

Spring 1-18-1991

Maine Campus January 18 1991

Maine Campus Staff

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mainecampus>

Repository Citation

Staff, Maine Campus, "Maine Campus January 18 1991" (1991). *Maine Campus Archives*. 4009.
<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mainecampus/4009>

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Campus Archives by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

The Maine Campus

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE NEWSPAPER SINCE 1875

Friday, January 18, 1991

Vol. 108 No. 1

UMaine responds to war

Students hold rally on Union steps; most support Bush initiatives

By Doug Vanderweide
Staff Writer

Despite the anti-war protest of several students on the steps of the Memorial Union, many students at the University of Maine said they support President George Bush's decision to launch Operation Desert Storm.

Most students interviewed by The Maine Campus said they believe war was inevitable, and that force needs to be used to resolve the crisis in the Middle East.

Several students organized a rally for peace on the steps of the Memorial Union Thursday morning, and Maine Peace Action Committee member Eihan Strimling said the protesters will remain in place throughout the conflict.

The number of people protesting at one time was only around 40, but Strimling said several people were shuffling in and out of the protests to attend classes.

Strimling said the protest was organized "to demonstrate to students that you can't have blind faith in the military machine ... there's a lot more going on than meets the eye."

Student Peter Gillingham said many people who happened by the rally joined in and began chanting with the protesters. He said many participants "feel they have to do something" about the crisis, and that people involved in the protest had differing reasons for protesting the war.

Both Strimling and Gillingham said that most students were neu-

tral towards the rally, and that no incidents of violence marked the event.

Senior Kevin Murphy, who watched the rally from about 20 feet away, said he believed the event to be "somewhat fruitless" and "kind of ridiculous."

"The only thing they're doing is making it impossible for us to go into the Union and get something to eat," he said.

Murphy said he "totally backs" the president's efforts in the gulf.

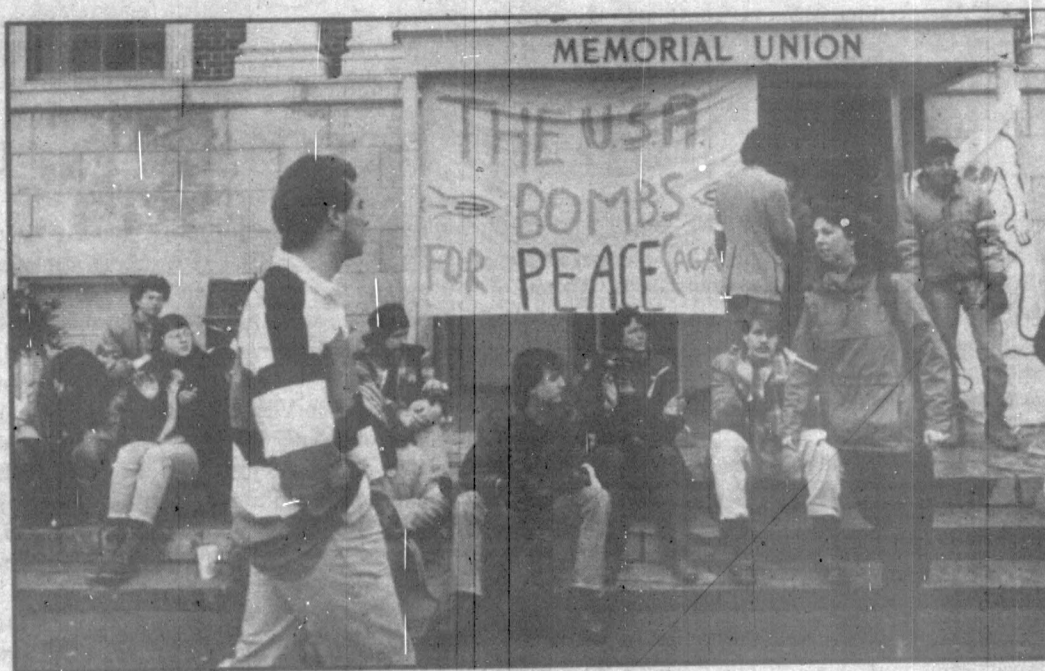
"Everybody has their own mind and can say what they want," was sophomore Dan Clement's response to the rally, although he believes "we should do what we are doing now to bring peace back to the area."

Like other students, Clement said American soldiers in the conflict "are all volunteers" and, as such, "they have a job to do and should do it."

