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Student Activism Rises Across the Country

Caught in the Crossfire:
Iraqi Speaks On the War

BY MARK WILHELM
Of the Grizzly

Because of activism during the Vietnam War, student demonstrations have become common occurrences on college campuses. Whether it be a demonstration against the college administration because of its investments in nasty corporations, a faculty-administration conflict (Temple), or an anti-war demonstration, students have used their voices in protest as another part of their free thinking, liberal education.

With the current threatening crisis in the Middle East, protests across the nation have begun to erupt. Once again, students are leading this new demonstration wave. On the first night of military action, various colleges across the nation, from the University of California in Los Angeles on the west coast, to the University of Pennsylvania in the east, and many schools in between, participated in some sort of anti-war activity. In California in Los Angeles on the west coast, to the University of Pennsylvania in the east, and many schools in between, participated in some sort of anti-war activity. In

BY SARA JACOBSON
Asst. Arts and Entertainment Editor

An Iraqi born American citizen, Mohammed Latif, spoke Monday, January 21, in the Wimer parents lounge on what he referred to as a "human, personal tragedy" in the Middle East. Latif is a physicist in radiation health at Temple University. He lived in Iraq for twenty years.

Born in Basra, a major southern city close to Kuwait, Latif spoke of both his family left in the area and his hopes for peace. He is in a unique situation with family in Iraq both Baghdad and Basra in the Iraqi army fighting US troops, family in Kuwait, and friends fighting on the American side against Hussein's forces. He is no longer even able to watch the news coverage of the conflict, Latif says, because "these are my nieces and nephews, my family, my friends." Latif has not been able to contact his relatives in the Middle East since August 2, 1990.

Before the United States began bombing his homeland, Latif actively spoke out against the war. Now he is speaking from the standpoint of a man caught in the emotional crossfire. He is definitely in favor of United States stopping the bombing to try to negotiate peacefully again. No fan of president Bush, Latif blamed the United States for creating the Iraqi conflict to use Iraq as a "guinea pig...to be tested by the war industry."

Giving background from the Arab perspective, he explained the strong sense of nationalism in Iraq which is instilled in the Iraqi people from grade school on up. Latif feels that due to this devotion nationalism the Iraqi people will not abandon Saddam Hussein even if they do not agree with his actions, nor will Hussein pull out of Kuwait. He also condemned the US for not allowing more time for the Arabs to come up with a solution among themselves, claiming that the Arab coalition was on the verge of solving the crisis themselves. Latif does, however, believe that the United States will win the war because the United States forces and technology are so superior to the Iraqi's.

Latif, who himself left Iraq thirty years ago for "political reasons," believes that the Iraqi people probably do not want war, but do not have the political freedoms to protest it. He calls it both a "racist war" and a "third world war," and feels the United States is there to stop Iraq from developing militarily and to stop growing Japanese economic influence in the Middle East.

During a question and answer period Latif discussed why Iraq invaded Kuwait and the pyramidal, secure power base of Saddam Hussein. Due to the strong sense of nationalism, he claimed that Hussein will have the support of the Iraqi people, but admitted that it is within the realm of possibilities for Hussein to, as threatened, set off the mines now attached to the oil fields. Still hoping for a quick end and a peaceful solution, Latif claimed that, "it is a war between Saddam Hussein and George Bush, and caught in the middle are 18 million Iraqi people."

Philadelphia, students from the University of Pennsylvania marched some 25 blocks down Market Street and met up with 400 other demonstration including 10 Ursinus students.

What to look for in the Gulf War

Analysis

Dr. Nicholas O. Berry
Professor of Politics

How long will the war last? Who will win? What will be the cost—political moral and economic?

The answers to these questions depend upon a myriad of factors. Here are some things to look for:

If Saddam Hussein can get Israel and Jordan into the war, then he can redefine the war, perhaps induce Syria to switch sides, and expand the scope of the conflict. This will prolong the war and make it more difficult for the U.S.-led forces to destroy the Iraqi regime. If Iraq fights alone, which is what the U.S. is aiming for, then Iraq is doomed. If Iraqi forces surrender easily, then the Iraqi regime is in really big trouble. If not, then the costs to the U.S. will be substantial. If the Iraqi forces husband themselves and engage in strategic withdrawals, then the war will be prolonged. The Iraqis will be fighting a war of attrition, seeking to exhaust the American public and Congress with a long war. If the Arab masses rise up, then constraints will be placed upon U.S. firepower. If, not, more force—even if it produces civilian casualties—can be used. If biological or chemical weapons are employed by the Iraqis, then watch for an escalation in U.S. strategy and a shift in goals towards total conquest. Finally, watch the congressional reaction to the course of the war. Division there will arise from a long, costly war and will thus make it longer and costlier because it will encourage Iraq.

Nicholas O. Berry is chair of the Ursinus Politics Department and is a specialist in international politics.
Taking War to Heart

BY KATHLEEN BOWERS
Sports Photography Editor

Many individuals in the Ursinus community have become actively involved in Gulf War issues here at home. Senior Politics major Emma Forrest, junior Politics major Mark Wilhelms and Vietnam veteran and Ursinus baseball coach Brian Thomas are among those who have spoken out.

