

# OP-ED

## VOICE FROM HELL...

Robert Caton  
Capital Times Staff

Before I even get started on this years drivel, I just wanted to explain the absence of this column from the last issue of the *Cap Times*...I'm a lazy slob who can't remember the date. Fair enough?

I also have a disclaimer before I start. This episode will concern your friends and theirs, the Iraqis, and as such, it will contain absolutely NO redeeming characteristics whatsoever. This will be an exercise in foreigner-bashing, intolerance, and general bitching and moaning. What I'm trying to get across here, campers, is don't worry about saving up pennies to send this to Pulitzer, 'kay?

At first, one can almost rationalize the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. After all, Iraq owed the Kuwaitis hundreds of millions of dollars (or dates or curry powder, or whatever they happen to use for money over there) for loans taken out to finance Iraq's war with Iran. Iraq couldn't pay that debt and still have money to buy Saddam Hussein pink chiffon dresses and Doris Day CDs, so Iraq took the time-honored method of settling disputes...wanton killing.

But, on the other hand...let a few thousand of our homeless land in Kuwait city and see the shieks with gold Rolls-Royces for every day of the week, and you would see an all-out assault that would make an Iraqi tank force look like disgruntled K-Mart shoppers after the blue light goes out.

Anyway, since Kuwait sells us oil, we are obligated to make all kinds of official condemnations, which have about as much effect as if we told trees not to grow, or the Yankees not to suck. We could get along quite nicely without Kuwait, but we need the Saudis (more oil, natch...you don't think that King Fahid is REALLY George's pal, do you?). Because of this, a hundred thousand of us have to go play soldier in the biggest litter box on Earth.

Our problem is, a thousand years ago, when we decided that the Persian Gulf area was the most unfit for mini-malls real estate on the planet, we never figured that all the dinosaurs had the bad judgment to rot and turn into oil in the same place. Had we had the slightest inkling of what was to come, we could have told the Muslims that their "holy

land" was in a truly worthless place...North Dakota comes to mind.

Now, American soldiers have always had to do the truly rancid babysitting jobs all around the world (Korea, etc...) but we never had a true free-thinker like Hussein to deal with. Never did a schmuck like this say the words "chemical weapons"...and mean it. Chemical weapons are not fun things...coughing your lungs up on some blighted wasteland so that Cadillac can still make cars that get 3 m.p.g. is not a fair trade in my book. We need to let Hussein know that if he so much as cuts the cheese in the direction of our troops that we will insure that all of Baghdad will fit into a Hefty "cinch-Sack" when it's all over.

I sound like a real warrior, eh? Well...I'm quite the hypocrite, because the first draft letter I get, I'm sawing off my toes and skipping to Toronto singing "When you wish upon a star" the whole way.

The problem is, we are missing the boat on the best solution of all.

Re-arm Germany, and tell them that the Iraqis said that Wienerschnitzel tastes

like roadkill, or that the French could kick their Nazi butts in a re-match! Before you know it, the panzer divisions would be rolling down the autobahn! Just don't let them discuss the subject of Israel, or we could be in truly serious trouble.

The true advantage of this would not be in American lives saved, but rather in the fact that in 2010 we would not have to watch incessant "Iraqi War-era Movies" featuring Charlie Sheen as the General, Tom Cruise as the embittered sergeant, and Michael J. Fox (who STILL looks like he should be in high school) as the fresh-faced kid in "The Camel Rides At Dawn"...featuring such great music of the era like Milli Vanilli and Warrant. Watch our boys go into battle crying "Cowabunga Dudes!"

Having the Germans stomp the future convenience store attendants into the ground would save us, at least, from this anguish.

Well, I think that pretty much sums up my plan for saving the Earth from Hussein...how about yours?

## FROM CRISIS TO DIPLOMACY

Aji Abraham  
Capital Times Staff

Many people feel the U.S. should not be taking such an active interest in the Middle East. They feel Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is something we shouldn't have concerned ourselves with. Most people holding this point of view think the main reason we are interested in the Middle East is because of their oil. They are afraid that the U.S. is getting involved in something that is not our concern--at least not in their opinion.

This view of the situation is incorrect for several reasons. First, for those who say the invasion is not our concern I would mention that similar statements were made about Hitler's initial military actions. Perhaps World War II could have been avoided if we had taken action sooner.

In the current situation Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. He then proceeded to send troops to the Kuwaiti-Saudi border. If we had not taken quick action and sent troops to defend that border perhaps Hussein would have invaded Saudi Arabia as well. It should be noted that Iraq's forces are not only significantly larger than the forces of most surrounding countries but their army is also combat experienced. Without our intervention Iraq could

have overwhelmed Saudi Arabia.

For those that think the only reason we are involved in the situation is to lower the price of oil, consider this fact. The cost of the maneuvers in the Middle East at last count was running in the billions of dollars. I don't think President Bush would spend several billion dollars of our tax monies solely to save us several million at the gas pumps.

The situation in the Middle East is something we should all be concerned about. In today's global market, any happening that has a dramatic effect in one portion of the world is bound to have repercussions all over the world. The recent fluctuations of the stock market due to the Middle East crisis should be evidence enough of that.

The Presidents actions during this situation were in the best interest of not only the average U.S. citizen, but also the entire world. The blockade and embargo of Iraq seems to be working. Reports from Iraq tell of shortages and rationing of food and supplies. Additionally, Hussein is rapidly running out of military options. Thus he may be forced into relying on a diplomatic solution to the situation which is precisely what everyone is hoping for.

### LOST:

An eleven year-old blue point Siamese named Sha Na wandered off from the Village of Pineford area. Any sightings or information call Greg at 944-0888.

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### EIT Review:

The first meeting of this year's EIT review classes will be on Wed., Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 128 of the Science and Technology Building. Any interested engineering technology seniors should plan on attending to set up the schedule and talk about cost and requirements. If any problems occur consult Dr. Dideban in W262.

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### Student Discount:

Pearle Vision Express in the Harrisburg East Mall is offering a %15 discount (exclusive of all other offers) to all students and faculty with a current Penn State I.D. card.

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### Poetry Contest:

The American Poetry Association is sponsoring a poetry contest. Deadline for entry is Sept. 30.

The Grand Prize is \$1,000, First Prize \$500, and 152 prizes worth \$11,000.

Poets should send one original poem, no more than twenty lines, name and address at the top of the page, to American Poetry Association, Dept. CO-84, 250-A Potrero St., P.O. Box 1803, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

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### Lecture Series Begins:

Thomas Sowell will open the 1990-91 PSH Lecture Series Thurs., Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. in the Capital Union Building.

Sowell, a senior fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, has written extensively on economics, social decision-making, and ethnicity.

He served as an economist at the U.S. Department of Labor and worked as and economic analyst for AT&T.

Sowell has specialized in the history of economic thought, social theory, and public policy toward low-income racial and ethnic groups.

He earned his degrees in economics: B.A. from Harvard University(1958), M.A. from Columbia University(1959), and Ph.D from the University of Chicago(1968).

Sowell has taught at Douglass College of Rutgers University, Howard University, Cornell University, Brandeis University, Amherst College, and UCLA.

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### Business Advisor:

Chris Zimmerman has been hired to advise undergraduates and graduates in the School of Business Administration. His office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 1-6PM, and Tuesday 2:30-7:30 PM in room E356. Call for an appointment 948-6139 (undergrads) or 948-6140 (grads). If urgent, you may stop by his office without an appointment.