Clement said he knows five former high-school classmates who are in the area.

Junior Myrna Smith said she sympathized with the protesters, because Iraq's invasion of Kuwait "is not our problem."

"I don't think the US should take all the responsibility," she said.



Students pass by a rally held in front of the Memorial Union despite beating drums and chanting loudly. The forty or so protesters failed to sway most students against the war. (Photo by John Baer)

"I'd like to get the troops home as soon as possible."

Sophomore Donna Fortin said she knows little about the conflict because, "I'm so busy ... I have other things to worry about."

"That may seem uncaring ... but my heart does go out to the people over there."

Fortin said she opposes the war.

"I guess what needs to be done is being done," first-year student Roman Brady said, adding he supports the war "as long as casualties are kept to a minimum."

First-year student Tracey Wagner said she supports the war, and that "if we're going to fight it, we should

get it over all at once."

Wagner, who says she has friends serving in Operation Desert Storm, agreed that the soldiers in the area have volunteered to perform their current mission and should carry out those orders.

Middle St. fire leaves 20 homeless

By Jennifer Crotty
Staff Writer

A pre-dawn fire at a Middle Street apartment house has left 20 University of Maine students homeless.

Orono and Veazie fire departments responded to the alarm at 4:14 Thursday morning.

The building, owned by Orono landlord and attorney Julio DeSanctis, had six or seven occupied apartments, according to Orono Fire Chief Robert Burke.

Burke said the fire began in a second floor apartment and smoke alarms woke the residents, five Sigma Chi alumni. When they were unable to get out through the door, they jumped from a window. A sixth roommate was out of the apartment at the time of the fire.

Sigma Chi president Jim Bosworth said one sustained a minor back injury.

The house was severely damaged on the upper right floor. The lower floor sustained smoke and water damage. Burke said none of the apartments are habitable.

State Fire Investigator Stuart Jacobs said the cause of the fire is unknown at this point, but that it was probably accidental.

Jacobs said a State Electrical Inspector will be examining evidence from the second floor

walls.

"We have to examine compliance with fire codes. Some code issues will have to be addressed," he said.

Burke said he thought the fire started in a kitchen, but because there was so much damage to the area, he could not be positive.

"I can't say for sure without a complete report," Burke said.

Most of the students are staying with family or friends. Some are staying in other buildings owned by DeSanctis.

Scott Anchors, Director of Residential Life at UMaine, offered to provide the students with living quarters on campus.

He said no one had requested help, and he is worried about the students. "I'm concerned they have a place to live and food. We can worry about the long term later," he said.

There are some spaces available in dorms or lounges, and Anchors said the students would be housed free of charge until they decide what they want to do. Anchors said ResLife living will be offered as an option.

The Sigma Chi members are staying at the fraternity house. Bosworth said they lost everything in the apartment and some are not sure if they will come back to school because of financial situations.

Burke said the fire department had not had any contact with DeSanctis since the fire.



Orono firefighters investigate a fire at 1 Middle St. early Thursday morning. (Photo by Scott LeClair)

Inside

More on Operation
Desert Storm,
pages 2-6

Sports page 7
Editorial page 4
Crossword page 6

This is a special
issue of the Maine
Campus due to
Operation Desert
Storm. We will
begin printing
regular issues on
Monday, Jan. 21.

Tel Aviv hit by Iraqi missiles

By Marcus Eliason
Associate Press Writer

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) - Missiles struck Israel early Friday, causing an undetermined number of casualties. Israelis were ordered into shelters and told to don gas masks for protection against Iraqi chemical weapons. Israel had said it would retaliate if attacked, but it was not immediately known whether a retaliatory strike had been launched. The United States has urged the Jewish state to stay out of the Persian Gulf War, fearing its entry would split the alliance against Iraq. Some American television networks had reported that Israel radio said Israel was retaliating, and that the attack included nerve

gas. An Associated Press reporter monitoring the radio said there was no such announcement. CNN said Pentagon officials in Washington reported that the missiles carried conventional weapons.

Pete Williams, the spokesman for U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, said, "There have been Scud launches into Israel. It's what we've been worried about all along."

A military source in Washington said 10 missiles were launched and eight landed, but no details were given on where they landed. All were launched from western Iraq, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Israeli officials in Washington said three missiles exploded in Tel Aviv. A hospital in

Tel Aviv said there were casualties, but did not elaborate.

