



Protesters against the War in Iraq are hypocritical and ignorant of civilian conditions under Hussein

Put down the picket sign demonstrators because you're not picking up any gasoline tabs for anyone. We all know what this impending war is about: business deals and oil. It is just as much the protester's fault as it is pro-war individuals. Are the protesters driving around in hydrogen based cars? Are they giving ANYTHING for the development of such technology? No, such funds are from OUR taxes. Protesters against this war are probably owners of SUVs and are the first to crank the air conditioner if it's above 80. If anybody wanted to correctly protest this war they would be walking to Washington D.C. instead of taking the most significant form of pollution; the luxury bus. I hope they enjoy the movie on the way because I'm dying from the bus exhaust. Hey, at least they're going to a peace protest in comfort.

Also, I'm sure the people of Iraq love living under the control of a madman that practices routine maneuvers with biological gases within his own country. Call me crazy, but isn't that what Hitler did during the Holocaust? Individuals who do not think liberation of this country is warranted should be deported and forced to live there, for a period no less than two years, then asked, "did you ever take your freedom for granted?"

Also, it has been said for decades and if you still don't know it, the French are A\$\$holes.

Controversially,

The Devil's Advocate

Editor's Note: The views expressed by the Devil's Advocate do not in any way represent the views of The Capital Times, any member of its staff, or Penn State Harrisburg. They are published in the hopes of spurring healthy debate on topics that can't be openly discussed in other publications.

Responses to last issue's topic

To the Devil's Advocate:

Why do we need Black History Month?

- Because Dr. Martin Luther King had a dream that is yet to come to pass
- Because there was a time when African Americans and other peoples of African descent were classified as a race that had not made any contributions to human civilization.
- Because there are still people like Professor John Burgess, of Columbia University, an important figure in American scholarship, who defined the African race as "a race of men which has never created any civilization of any kind..."
- Because it took the struggles of Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson and his search for the truth to neutralize the apparent ignorance and deliberate distortion of Black History.
- Because behavior may be controlled by laws but attitudes can only change through education and the elimination of ignorance.
- Because Racism is built on ignorance. Education trumps ignorance and helps eliminate prejudice.
- Because even with the yearly observance of Black History Month since 1976, educators are yet to expand black history into greater, more inclusive American narrative.
- Because in the year 2003, we still see news headlines that say "... the first African American to..."
- Because I, a young black woman, just learned yesterday that there was a time in New Orleans (at a park that has actually now been reduced to a square), slave-drummers hands were **amputated** just to prevent them from playing the drums.

Of course many people don't have much use for the annual staging of "Black History Month." It does not seem to contribute to a broader understanding or acknowledgement of African-Americans' widespread contributions to this country. Yes, people are sick and tired of the once a month celebration, pack full with repetitive old movies on TV. What is needed is the integration of black history into American history.

But in the mean time, till we reach that goal, black history should and will continue to be celebrated.

I believe strongly that Black History Month should be the reaffirmation of struggle and determination to change attitudes and heighten the understanding of the African experience. Knowledge can come only if black history is properly taught as part and parcel of American history.

And in response to other ethnic groups not having a month set aside for them:

- March is Women's History Month
- May is Asian/ Pacific American Heritage Month
- September is National Hispanic Heritage Month
- November is American Indian Heritage Month

The Holocaust did not happen here in the U.S., and we all celebrate Cinco de Mayo (to an extent), even though the battle had nothing to do with the U.S.

-Olubukola Adeoye

To the Devil's Advocate:

I happen to agree with you, wholeheartedly, but from a different stance than you seem to be taking. Our country's population is made of an incredible mix of different nationalities and ethnicities, but yet we seem to only educate and publicly celebrate a few. I see two answers to this. One, get rid of all racial and ethnic education. We are all Americans and should only learn about American history and tradition. Personally, I don't care for this option.

The other possibility is to expand our cultural expectations further. We have twelve months and 52 weeks in each year. Why not use each month or week to explore and celebrate all the various nationalities and ethnicities blended in our culture? I have great grandparents listed on the Wall of Immigration in New York city. Now, while I check off the answers of "Caucasian" and "American" on my questionnaires, I am also Jewish, German, and Austrian.

While I would never support a campaign to educate the public *less*, I would certainly argue that having only a Black History Month seems, as you said, counterproductive. In my opinion recognizing the many generations of immigration in our country would broaden the public's view of themselves as belonging to a world of people, not just a country. Who knows, maybe we can work on world peace after all.

Anonymous Student

If you wish to respond to the Devil's Advocate, or a student's response to the Devil's Advocate, e-mail your responses to capltimes@psu.edu. Please keep all responses in letter form.