

MUGWUMP

by Lynne Wanyeki

The Gulf War began on Wednesday night with an American (Sorry, Allied) attack on Baghdad... Ostensibly, the "liberation of Kuwait", to use President Bush's words, has begun. Whether Kuwait was really "liberated" before the Iraqi invasion is another matter. I don't know, it seems to me that any little Shiekdom whose constitutional representation has been thrown by the wayside years ago isn't really "liberated"... but I'm forgetting that Bush's "army of peace loving nations" doesn't choose to interfere in domestic affairs ... But then again, sometimes it does -- witness Panama. I'm so bloody sick of everybody's double standards.

The classical dilemma of ethics exemplified: We shouldn't in theory, but in reality we will. For every rule, there are exceptions. Etc., etc.

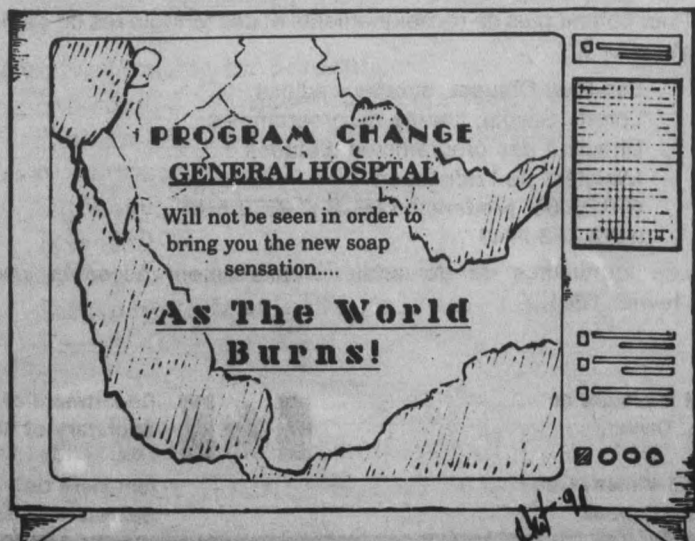
Excuse me for rambling, but this whole affair weighs me down immeasurably. Especially when I hear western reporters in Baghdad going on about how "exciting" it is to be there at this "historical moment". Especially when I walk home and overhear passer-bys saying "I guess we're at war! Yeah, pretty cool, eh?" Especially when I hear reports of bombing strikes that have achieved their targets, i.e. "strategic locations" with no mention made of the many people who have died, who are dying, who are going to die. I think it's too easy for us to sit back in our comfortable armchairs, flick on the TV with our remote controls, make comments throughout the viewing on strategy, and yet completely miss the human side of things. Reporters collect their Brownie points, world leaders build up their sombre prestige with long-winded rhetorical speeches, and the world goes round and round ...

(I must be fair, though, and commend all the reporters who remained in Baghdad, who are getting news through to us, despite the incredible tension that they must be under.)

On campus this weekend ... talks on Native awareness continue until Saturday up at St. Thomas; UJAMAA plays at the Social Club Friday night; the Arts Cabaret runs until Saturday night; and the Malaysian Students Society holds its annual dinner and show on Saturday night.

Notice: next Friday, the *Brunswickan* is putting out a supplement on Women's Issues. I really need ideas, articles and help from all interested students. Please contact me either by coming down to Room 35 in the SUB or by calling 453-4983.

P.S. This wins the prize for the most pathetic quote so far (overheard by our News Editor from the mouth of a woman walking by our office): "If this war doesn't end soon I'm going to kill Saddam Hussein myself so I can get to watch my Soap Operas again..."



OPINION

Question:

Should Canadian troops be involved in a war in the Gulf?



Dawn Marie-Mackenzie Nursing 2,

No, I don't think the Canadians should be there because it doesn't affect us directly although it will affect our oil prices. But it doesn't affect us directly enough to lose Canadian lives.



Liane Couplier BA 4,

No, I don't think Canada has the equipment or the facilities to help any matter in anyway.



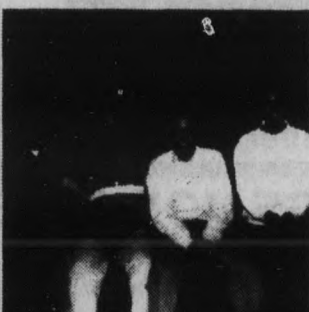
Karen Geldart BA 4,

No, I don't think they should. I think they should realize their capacity is more as peacekeepers, not really aggressors.



Frank Findlay CS 4,

Yes, I think they should be involved defensively for the medical ships. I don't think they should be attacking. As for the American's what they are doing now is right.



Richard Phil 3,

No, because Canadian foreign policy has been one of moderation. One which has been behind the scenes. So why not keep it that way?

Peter Business 1,

No, I think they should worry about the economy at home and the depression right now, more than external affairs.

Andrew Engineering 1,

No, I think the consequences will be devastating on the future - like terrorism.



Kevin Engineering 4, (no photo)

Yes, we are part of the UN. If Canada is going to be in the UN umbrella they must be able and willing to do what the UN calls upon them to do.



Neil BSC (CS) 1.

Yes, more reasons for fighting than just oil. Also an issue of one power arbitrarily taking over a country like Kuwait. Reason for fighting is also to come to the rescue of a smaller country.



Darlene Craig BA 1.

No, because I don't feel it really is any of our business. But, yes, because the UN has said there should be war, so we should have the UN in case we get attacked one day.

Aynsle Morrison BA 2,

Yes, a lot of innocent people are being killed, I don't think that is right.



Norm Wallace BBA 2,

Now that we are already over there, it is kind of late to back out now. I think Canada is going to lose a lot of respect, because for years we had a lot of respect as being peace-makers of the world. Personally, I don't think we should have gotten involved in the first place. I think we should have stayed out of it. Instead, go in after the shooting is all over and do our job, as we have been doing for the last 30 years, as peace makers. Now we won't be able to do that.



Sandra Comeau BA 1,

I really don't think we should be involved because we always have been a country that supposed to be at peace, and there is really no reason why we should be involved. The US seems to a larger army than we are, so why not let them handle it? They seem to be taking quite a control in it.