Iraq had threatened to attack Israel if it were subjected to attack.

American television networks reported missile strikes in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa.

Air raid sirens were heard in both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem at about 2 a.m.

Israel Radio broadcast instructions to take precautions against gas, "due to a rocket attack on Israel."

About 45 minutes after the first explosion, Israel radio said people could remove their masks. A short time later, the announcer told people in Tel Aviv and Haifa to put them back on.

At one point, a distant rumble of planes could be heard over Jerusalem, but it was difficult to tell where the planes were flying to or from.

Israel had been under virtual curfew all Thursday in the aftermath of the U.S. attack on Iraq.

Residents were instructed to remain at home and keep their gas masks with them at all times.

Iraq had repeatedly threatened to fire on Israel if war broke out over the 5-month-old occupation of Kuwait.

The United States and allies sent war planes to attack Iraq because it refused to withdraw its soldiers from Kuwait.

Protests pop up across U.S. over Desert Storm

From Associated Press Reports

Bombs raining on Baghdad drew out thousands of protesters, and demonstrations continued today as Americans made public their support for or anger at the war. Some burned the flag, some clung to candles in prayer.

In Boston this morning, police scuffled with some of about 400 protesters who tried to block the entrance to the John F. Kennedy building. An estimated 80 helmeted police carrying nightsticks surrounded the building, allowing only federal employees inside.

"An opposition to war that existed before the war begins must double after the war has begun," said Boston University professor and peace activist Howard Zinn.

In San Francisco, more than 1,000 protesters massed at the Federal Building before dawn. One person was quickly arrested as ranks of police in riot gear faced the restless, mostly young crowd. There were reports of

scuffles between demonstrators and workers attempting to get inside.

Chants of "No war, no way, don't go to work today" echoed in the plaza. One man carried a sign reading, "Your kinder, gentler president is now at war."

San Francisco and New York each had unruly demonstrations of about 5,000 people Wednesday night, with crowds lighting bonfires, marching, chanting and carrying protest signs declaring "War Gives Us Gas Pains."

Demonstrators near the White House pushed against a line of mounted U.S. Park Police, who clubbed at least two protesters. That prompted a few protesters to throw rocks and bottles at the police. No one was treated for injuries; 14 people were arrested.

About 100 people at Ohio State University showed their support for the attack, shouting "Mess with the best; die like the rest" and "Liberate Kuwait."

Members of the Delta Chi fraternity at

Oklahoma State University in Stillwater ferried war information Wednesday night to two members who were outside continuing the fraternity's three-month treehouse sit-in in support of U.S. troops.

In New York, demonstrators rallied outside the United Nations and marched to Times Square. Some clashed with police, leading to several arrests.

"I came out to join this because it is so sad," said Salah Saidi, 30, of Yemen, a store clerk. "Not only for me and my family but for all of us."

Early today, a car slammed into a group of New York protesters on the Brooklyn Bridge, injuring seven people, two critically, said police spokeswoman Sgt. Tina Mohrmann. Witnesses said one person fell over the side of the bridge and landed in a construction site.

The car's driver was arrested and charged with drunken driving, Mohrmann said.

In Portland, Maine, protesters outside the

federal building today chanted their opposition to the war.

"Peace, not violence," San Francisco protesters shouted at a few rowdy demonstrators in their midst who set a highway patrol car ablaze, causing it to explode.

The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge was closed briefly for the third day by activists who blocked the way.

Seventeen-year-old Ryan Caldwell of Seattle was one of those who set fire to an American flag in San Francisco. "Right now, the flag symbolizes the government, not the people," he said.

In the days leading up to the deadline for Iraq to pull out of Kuwait, public opinion polls showed two out of three Americans supported an attack on Iraq. But USA Today poll Monday found most Americans very worried that many American soldiers might die in such a war.

News Briefs

SEATTLE (AP) — The Navy has canceled plans to use dolphins as underwater guards at its Trident submarine base at Bangor, citing budget cuts and changes in global politics.

"The Department of Defense is taking drastic budget reductions and canceling programs all over the place," said Tom LaPuzza, a spokesman for the Naval Ocean Systems Center in San Diego.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Black leaders Nelson Mandela and Mangosuthu Buthelezi will meet Jan. 29 for the first face-to-face talks in decades between the longtime friends turned political rival, their parties said Thursday.

