

# War with Iraq in U.S. best interest

U.S. military is prepared to defend our country against Hussein, terrorism.

I have decided to write my column this week about the recent letter to the editor in last week's *Old Gold and Black* that attacked the article I had written in the Oct. 2 edition. The original title of this article was "Democratic politics on Iraq interfering with homeland security,"

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GUEST COLUMNIST

but as is common practice for most editorial staffs, the editors of the OGB changed my title to "Democrats should grant Bush power to wage his war."

I was immediately outraged when I saw their new title since it implies that I believe our masterful leader should be able to wage his own war against Iraq. This is most certainly not the case, and it in no way reflects the tone of my article.

Even more outrageous is the fact they published Mr. John Sena's, '97, letter to the editor complaining about the title, while letting me take credit for it and its egregious implications.

Though I would love to write about liberal media bias, I have decided to systematically answer John Sena's questions contained in his letter.

Firstly, yes the President of the United States should be the Commander in Chief and still have control over the armed forces – the mere title warrants it. Additionally, though I am not a Constitutional Law scholar, even I understand that the Constitution allows the Commander-in-Chief to "wage war" for 60 days without Congressional approval.

Secondly, Congress has already passed a budget for this imminent strike and the resolutions they called for over the summer, so they have already indirectly approved military action.

Moreover, unlike both elder President Bush and our current president, the ever-so-deceitful

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Bill Clinton waged a military strike against Iraq in 1998 without approval from anyone. No one did or said anything against it. Of course, this was conveniently at the same time when Clinton was deceiving and lying to the American people and perjuring himself in front of a federal grand jury. It would only make sense that his Democratic henchmen would support any movement to divert attention from the illegal actions of their scandalous leader.

The United States is not in the business of nation building, and looking back at the Presidential debates from 2000, President Bush clearly stated he wants to bring home our troops stationed around the world in an effort to strengthen both the armed forces and homeland security. It seems, however, that the only way this nation can defend itself militarily is to promise all the pacifists, hippies, and leftists that we will install a new regime in whatever country being discussed.

In regard to which regime will replace Saddam Hussein, I do not have an answer, and personally, I do not care. The importance of this strike against Iraq is to protect U.S. citizens, and though I feel for the oppressed Iraqis, I care more for the American people. We have a highly dangerous dictator in power who wants nothing more than to see us suffer and is breaking every possible U.N. resolution to attain the weapons necessary for our demise. By removing Saddam Hussein, we will be able to destroy all his factories and armaments of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons.

Perhaps, once Saddam Hussein is removed from power, Democratic congressmen Jim McDermott (WA), David Bonior (MI), and Mike Thompson (CA) would like to start a

new government in Iraq – I mean, they already know the layout of the country pretty well since they recently spent so much time over there placating a dictator who has killed 1.5 million people.

Will this end terrorism? No. It will remove a monster from the face of this earth and quell an immediate threat against Americans and Israelis. Will Islamic fundamentalists hate us more than they do now? Yes. I know the liberals in this country want to understand these fanatics, but I understand them quite well. They hate us. They want to make us die. They have already murdered over 3,000 Americans, and they live every waking moment to kill even more. Open your eyes – stop the rhetoric.

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I do not know how many American soldiers will die if we go to war with Iraq, but I do know that hundreds of thousands of American citizens will die if Saddam Hussein is not stopped now. No loss of life is ever justified, but our brave men and women of the military volunteered to serve this country, to protect its freedoms and to perpetuate its security. When absolutely necessary, President Bush will deploy our troops, and they will be ready. They will fight courageously for every citizen back home.

Our founding fathers would definitely agree with my assessment. There is a serious threat against the country for which they fought so passionately over 225 years ago. They would want to see this threat removed so the United States of America could continue to prosper. President Bush is meticulously following the Constitution and has done nothing illegal. We should only be so fortunate to have a great leader such as he in power, one who obeys the law and fights ardently for his people.

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# Accountability depends on claiming responsibility

Personal accountability and honesty are falling to the wayside in modern life.

I'm going to address something that I feel has superseded the relatively small-scale local campaigns that fill the airwaves and newspapers. I believe a bigger issue that must be raised is the question of personal accountability and honesty, not only



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in politics, but in everyday life. The conundrum of personal integrity has reared its ugly head before on the national scene.

When Richard Nixon was accused of lying to Americans and faced impeachment, his integrity was the core value that was attacked. When Bill Clinton faced impeachment, it was not for philandering, but for perjury. Once again, his accountability was at stake. Personal accountability is about taking responsibility for what you do and what you say, and can be as painless as confirming that it was indeed you who made the irritating comment in philosophy class, or as painful as conceding that a bitter rival has bested you in fair competition. However, that is not the be-all and end-all of accountability.

Accountability is not only about owning up to what you say and do, but taking the punishment that comes as a result.

