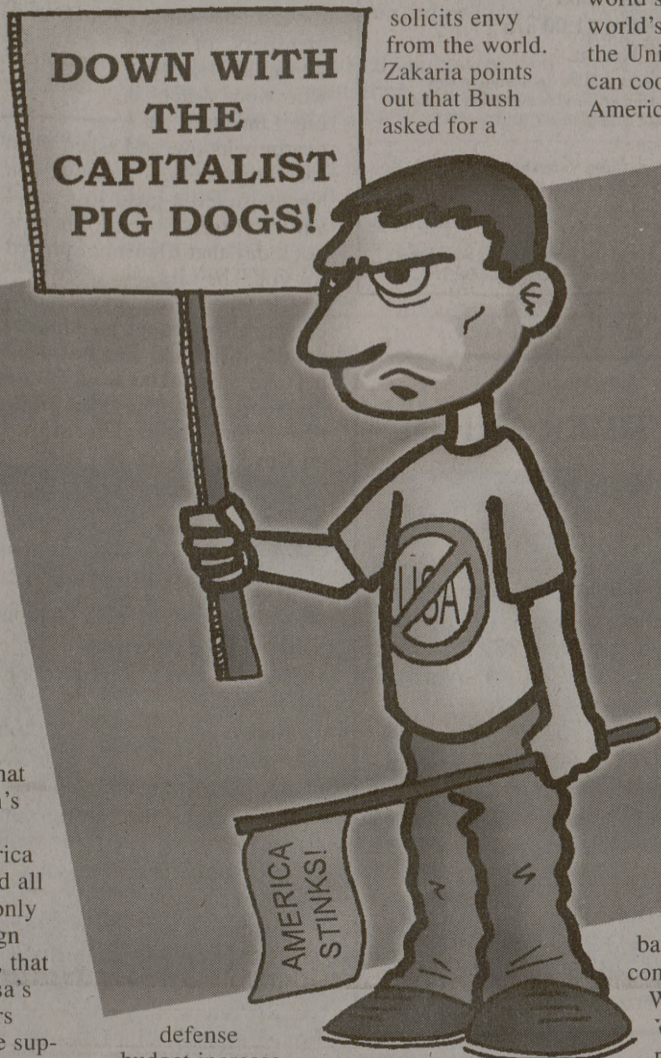
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MICHAEL WARD



GEORGE DEUTSCH



MAIL CALL

Asking Yell Leaders to discuss investigation irresponsible

In response to the March 20 editorial:

While I agree that students have the right to know whether Jonathan, Tim, John and Paul are being charged with hazing, they cannot talk about an ongoing investigation as it could harm the investigation.

If and when charges are filed is up to the administration, not these gentlemen. If any of them are charged, at that point they can give their side of the story, but until then everything is in the hands of the administration.

Furthermore, even if they are charged, supposedly in America, people are innocent until proven guilty, so the student body must trust them and assume they are innocent and ignore this investigation while considering who to choose to represent us as yell leaders.

If any of these gentlemen are elected and are later found to be guilty of hazing then they will surely be dealt with appropriately, which is likely to include removal from their position.

On the other hand if we choose not to elect some of these gentlemen because of this controversy, and we later find out that they were not involved, there is no redress. We must let the system do its job instead of trying to bypass it.

Jonathan Platt Class of 2004

Citizens should question the government

In response to the March 19 and March 20 mail calls:

Correct me if I am wrong but the last I heard it was our duty as Americans to question our leaders and our government. So it truly confuses me that so many people are offended by the peaceful protesting happening on campus. It is our right as Americans to voice our opinions.

So to everyone asking where are the patriots, they are right there in front of you exercising their American rights. Doing their duty in the face of animosity and judgment by people who seem to have forgotten what America is all about. After all why are we going over there to Iraq?

If it isn't just about the oil and it is about giving the Iraqi people the same freedoms we have such as free speech then why are you whining about free speech being exercised here?

As to the allegations that the protesters are not supporting the troops....I can only speak for myself. No, I don't like the way things are being handled with the war on Iraq. However, would I hold that against our troops? NEVER!!

I totally support our troops! I have nothing but the greatest respect for our troops and I feel it would be a terrible shame to lose even one of their lives because of Saddam Hussein. I

Jennifer Parks Class of 2004

pray that the sacrifice they will make during this war will be worth it. That remains to be seen.

What we all need to remember is that the protests are against the war not our troops. To our troops: May God be with you and bring you home safe and sound. God Bless America.

Ms. McGraw stated that war protests are a slap in the face to our armed forces. However, I would argue that instead, comments such as McGraw's are much more offensive to these men and women. Members of our armed forces have and will die in the name of freedom. It is insulting to suggest that we discourage this very freedom in our own nation.

Perhaps those who are taking the time to voice their opinions about the war should "Shut up and go home," as Ms. McGraw suggested. This sentiment does sound a bit familiar. I do remember hearing a lot about a nation recently where the people do not have the freedom to say anything in opposition to their government.

It is vital that we take advantage of our freedom to voice our opinions, regardless of if they are for or against our president, for this is not the point. If freedom is worth dying for overseas, then it is certainly worth supporting within our own country.

Kimberly Harris Class of 2004

Students discuss war

Bombs are falling on Baghdad, innocent Iraqis are huddled in fear in shelters with their loved ones in the same fashion we fall into our shelters in a tornado and I am out buying a lotto ticket. Something is missing from this war and this struggle for American victory. Sacrifice.

This is not a war I agree with, but this is a war that is part of every one of us and I can no longer affect the choice to start this war. I back my military and I pray for their lives and safe return.

Everyone in America is praying for these young men's lives but with too many of them completely unaffected by the war. Americans have not been asked to sacrifice anything and in this whole debate I have been shocked by the fact that Congress is still trying to run through another \$700 billion in tax cuts.

I hope that this does not underscore my generation. I do not want to be part of a generation that sits on the sidelines relishing their tax cut while young men, who were refused their promised pay increase due to budget shortfalls this year, are off fighting for the United States of America.

Every American should choose to sacrifice what he can during this campaign while our servicemen are out making the ultimate sacrifice. The war is upon us; we are now all citizen soldiers and must do our part.

Justin Hill Class of 2004

The Just War theory explicitly gives reasons war can be justified: the justified nation cannot initiate the attack, it can protect an ally, and it can perform a preemptive attack.

We initiated the attack, we are not protecting an ally as we were in the Gulf War, and we honestly do not have any real evidence that Iraq was planning an attack on us. The Just War theory, along with the United Nations, does not sanction the actions of Bush because of these very reasons. In addition, George Bush Sr. carried a copy of the JWT in his pocket during the Gulf War and referred to it when justifying his actions.

However, the current Bush did not follow this age-old theory when he initiated the attack on Iraq. 9/11 has nothing to do with this war-of course it raises concerns about Sadam's possession of WMD, but that does not justify the United States going in to overthrow his government.

Furthermore, I am tired of this blind patriotism expressed on campus- it is possible to disagree with the government and still be patriotic for your absolute love of the country. I fully support Bush's decision because he is our president and he made that decision through a democratic process, and I am supportive because our troops deserve our loyalty. However, I do have my reservations and believe this war is not morally justified and I will voice my opinions.

Jessica Nasser Class of 2006