The announcement raised the prospect that there might eventually be a settlement between their two warring groups. However, spokesmen for both sides cautioned against unrealistic expectations.

MIAMI (AP) — U.S. drug agents and analysts fear the surrender of one of the world's top drug traffickers could signal a giant step backward in the war on drugs.

Jorge Luis Ochoa, the No. 2 man in the Medellin cocaine cartel, turned himself in to Colombian authorities Tuesday in exchange for a promise he would receive lenient treatment and would not be extradited to Miami.

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Striking Albanian miners returned to work after forcing their Communist government to grant higher pay and better working conditions, the official news agency ATA reported Thursday.

The miners at the Valias pit, who were on strike since the weekend, agreed to end their strike after the government accepted demands for a 60 percent pay increase. ATA said in a dispatch monitored in Vienna.

CENTRAL SAUDI ARABIA — A U.S. Navy FA18 Hornet was lost with its pilot, Cheney said. A warplane of the Kuwaiti exile air force and a British Tornado fighter-bomber also went down. British Broadcasting Corp. said the Tornado's two-man crew bailed out over the desert, and a rescue mission was mounted.

The French said four of their warplanes were hit by anti-aircraft fire, but none went down. They also estimated that half of Iraq's air force had been knocked out of action.

VILNIUS, U.S.S.R. (AP) — The Kremlin promised Thursday not to attack the Lithuanian parliament but wary Baltic residents said they feared further crackdowns.

In Paris, the European Community threatened to cut off all Soviet aid, including emergency food supplies, if Moscow continues repressing the Baltic republics.

BIDDEFORD, Maine (AP) — Shape Inc. and its largest creditor announced on Thursday that a tentative deal is imminent that could result in the company's reorganization and emergence from bankruptcy protection.

Shape filed a \$100 million suit last December against the Bank of New England and three of its subsidiaries, charging they renege on part of a \$30 million loan agreement in 1987.

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — The biggest plan yet for restructuring, or at least reshuffling, state agencies was put before the Legislature's budget panel Thursday. But House Speaker John L. Martin provided no real detail in calling for a sweeping reconfiguration of the departments of Human Services and Mental Health.

The Appropriations Committee, meanwhile, agree to put off further voting on its immediate task - redrafting Gov. John R. McKernan's plan for bridging a \$160-million fiscal 1991 budget gap - until next week.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush resolutely warned Saddam Hussein on Thursday that allied forces will keep pounding Iraq until he surrenders Kuwait. The administration slammed the door on diplo-

macy and warned Baghdad that attacks will intensify if it uses chemical or biological weapons.

"We are going to prevail," Bush said. "The pause for peace is over," the State Department said. "The talk is over."

The Pentagon said just one American, an F-18 pilot, was killed in the first phase of fighting. The Pentagon warned there might be a long, bloody struggle to actually pry hundreds of thousands of Iraqi troops out of occupied Kuwait.

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A bar grievance panel Thursday cleared Cumberland County District Attorney Stephanie Anderson of charges that she violated the state lawyers' ethics code in a case arising from a dispute between rival harness racing tracks.

The grievance commission of the Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar dismissed a petition filed against Anderson and another Portland attorney, Claudia Sharon, as a result of actions that took place in December 1988 when they were representing Scarborough Downs and its owner, Joseph Ricci.

Anderson, a Republican, was elected prosecutor last November and took office Jan. 1.

Bangor protest peaceful, despite arrest

By Doug Vanderweide
Staff Writer

BANGOR — An anti-war rally in front of the Federal Building attracted about 200 protesters, including several persons from the University of Maine, and resulted in the arrest of a Bangor youth Thursday.

The young male, whom police will not name, was arrested for obstructing traffic soon after protesters began a planned march and were forced off the street and into a nearby parking lot by police and Penobscot County sheriff's deputies.

The male had refused to return to the sidewalk after police ordered him to do so, according to Bangor police chief Richard Stockford.

Stockford said the arrest was the only incident during the rally, and added that his department had coordinated themselves with a rally organizer to limit problems.

Economics department professor Mark Lutz said he was participating in the rally because he fear war with Iraq will leave the Palestinian question unanswered and "Israel will continue to get away with murder" of Palestinians and violations of a United Nations security council resolution to leave the occupied territories.

He added that America should have focused peace efforts more

along the lines of addressing the Palestinian question, as the French proposed late last week.

