

Did This Man Start the Gulf War?

by Angela Deal

Who would imagine that the warfare the United States of America is engaged in today with the Middle East is the result of one man's passion and ultimate persuasion?

According to Phillip Knightly, T.E. Lawrence is the man to blame. ("Desert Warriors: Why are We in Saudi Arabia? Blame it on Lawrence", *M inc.-The Civilized Man*).

Lawrence, a young Englishman, had

always had a desire to research military architectures in the Middle East. In approximately 1909, he traveled to Syria, where he had planned on doing research for his thesis, and became fascinated with the Arab culture.

Walking one thousand miles across the Syria desert, Lawrence experienced Arab life-styles and was impressed greatly by the people, their needs, and their land.

Subsequently, he met Emir Feisal. "I felt at first glance that this was the man I had come to Arabia to seek- the leader who would bring the Arab Revolt (1916) to full glory." (Mack, *A Prince of Our Disorder: The Life of T.E. Lawrence*, p. 147).

Lawrence, Emir's liaison, used his abilities and talents and united Arab tribes into "formidable guerrilla forces". They were successful. "If the war had not ended and the politicians had not betrayed him, the story went, Lawrence might well have conquered Constantinople with half the tribes of Asia Minor at his side."

Apparently, however, there was some

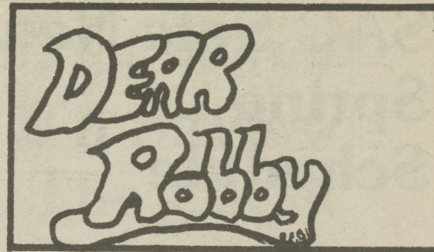
confusion as to Lawrence's purpose. Whom did Lawrence represent?

Feisal thought he represented him; he thought he was there to ensure the freedom and self-government the British were promising them. In contrast, the British Foreign Office thought he was there to appease Feisal after he learned the truth about Britain and France's plan to divide the Middle East between them. Britain's India office thought Lawrence was trying to frustrate their plan to make Iraq a province of India.

Lawrence, however, secured his own "notions", hoping for a compromise between the Arabs and Britain, in which the Arabs would live in self-government under the British King Emperor.

By this time everyone, including Germany, had their own plans for the Middle East.

In the beginning of the First World War (August 1914), which is when the British began making promises to the Arabs, it was understood that these promises would be



Dear Robby,

For the past couple of weeks I have been dating two guys who didn't know about each other until recently. One of the two guys was at my house with me watching a movie when the other guy stopped in to surprise me. A shouting match erupted and both men stormed off. I'm afraid both men are going to make me choose between them. I'm attracted to both men in different ways. Man A is sensitive and nice, and I'm just physically attracted to Man B. What should I do?

Confused

Dear Confused,

The first thing you should do is find out how both men feel about what they found out. Chances are they are going to say, "Him or me: it's your choice!"

Once this is heard from either one of the two gentlemen, then you must decide between the two or you will lose them both.

Here are some questions that you can ask yourself to make it an easier decision: Who do you get along with the easiest? Which one do you have the most fun with? Which one of the two guys is really being honest with you about his feelings for you? Which one can you tell your problems to? Who listens to these problems? Which one do you feel the most comfortable talking to? Who is willing to go out of his way to help you? Which one of the two guys has an availability that compares to yours? Which one is better looking? Who took you to his house and introduced you to his family? Most important: Which one do you like the more?

Remember, whatever you decide you must live with!

Robby

(Look for the Dear Robby Question Box Coming to the cafeteria soon!)

DIAL 1-900 SCAM

by Jennifer Darr

Well, the new year has begun and 1990 is long gone. However, quite a few memorable things happened last year. One thing I found especially interesting was how many of those 900 numbers popped up on my television screen and everywhere else. I think all of us have seen one of those advertisements at least once.

According to George Weigel of the Patriot News, among 900 number schemes consumers saw in 1990 were:

- Offers promising low-income or bankrupt consumers credit cards. Only after paying \$20 to \$50 in 900 charges do the callers learn that the cards are only good on merchandise bought through the promoters catalog.

- Trivia contests in which callers are enticed to keep calling back to advance through qualifying rounds. One disabled man from York racked up \$8300 in charges to one contest and got nothing in return- despite being led to believe that he was the high scorer for sixty straight days.