Sometimes this punishment comes in the form of a tongue-lashing, which can be harsh if delivered by an impassioned speaker. Sometimes the punishment comes in the form of having to live up to what you said you would do or could do. Sometimes the punishment comes in the form of losing points, as happened to me once in an extra-credit situation for a class.

Taking responsibility is usually pretty easy. Stating that yes, you were the speaker of this comment or that yes, you were the writer of this article usually involves nothing more than reiterating your views. You state that "what I said is what I believe" or "that action is in accordance with my beliefs." If it were not the case that you believed these things, then you probably would not have said or done them in the first place, so a reiteration of what you said is not too stressful. Even if the person asking you if that was indeed your position is opposed to it, you are not very likely to modify your views to fit their conception of the world with no chance that they will punish you.

As for the national component of the article, I'll pretend that I'm speaking to individual politicians. If you want

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to appease the American public by appearing belligerent and bellicose while at the same time appearing rational and cool-headed to foreign, particularly European governments, then you're going to appear irresponsible to one side or another.

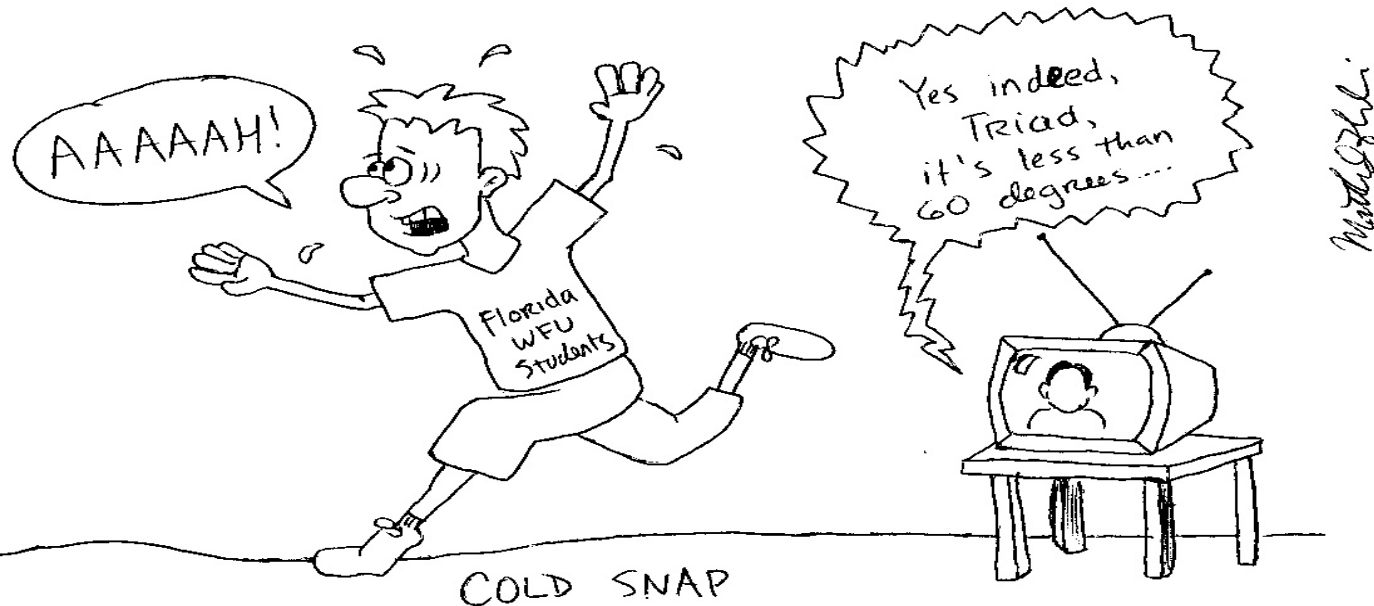
That's in part why I like the Republican rather than the Democratic politicians in Washington at this point. The quote in the *Winston Salem Journal* this morning read, "The world must confront this global menace, terrorism." President Bush, who uttered these words, is essentially saying that the rest of the world should get on board or let America deal with the situation, but they cannot simply sit back and allow terrorism anywhere to pass under the radar.

To say that terrorism doesn't matter because it happens in Indonesia is foolish when you consider the number of foreign citizens who were injured or killed, including three Americans. To say that the terrorists are misunderstood is to trivialize the threat they pose and invite more attacks, because to state that when they kill people implies that one way they can come to be understood is by killing more people.

President Bush did not leave that up to debate. He stated, as he has before and will again, that terrorism is a global issue, and that the United States is going to deal with it as such. This is why the U.S. is considering going into Iraq with or without support from other countries. This is why the U.S. is taking a position against some states in the Middle East. Whether you agree or disagree with his ideas, Mr. Bush is standing up for what he thinks is right, and part of that is being responsible for what he says and what that implies that he will do.