Lutz said he believes a quick war would greatly help the American economy, but a long war would damage the economy greatly.

"I feel it's a very sad day," he said.

Mark Laravee, a student at UMaine, said the group of protesters was "trying to show there is opposition" to the war.

"Many people don't support this war and want it to end immediately," he added. "We're showing we're not going to just sit back."

Professor of philosophy Doug Allen led the rally, stating that the group was not against soldiers in the area but against US policy towards the Middle East.

Allen called the media "blind cheerleaders" of the US attack, and said the initial reaction of most people is to rally behind the troops, but he expects that attitude to change soon.

Allen said several faculty members at UMaine plan to hold a teach-in Friday.

Allen told reporters that the group which sponsored the event, the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, is "committed to non-violence and civil disobedience."

He said the group considers violent forms of protest "not only suicidal, but counterproductive."



Yesterday afternoon about two hundred anti-war protesters rallied in front of the Federal Building in Bangor. Though the protest was mostly peaceful one male was arrested. (Photo by John Baer)

Despite the chanting, singing, and signs of the protesters, most observers disagreed with the point of the rally.

"I think they have the right to voice their opinion, but I don't agree," UMaine student Mark Anderson said. "They're the minority, there's too many people (in favor of) war."

Bangor resident Madeline Ellison was visibly upset with the rally,

and said, "Our guys are fighting for the rights they're exercising now."

Ellison, who has a 19-year-old son stationed in Saudi Arabia, said she doesn't believe the protesters knew what they wanted, other than to be on television.

"We all want peace," she said, "but we've got to crack down on Hussein. He's crazy."

Fellow Bangor resident Leo

Higgins, a veteran of World War II who had two sons wounded in Korea, was belligerent towards the protesters.

"Why don't they go home and get their food stamps so they can regain their energy and come down here again?" Higgins said sarcastically.

Higgins said "there are no winners in a war," but that "freedom isn't free. Nothing is free."

Bangor International goes to highest alert ever

By Cari Clay
Staff Writer

The effects of the military strike on Iraq are being felt in Bangor, not only by the friends and families of the soldiers, but also in many people's daily lives.

In response to the war in the Middle East, the Federal Aviation Administration has issued the highest safety alert in the history of American aviation.

At Bangor International Airport, several changes are being noticed by both the passengers and staff.

"Some people are cancelling flights, however, that has been rare so far," a Delta Airlines ticket agent said.

"I figure, if I can't drive there, then I don't really need to go," Fred Davis a former frequent flyer said.

"For the last week the security has been a lot stricter," coffee shop employee Tom Lennay said. "We have to wear identification badges all the time and even then some areas, like the luggage area, are restricted."

Passengers can no longer check their luggage at the curb, and in many cases will be asked a series of questions such as: Did they

pack the luggage themselves, Has it been out of their sight since they packed it, Do they know all the contents, Have they accepted any packages from strangers.

After the passengers have answered the questions, their luggage will be checked through and they may enter the boarding area. There will be no more tearful good-byes at the boarding gate, since only ticketed passengers will be allowed through the security gates.

All of these measures are being implemented to prevent acts of terrorism in response to U.S. involvement in the Gulf.

Following a press conference at B.I.A., airport executives were unavailable to comment further on the situation.

An airport employee said every effort is being made to retain normalcy. He said these measures are to ensure the safety of passengers and are not meant to alarm anyone.

ROTC leaders offer input

By Cari Clay
Staff Writer

Among the other departments here at University of Maine are Army, Navy and Air Force R.O.T.C. units. The leaders of these units have their own opinions of the war in the Gulf, just like everyone else.

Lt. Colonel Palamuk of the Air Force R.O.T.C. supports the actions being taken. "I'm proud to be a part of the Air Force at this time. I strongly support the President and his policies and I'm happy to be here training future Air Force members," Palamuk said.

Colonel Porter of the Army unit supports the war.

"I'm watching the television just like ev-

eryone else. The fact is the decision has been made by the President and Congress and now it simply remains to be handled from a purely tactical standpoint. War isn't a sanitary business and the reality is, people get injured and die. I just hope things will be taken care of with minimal casualties and our troops can come home safely," he said.

The Air Force would not comment on the effects the war is having on recruitment or may have in the future.

The Army reported no change in recruitment and said people have come to the office asking how they can join the Army in the last two days.

