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 determined America's interests than Americans themselves?

Collegian The

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Editor Todd J. Irwin Office Manager

Business Manager Christie Redmond

David Mahoney Advisor Dr. Mike Simmons

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> Senior Editor Robb Frederick

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Layout Editor Chris Kocott

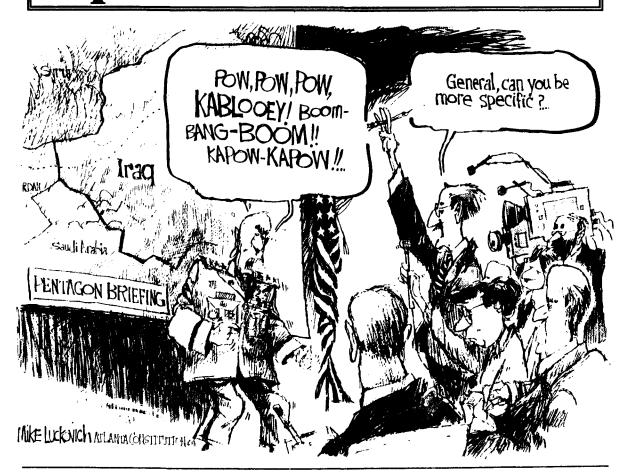
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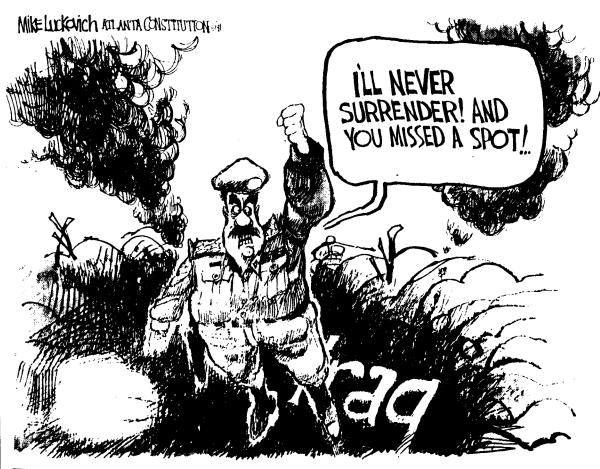
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The Collegian's editorial opinion Letter Policy: The Collegian is determined by the editorial staff, encourages letters on news with the editor holding final coverage, editorial content and persons. Letters should be no longer than 400 words. Letters should include the semester standing and major of the writer. All letters should provide the address and phone number of the writer for verification of the letter. The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters for length and to reject letters if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste. Letters should be submitted to The Collegian office no later than noon on Tuesday prior to the desired publication date.

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)pinion/Editorial





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 here from you. My address is:

> Phoebe Bonfardine c/o C. Potz Wormser Str.25 5000 Koln 1 Germany

Ed. Note: Phoebe Bonfardine 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.