

Editorial

Secret war

Our country is at war, and whether you agree with President Bush's decision or not, all of our lives have been affected. If you have seen television lately, you probably watched the news or some special on the war in the Gulf.

The media has constantly been updating the situation and gathering insights and opinions from various experts on the Middle East to keep us informed.

All of this coverage has brought the war into our living rooms via television each evening with frightening details. It would seem that the American public has all the information it needs to decide how it feels about the war. Or does it?

Unfortunately, we are not being told the whole story. It's not journalists who are withholding information from the public, but the military.

For the first time during any war, the United States military is censoring what the media can report to the public.

In no other war has the military dared to revoke the First Amendment rights, until now. Not during the World Wars, not during the Korean War, not even during Vietnam.

Perhaps it was Vietnam that determined the military's decision towards media coverage in the Gulf. The military must fear that if the American public was completely informed, that public support of the war would turn sour, just like it did during Vietnam.

But the military does not have the right to withhold information from the people of this country. As Americans, we have the right to be given all the facts in order to make up our minds.

After all, the military's function is to protect our country and our country's interests. And who is better qualified to determine America's interests than Americans themselves?

Opinion/Editorial



The Collegian

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The Collegian's editorial opinion is determined by the editorial staff, with the editor holding final responsibility. Opinions expressed in *The Collegian* are not necessarily those of *The Collegian* or the Pennsylvania State University.

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Letter to the Editor

Phoebe studys abroad

Hi everyone! I'm doing fine over here in Germany. Things are a little tense though since the war started. There are constantly demonstrations, which aren't only anti-war, but also anti-American, so I try to stay away from them pretty much. Someone told me that just to be safe if anyone asks me where I'm from, tell them Canada.

The weather is awful. It doesn't really snow here, it's just cold, windy and rainy all the time. The city itself is

beautiful. It's right on the Rhine. I've been traveling quite a bit already. Most of the cities are half really old (pre-war) and half really modern (post-war), all mixed together. It's really nice.

If anyone wants to write I'd love to hear from you. My address is:

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Ed. Note: Phoebe Bonfardine is participating in Penn State's Study Abroad program this semester. Anyone interested in learning more about this program should contact Mari Trenkle in the Glenhill Farmhouse at 898-6160.