Commander Wiley of the Navy unit could not be reached for comment.

The Maine Campus

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE NEWSPAPER SINCE 1875

Editor: Erika Hurtubise
Business Manager: Eric Roach
Assistant Editor: Doug Vanderweide
Assistant Business Manager: Richie Johnston

Jennifer Crotty, City Editor
Jeff Pinkham, Sports Editor
Sheley Danforth, Asst. Sports Editor
Julie Campagna, Wire Editor
Carina Clay, Volunteer Coordinator
Scott LeClair, Photo Editor

John Begin, Arts Editor
Ralph Bartholomew, Ad Manager
Holly Fletcher, Ad Manager
Kathy Reddy, Ad Production
Nathan Robbins, Classifieds

The Maine Campus, a non-profit student publication, is printed at the Ellsworth American, Ellsworth, Maine. Its offices are located at Suite 7A Lord Hall, UMaine, Orono, ME 04469. Telephone numbers: Newsroom, 581-1267, 1269; Sports, 1268; City Editor, 1270; Editor, 1271; Business Manager (subscriptions/accounts), 1272; Advertising, 1273; Fax, 1275. All materials herein ©1991 The Maine Campus, unless otherwise noted. All rights reserved.

The Maine Campus: Your
Desert Storm hotline

Editorial

The case for war: we must fix our wrongs

There is a very strong case for war, not the least of which is that the United States is responsible for causing the trouble it now faces.

We have ignored the fact that the US supported Saddam Hussein in his eight-year war with Iran, delivering him from the brink of failure against the Iranians on several occasions and turning a blind eye to his chemical attacks on Iranians and his own people.

We also forget that, originally, the US gave Hussein the green light to invade Kuwait by saying we had no ties or obligations to Kuwait the day before he invaded.

We have changed our minds. We now realize that Hussein is a destabilizing factor in the Middle East, a dangerous one at that, and that we must take action now.

Hussein has constantly failed to respond to diplomatic efforts. He has shown that he does not care how adversely economic sanctions may affect him and his people. The only thing left for the US is military effort.

We have the backing of the United Nations. We have the help of several nations in direct combat roles. We have the means at our disposal to correct our wrongs.

We should do just that. As much as we all hate war, it is a truism that we must now fight. Hopefully, it will be quick, effective, and, ultimately, successful.

Take the time to learn about our enemy

Are you confused about the world around you? Blame it on the media.

Yes, the media has failed to provide the American public with the facts behind the facts.

We know what we know through TV, radio and newspapers. But, what do we really know?

What we do NOT know is the Iraq and the Iraqi people behind Saddam Hussein.

We do not understand the Iraqi people as individuals. As a nation, we cannot have empathy for a country so different from our own. This is our own fault for not making the effort to look behind the scenes into the lives of the Iraqis and for taking what the media chooses to tell us as the only truth.

We do not understand the strength and power the entire nation holds within its citizens, nor do we understand the deep-set ties of religion and traditional political beliefs.

We lack information about the Iraqi culture, the customs and the country's social class distinction. We cannot relate to Iraq's opposition to Israel, nor can we comprehend the resounding voice of the Iraqi people in their opposition of Americans.

How can we shatter this wall of ignorance?

For starters, we can begin by educating ourselves. Do not take what the media has shown and told us as the golden rule, or the whole truth.

Read and ask questions. Explore the history books. Talk to people in your classes, to your professors and to anyone who will listen. Only you can help yourself.

Keep an open mind and remember that nothing in this world is black or white.



Television coverage has been lacking

The nightly airing of Vietnam footage on American television stations brought about massive changes in the way wars were handled by the media.

No longer were viewers restricted to watching canned film footage of the fighting taking place.

During the conflict, they were instantly transported to the jungles of Vietnam and placed with an infantry squad on maneuvers - all while in the safe confines of their living rooms. They watched American soldiers come under enemy fire, they saw booby traps being accidentally tripped, they saw explosions in living color, and they saw human life come to an abrupt end.

War was never so life-like, and seeing the battles night after night gave the American public a sense of what was happening thousands of miles away. For some, seeing the footage made it easier to deal with the reality of friends and loved ones serving in the military. For others, each evening's news program was an experience in horror as they saw the results of war and envisioned the worst.

Both groups would agree, however, that the footage was unique and unprecedented in its approach.