- Prize offers. One typical scam, which federal officials closed down in the fall of last year, involved postcards promising a Mercedes-Benz, a Hawaiian vacation for two, or a full length mink coat. All the consumers had to do was call a 900 number to claim the prize. For the \$9.90 cost of the call, almost everyone got a certificate for three nights in a Hawaiian hotel - if they first put up a \$150 refundable deposit (I actually received one of these postcards!).

- Offers to help find consumers government jobs. For a \$20 charge, all callers to one service got was a list of government offices - information that is free in any phone book.

Con artists realized that thanks to 900 service, they no longer had to convince naive consumers to send a check or give out their credit card numbers. All they had to do was entice them enough to get them to call. Local phone companies handle the billing and turn the money over to the promoters. Even worse, the promoters are free to set the cost of the call.

Another variation of the 900 number industry that disturbed me is the "date-lines". The commercials consist of young women pretending to be on the phone to other customers and they say "call me, I'll be waiting." At the bottom of your screen if you look really close, you'll see "Only \$3.99 for the first minute, \$1.99 each additional." Now that is a rip-off if I've ever seen one! Sometimes five or six of those commercials air in a row.

Fortunately, law enforcers pulled the plug on quite a few of these scams. But new ones popped up just as fast. What can you say? This is America!

Is Dr. King's Dream Dead?

by David Clements, Jr.

Has anyone seen my friend, Dr. King? Or is his dream dead? Or is his light going out?

The answer to all these questions is no, but we need to look at ourselves and ask ourselves, "Am I doing all I can do to keep the Dream alive?"

I am asking this question of all people, regardless of color, sex, or religion because there will always be someone on this planet trying to hinder you regardless of what your skin color might be.

In preparing this article, I went through Dr. King's speech "I Have A Dream." I went through his speech very carefully to see if all or at least a part of his dream had come true or is in the process of coming true.

And I can truly say that the best parts of his dream are not coming true. For example, African-Americans are still languishing in the corners of American society, kept there by people who just do not want them, or anybody, to get anywhere in this world through education, job placement, homes, and so forth.

Also, in Dr. King's Dream he had a vision that little black boys and girls would be able to join hands with little white boys and girls as sisters and brothers. He wanted all to be able to — not some, but all.

Well, as we all know, that is not happening everywhere you go because there are still people out there who are telling their children that African-Americans are stupid and dirty, thieves, murderers, whores, pimps, and other things that we have been labeled since we were on the slave ships.

These people do not want their children to stand too close to us, let alone hold our hands, for some of those labels might rub off on them.

With that kind of attitude, though, their children are the ones who will be bound, not the African-American children because the others will be missing out on the very good culture and heritage that the African-Americans have.

Then we have those who like to recite the line, "When are they going to find some rest and tranquility?" The answer is that we will find some rest and tranquility as soon as we can get fair housing, better job placement, and better education: you know, the things that keep you restful and tranquil.

Some think that we have been granted our FULL citizenship rights. Some think because they give us what they want us to have (not too much) we should be happy just

because it was given to us. Well, we thank them for the little they have given us, but, remember, African-Americans broke their backs for this country so others could have some of what they have now. And we are striving every day to get it on our own!

I'm not saying Dr. King's dream is not coming true; it's just taking a while to come into full bloom. And if it does not start to gain some vitality, I will be dead and sleeping in my grave and visiting Dr. King in heaven, and the dream will still be a dream.

Right now, everytime I sing or hear that line from the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last," I think, as I am thinking now, God, when will we all be free at last?

It is time now for us all to get on one accord and do our parts to keep the dream alive and keep the light shining. Then, maybe, just maybe, we will ALL see my old friend, Dr. King! Peace.

THE LION'S EYE

Vol. XXII, No. 6

The Pennsylvania State University
Delaware County Campus

February, 1991

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The LION'S EYE is published Monthly during the academic year by the students of the Delaware County Campus.

Submissions are welcome from all students, faculty and staff. Material must be typed, double spaced, and submitted in the LION'S EYE mailbox located in room 115 main building.

Letters, articles and cartoons represent only the views of their authors.

Advertisements do not necessarily reflect editorial opinion.

THE LION'S EYE regrets it cannot guarantee the return of any material submitted.

All submissions are subject to editing.