Obviously this column stems from something, otherwise how would I pick this topic? Earlier in the article, if you even read this far, you probably asked yourself, "What's his problem?" and I'm going to leave that unsaid. Suffice it to say that I have a newfound respect for people who are willing to take responsibility for aspects of their lives both on an interpersonal level and on a grand rhetorical level. Responsibility does not mean never having to say you're sorry, but it does mean never having to say you're sorry without meaning it first.

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# U.S. exhausted all other options; time to act against Iraq is now

U.S. must act immediately with military strikes against Iraq to prevent a greater world crisis.

It is deplorable that existing terrorist networks have been able to cause the destruction and deaths that America has tragically experienced, but it is even more appalling that so many of our nation's leaders are ignoring the imminent threat of the terrorist state Iraq. The question should not be, "Why attack now?" but, instead, "Why wait?"

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Why should we wait until Saddam goes public with his weapons of mass destruction (WMD) capabilities? We should instead use reason and history to recognize the potential catastrophe that awaits delayed action. We must act before the world's most loathsome ruler gets a hold of the world's most dangerous weapons.

Critics incessantly argue we should use war as a last resort. The reality, however, is that the only option left is the last resort. For the past decade, all non-military options have been exhausted: 16 U.N. resolutions have been violated. Saddam continues to research WMD and shoot at American jets patrolling the no-fly zone. It is time to understand that the only solution to stopping this egomaniac is through the use of power.

Saddam's former, longtime top bomb maker identified more than 400 nuclear sites in Iraq; sites hidden in farmhouses, schools, hospitals, and mosques – a number that doesn't include the chemical and biological weapons laboratories that U.S. intelligence knows exist. It is unfortunate, but inspections and deterrence are not effective means of protecting us from Saddam. Even if we rely on deterrence, Saddam could still share WMD and secrets with terrorist networks, a process that would legitimately be as difficult to trace as last fall's anthrax attacks.

Critics also argue that we should not engage Iraq until al-Qaeda is totally defeated, while ignoring the fact that Saddam poses the top threat to American security. The fact is terrorist networks cannot survive without terrorist states. While al-Qaeda still constitutes a threat to our security, Iraq's assets, such as billions of revenue dollars, WMD labs, and diplomatic immunity, pose an even greater threat to the lives of American citizens and the international community.

During World War II, Roosevelt and Churchill recognized the massive power and threat of Germany, but Americans were reluctant to fight Hitler until he declared war on the United States. Germany, not Japan, was dangerously close to developing an atomic bomb, as well as more advanced jet fighters and ballistic missiles; and yet, America's delayed entry into war with Germany almost provided Hitler with enough time to develop such destructive capabilities. Presently, our military is far superior to Iraq's, but our insistence on again ignoring such a threat provides Iraq with the one asset Saddam has that we don't: time.

Additionally, some insist that we are not

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warranted in taking action without support from the United Nations. Such an argument is a fallacy and implies that the U.N. exists on a superior level than the individual nation-state. The truth, on the contrary, is that the U.N. is an instrument of the nation-state rather than a "super-legislature" of the world.

The creation of the U.N. Security Council was specifically designed to prevent such an evolution of the organization. The U.N. provides a beneficial forum for nations to discuss and implement treaties that will establish international law, but does not provide a supreme governing body.

For example, a present threat to international security is the idea of China invading Taiwan. If China decided to take such action, the U.N. would essentially be powerless to act against such aggression. In accordance with the reasoning behind objections to U.S. action without the U.N., China (as a permanent member of the Security Council) could veto any U.N. resolution, and its aggression would be legitimate because the U.N. would therefore not object to such action. Relying on a body that operates under such a faulty basis of legitimacy is troubling to

me, and should be to all Americans.

Another problem with the U.S. delaying action merely because of a lack of U.N. and international support is that it allows our government to ignore its obligation to maintain the security and voice of the people. As Americans and champions of democracy, we should find it troubling that some of our "leaders" would allow totalitarian dictators to have a bearing on the security of our democracy while ignoring their own obvious and despicable violations. Why should we surrender our safety and democratic values to rulers like Moammar Khadafi and Jiang Zemin?

Delaying action against Saddam and relying on international permission toys with the eventual fate of all Americans. Before WWII, the international community ignored Hitler's violations of the Versailles Treaty, allowing him to re-build the German military and embark upon the most horrific war and human rights violations the world has ever seen. Today, we have an opportunity to learn from history and prevent it from repeating.

Action against Iraq is necessary and warranted, even without the support of the U.N. Our country's duty is not to be a pawn of the international community, but rather to protect the security of its citizens above all else. Allowing hollow hope to triumph over experience will lead to a more terrifying world in the future against an all too perilous foe. Iraq's threat is one that has the capacity of increasing the capabilities of al-Qaeda and others exponentially. Removal of Saddam from power is a mandatory extension of the War on Terrorism.

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