



Dear Editors:

Life, being as it is, often demands that we focus our attention upon every-day survival. Challenging the status quo, moving the end zone marker or simply raising your voice to be counted upon for the less-than-desirable assignment are often not the norm. We are, after all, more than busy in our day-to-day minutia. Yet, railing against the norm appears to be exactly what you and your staff have done. I write of your wonderful achievement in giving The Capital Times the life it so richly deserves.

I remember this publication when it was as commonplace as a sheet of paper. Lackluster appearance, boorish topics, predictable rantings, the student publication was merely an instrument. Exactly for what or for whom at that time I imagine we could argue until the beer truck runs dry.

You have changed it all.

The clean typeface, the crisp layout, the overall quality . . . as the saying goes, "It's all good." Yet, I must take note that this vast improvement did not come easily. I know you worked extremely hard to refine this publication. I saw your effort first-hand. I listened to your frustrations and witnessed the circles under your eyes on more than one occasion. Still, you braved the torrent of apathy and continued ever forward.

Your stories have focused on student concerns and, when needed, opened the political vein of this campus in order to show the true color of the collective's blood. You have championed the causes, cajoled the fools and brutishly waived the red cloth in the face of more than one bull. Through it all, you never lost sight of your mission or your sense of humor.

Through it all, you have maintained a sense of dignity, compassion and common sense. Through it all, it also seems you never received the accolade you so richly deserve.

Before you leave us, know, however, that you do not go silently into that good night. While you may pursue your dreams elsewhere, you leave this campus with the crescendo of your orchestration. I may not speak for students or faculty, but I—for one—am proud of what you have made of this publication.

It's not much of an accolade, but I offer what is in my power to give.  
THANK YOU.

Sincerely,  
J. Michael Sheldon



Will the war with Iraq be a moral war? The answer is no. There is no morality involved. The war we fight with Iraq will be due to a simple collision of interests. We do not want Iraq to have nuclear weapons because that will mean we have to negotiate with Iraq on equal terms.

We are not going to Iraq to save its people. If the people of Iraq were of primary concern we would have ended the sanctions many years ago. The sanctions on Iraq have only hurt the civilians. The sanctions have also hurt the United States. We pride ourselves as champions of the people, trying to do more good than harm. But the continued sanctioning has not had the desired effect. They should have ended a long time ago and an alternate course of action should have been planned.

We are not going to Iraq to defend democracy. We, in fact, often do not defend democracy, or the will of the people. In Iran, we upheld the Shah's rule, which was a brutal dictatorship. In Afghanistan, we aided the Taliban against the Russians. The point? We aid the regimes that better serve our purposes first, whatever that regime may be.

The only principles of Life, Liberty, and Property we are defending are our own. But possibly, this is how it should be. I want the United States government to look out for my well being, and the well being of my friends and family. But let us not hide behind false convictions.

If we want to champion democracy, then we must champion democracy. Even if a democracy is less favorable to our interests than another regime we must support it.

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