Forrest spoke during the Peace Service held in Berry auditorium on Tuesday, January 15, the eve of the U.S. attack. Her talk emphasized the inevitable loss of individual soldiers' lives in a war. She read a poem by WW I soldier Wilfred Owen, "Dulce et Decorum Est." The poem's speaker is pro-war and pro-country until he watches someone die in a gas attack. He then realizes that the political reasons for the war are not really important. Forrest noted that the same will happen to American soldiers in the Middle East, and expressed her wish that they could instead be a coalition of Vietnamese veterans in Philadelphia called Act for Peace in the Middle East. She started attending their meetings in December, and joined their protest march on Market Street on the night of the U.S. attack. They will continue protesting every Thursday and Saturday until the war is over.

When Wilhelms arrived at City Hall on January 16, there were about 150 protesters there. They were soon joined by another 300 from the University of Pennsylvania, and the group blocked off all three lanes of Market Street. The purpose, Wilhelms says, is to be noticed and to make their objections known. As of Sunday, over 18,000 protesters had been arrested across the U.S. In order to take that risk, a protestor must have a strong belief, and must get rid of any fears and doubts about the issue. Wilhelms states plainly, "I'm against the war." The U.S. has too many problems at home to be spending so much time and energy abroad. Even a quick success in the Gulf would damage domestic affairs, he says. It would encourage a greater defense budget when we need better education in a world where knowledge is power, he adds.

Wilhelms admits that protesters are often accused of being unpatriotic and not supporting our troops. But he believes that the troops are the victims of the war, and "by wanting them home alive, you're being very supportive." He also believes that the only way to bring positive improvement and change to the country is to be critical.

Now that the war has started, Wilhelms says, he cannot simply advocate a pullout. People have already died, and they should not die in vain. He agrees that we will probably win the war, but questions "at what cost?"

Limerick Prepared

BY KRISHNI PATRICK
Editor-in-Chief

When we think of Limerick Power Plant we might picture the tall smokestack releasing clouds of steam off route 422. Or, we might hear the sirens piercing its way off the top of Pfaltz. We might even joke about telling our glorified-in-the-dark children how we went to college next to a nuclear power plant. But now, in the wake of the Gulf War, Limerick Power Plant has become a potential terrorist target.

"Nuclear power plants are built to withstand an earthquake," proclaimed Bill Jones, Manager of Media Relations for the Philadelphia Electric Company. "Short of a SCUD missile, there is no way terrorists could get in." So, how safe is the plant located only a few miles away from our campus? "Totally," comments Jones emphasizing even before this threat the Limerick Power plant already has extensive security measures in place that would prove quite a deterrent to terrorists.

The entrance to the plant is regulated by metal turnstiles equipped with explosive and metal detection devices. The front door to the reactor is regulated by a series of computer controlled doors only accessible by specific personnel. Finally, the reactor itself is encased behind six feet thick steel and concrete walls.

In addition to these physical safeguards, the plant conducts mock exercises on a yearly basis to prepare for an attack. The plant personnel have to deal with a variety of scenarios from blatant raids on the outside to hostages held captive within the plant. Though the last exercise was held in May, in recent months the plant's personnel have been reviewing contingency plans and are exercising special care with all its procedures including the systems of communications for local, state, and federal police. Though there has been no new staff added, Jones describes the plant as an "a heightened state of readiness."

The increased security in plants all across the nation is the result of a presidential directive of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in response to these threats. Nuclear power plants remain good tactical targets since they are the major suppliers of electricity for many urban areas. The Limerick power plant supplies a major portion of the power of nearby Philadelphia.

The predictability of terrorist attacks remains somewhat possible to Jones since plants daily receive FBI relays about what plants might be targeted. Finally, among the many major power plants located in this country the actual likelihood of an attack on the local Limerick plant is slim.

Time Line of Events in the Gulf
compiled by Mark Hallinger, Opinions Editor


Aug 6 Secretary of Defense makes a seemingly unanimous, with one abstention, for economic sanctions on Iraq.

Aug 7 President Bush orders U.S. forces to invade Saudi Arabia.

Aug 10 Twelve Arab leaders send forces to defend Saudi Arabia.

Aug 12 Saddam Hussein links Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait with Israel's withdrawal of the occupied territories.

Aug 15 Iraq begins rounding up Americans and Britons in Kuwait; men will later be used as "human shields" at Iraqi military installations.


Aug 29 Iraq declares Kuwait the "19th province"; women and children hostages are freed.

Oct 3 Amnesty International says Iraqi troops in Kuwait are torturing and executing Kuwaiti citizens.

Oct 17 U.S. and Kuwaiti officials reject Iraqi offer to pull out of Kuwait as soon as the 150,000 troops are withdrawn.

Nov 8 Bush orders a massive increase in U.S. forces, from 200,000 troops to over 400,000.