Through the years, that approach has been refined to the point where a military conflict has become a three-ring media circus. The current situation in the Middle East is a perfect case in point.

In the five months since the initial deployment of U.S. troops to Saudi Arabia, the American public has witnessed a media barrage covering the events as they have unfolded. Newspapers, magazines, radio stations and television



John Begin

have made Operation Desert Shield their number one priority. The network television stations have experienced the greatest success in covering the events, primarily for their up-to-the-minute capabilities and high visual appeal. After all, who wants to wait for the next morning's paper - and then have to take the time to read it - when a quick switch of the remote brings live coverage from network correspondents stationed at key locations all over the world.

News made fast and easy. That's all that counts, right?

No, not necessarily. While ABC, NBC and CBS have had their share of shining moments throughout the course of the "Crisis in the Gulf," they have generally fallen short of providing their viewers with a true sense of what exactly is going on.

CNN has arguably provided the best coverage available, but even they have been lacking at times. While making it appear as though in-depth coverage has been their main goal since the crisis began, the networks have continually operated with ratings and the profit margin in mind.

Yes, a visually pleasing news program is always a nice thing to have around, but when that same news program is only catering to our aesthetics and is not really telling us anything of value, then something is seriously wrong.

Cultural histories of the Arab nations have been sparse, as well as stories concerning the centuries-old religious problems and tensions, and these are by no means the only problems existing in the current television coverage.

Do you feel that you have a grasp of the situation, of the opposite cultures involved, and what our reasons for going to war are, based on what you've seen on television? Enough so that you could explain it to somebody else?

If the answers to those two questions are both "yes," then consider yourself to be part of the well-informed minority.

For every one of you out there who knows the situation inside and out, who can cite underlying causes and intelligently speculate what may or may not happen next, there are thousands of people who don't. Whether you believe President Bush's decision is right or wrong, at least take the time to find out why you believe what you believe. Don't rely solely on the information provided by the networks. That is not enough.

Read everything you can get your hands on. Look for insightful war coverage.

Talk to people who know. Take an active interest, because what you are witnessing will undoubtedly affect the world for many years to come.

John Begin is a senior journalism major from Winslow, Maine.

Response

Let us remember those people who fight the war

To The Editor:

A few years ago I boarded a bus in Rockland, Maine that was bound for Bangor. It was one of those steel gray, pre-winter days that I think only Rockland can produce.

As the bus waited for its departure time I peered out the rain by a woman apparently his mother.

The boy looked about eighteen, tall, gaunt with a long thin neck in an oversized shirt. His ears, ever so large, were bent at a forty-five degree angle away from his head by the too large uniform hat.

His mother, a short thick woman wore the perpetual grimace of a toothless person, both shared the waxen complexion and sunken eyes of a life time of deprivation.

Yet for one fleeting moment, the firmament stood still, she was queen of the universe in her drab coat and dept. store shoes.

She was seeing her young warrior off into a strange new world, beyond Rockland, even beyond

Bangor.

Today, I wonder how many of these mothers are bidding farewell to the little nobodies from all over nowhere U.S.A. So many, more than willing, to do the bidding of the somebodies from somewhere U.S.A.

Little people, from ghettos to the lick towns, each with their own sectional lower class vernacular. All of the "ain't got no ammunition" to "Hi mom, see you soon" types, I wonder who many of them last August could find Kuwait on a topographical map much less spell the name. There never seems to be a shortage of nobodies children for somebody's crusade.

If we, as a nation, are riding a runaway locomotive into the inferno, then let us all anoint our bodies with oil and gird our loins for battle. Let us offer up our sons and daughters from the Hamptons to Suburbia. From the monolithic housing projects to the run down

trailers on the dead end roads.

Let us ask for and receive the blessings of the Congress and then all of us join in the fray together. When the war is over and we have all bathed in the blood of Saddam, remember to share in the plunder. If we are mercenaries then double the pay of all of our Desert Shield military upon the first act of hostilities. To the wounded go their compensation, to the families of the dead go there to salve over the pain of their losses.

Surely the grateful nations of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq will be more than happy to reward their protectors and liberators.

Above all, when it's time to hand out the triangular folded flag at the grave sight, let it be handed to the short thick woman with the toothless grimace and one also to the statuesque matron of the arts.

Vangel Asimakopoulos
Orono

Lick urges mutual respect for opinions

To The Editor:

The last several months have been fraught with the possibility of international conflict and now international forces are engaged in war in the Mideast. All the world is concerned about loss of life and other effects of this conflict.