Nov 29 By a 12-2 vote, the U.N. Security Council authorizes the use of force against Iraq if Iraq has not withdrawn from Kuwait by January 15.

Dec 6 Hussein orders all foreign hostages released.

Dec 19 U.N. General Assembly condemns Iraq for human rights violations.

Jan 9 The Baker-Aziz talks fail to yield results.

Jan 12 U.N. Congress authorizes the use of force in the Gulf.

Jan 13 U.N. Secretary General Perez de Cuellar fails to persuade Hussein to leave Kuwait.

Jan 15 The U.N. deadline expires.

Jan 16 The U.S. launches an air attack on Kuwait.

Grizzly Gulf War Poll Results
POLL TAKEN BY MARK HALLINGER, OPINIONS EDITOR

Faculty Students

Do you support the use of force against Iraq?
Yes 88% 73%
No 6% 22%
Undecided 6% 5%

How long do you think the conflict will last?
< 1 mos 0% 5%
1-3 mos 25% 36%
4-6 mos 13% 29%
6mos-yr 4yr 26%
> yr 18% 4%

What do you think our goal(s) should be?
Liberate Kuwait 75%
Depose Hussein 38%
Iraq forces 6%
All 19%
Other 6%

How have you kept abreast of the Gulf Situation?
ABC 44%
CBS 25%
NBC 31%
CNN 32%
Papers 37%
Radio 56%

16 Faculty polled, 76 Students
Opinions

Saddam Hussein Must Be Stopped

We realize that the conflict in the Persian Gulf may be quickly becoming a tired subject, but many opinions must still be expressed on both sides of the issue. We are surely condemning ourselves to endless seething rebuttals, but here goes anyway.

We feel that the anti-violence organizations springing up on campuses across the country are way out of line. They may be growing our of the misguided 60's mentality so in vogue today, but someone should realize that these doxines are hardly practical when foreign policy comes into play. Rather than running around writing 'no war for oil' and urging the way out of line. They may be both sides of the issue. We are surely condemning ourselves to opinions must still be expressed on from such an attitude in the days mentality so in vogue today, but someone should realize that these foreign policy comes into play.

We realize that the conflict is, of course, by simplistic reply of the political experience: "more Munichs" is the equally rallying cry of the peace movement. The conflict is not a conflict such as we are now entering. Positions on U.S. action in the Gulf vary. Some favor an outright isolationist perspective. Others feel we should rely on sanctions and continued diplomatic efforts. Finally, there are those who feel the "war option" is our only option at this point. "No more Vietnam" is the rallying cry of one position. "No more Munichs" is the equally simplistic reply of the political right. The conflict is, of course, much more than a re-tread of history, but one lesson must be remembered from the Vietnam experience: returning troops must be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of one's feelings in the on the overall action. Combat troops and support troops are merely doing their job, a job with painful separation from family and friends and the possibility of making the ultimate sacrifice. Making war itself must never be considered a noble activity; the actions and sacrifices of our men and women in the military, however, should beviewed this way.

Brian Thomas, Ursinus baseball coach and a Vietnam vet, spoke at the "Service for Peace" last week. Although I could not attend this service, I understand Mr. Thomas described a personal encounter with an anti-war individual who considered returning veterans as somehow morally lacking. The general public's reaction to returning troops, although not as abusive, was one of disinterest. I implore all members of the Ursinus community to support our troops, even if you do not agree with overall U.S. policy. Regarding the treatment of our returning troops, we all have a moral obligation to avoid the post-Vietnam war syndrome.
How Has the War Affected You?

By Eleanore Hajian, Associate Editor
Photography by Satsuki Scoville

Josh Camp - Economics '93
"I have become much more aware of foreign policy and what has been going on in the world since the Gulf Crisis began. A couple of people from my home town are there. I am supportive of our efforts and I hope that it is a short war and that the loss of life is minimal."

Alyson Smokowcz - Psychology '91
"I have friends over there and it makes it hard to concentrate on my every day life. I want peace as soon as possible."

Maria Costa - Psychology and English '92
"I don't know anyone who is there except for a pen-pal I met through a hall program but I feel that knowing him has given me a more realistic view of the situation. I am now much more inclined to pay close attention to world politics than before the Gulf Crisis began and it is very important to me to know what is going on in the world."

Angie Mason - Politics '91
"I felt rather negative at first, but now that we are involved I feel that we should support the decisions of our country. My brother is in the Marine Corp and I do not know when and if he will be called to go. This is a constant worry to me."

Keith Mandia - Politics '93
"The war has not affected me directly. I hope that a peaceful resolution to the problem is found. I hate seeing Americans die but I am supportive of the President's decision."

Kevin Athearn - International Relations '91
"It has made me somewhat angry. I don't think that any of the grievances that the international community has with Iraq are worth the loss of lives on both sides. I feel that there were other possibilities which would have been acceptable to the international community."

By Eleanore Hajian, Associate Editor
Photography by Satsuki Scoville