Our campus in a microcosm of the present global situation. We must remember that we have on our campus students, staff, and faculty not only from Maine and other parts of the United States, but also from 80 other countries. As one might expect there are many different perspectives and opinions among the various members of our community. Obviously, these different opinions can conflict with one another.

er.

At this time, more than ever, I believe we must not forget the principles that guide our University. Our respect for the humanity of other members of our community is foremost among these principles. This respect encompasses a tolerance for diversity and an absolute commitment to intellectual freedom—the right of others to express opinions without fear of reprisal. Now more than ever, we must maintain a sense of concern for ourselves and others within our community. Mutual respect will surely help us properly negotiate these very difficult times.

Dale W. Lick
President

The Maine Campus welcomes your comments and opinions on Operation Desert Storm.

Student refuses to fight for American mistakes

To The Editor:

I am writing this letter in order to establish my intention to apply for the status of conscientious objector in the event that the draft is activated as a result of the recent developments in the Middle East. I feel that nothing positive can come from the systematic, organized slaughter of fellow humans, whether or not our government or any other organization has decreed those whom it seeks to eliminate as the enemy do jour.

I cannot support the U.S. war

effort in the Middle East. I am sickened by our government's insistence on playing the role of the world's police force, and the glaring hypocrisy evident in its day to day revisions of who is the good guy and who is the bad. I feel that our government habitually lies to the citizens of our nation, and that we are fed whatever form of "truth" that the government and the armed forces deems appropriate for its efforts at the time. In this particular instance, George Bush's "new world order", is obviously a "new war for oil"; I'm not buying it and

therefore refuse to be a pawn in this bloody chess game.

I am opposed to this war. As a matter of fact I am opposed to all war. I can think of no instance in which war didn't give rise to further suffering as a result of its being fought. Hitler would never have come to power were it not for the first World War. Likewise, Saddam Hussein would never have grown so powerful and not the United States supplied his army with billions of dollars worth of aid during the course of Iraq's war with Iran. I refuse to put myself in

the path of bullets that were supplied by my own, short sighted government.

Once again, in the event of the draft being activated, it is my intention to apply for the status of conscientious objector on the grounds that war is inhuman, immoral, and the exercise of an institutional lie on the grandest scale. I urge all those within the range of "draft age", (16-26 years old) to consider this issue. The possibility of the draft being reactivated is very real and once the process has begun, it is frighteningly swift. An

inductee can be in uniform within two weeks of being drafted. Conscientious objection is only one of many available. The point is that these options must be explored now, before the calls begin. Otherwise, it could be too late.

Remember, it is not unpatriotic or cowardly to speak out and protest this war. On the contrary, it would be far worse to sit quietly as the war machine rolls again.

Sean B. Murphy
Orono

Letter from professor talks about war first-hand

To The Editor:

It was good talking to you before I left Fort Devens. Thanks for all the great moral support. It sounds like everything there is in good hands, so I'll just enjoy my "vacation."

We've been in Dammam for about two weeks, but we'll probably spend Christmas at our desert base, 30-40 miles from Iraq. Our mission will be mainly transportation and maintenance for the VII Corps, out of Germany.

This is no training exercise. The volume of equipment, ammunition and people coming through the port here is astounding. I can't see this momentum stopping short of war, and just after January 15, there'll be a high tide and the dark

of the moon.

Saudi Arabia is an interesting country. For the Islamic stricture on drinking and sexual modesty, ect., it's a comfortable place. The cities are modern and clean, and the highway system is very good. Most signs are in English and Arabic, and you can always find an English speaking Saudi. (My few words of Arabic help break the ice, and people appreciate the effort.)

The Saudis are very friendly, and hospitality is a way of life. You always drink tea and get acquainted before you do business. They seem to be sincere in their welcome, and people wave and smile where ever we go. As long as some GI doesn't do something stupid and turn people against us, the warm-and-fuzzy may last.

I've been to the desert twice to reconnoitre an area, about a six-hour drive each way. That part of the desert is absolutely flat, as far as you can see in every direction. The surface is sand and gravel, and its firm enough for wheeled vehicles. No problem for tanks. It's winter now, and until March or so, the weather will be windy, with freezing nights and occasional dust storms. There are legions of flies. (The snakes and scorpions are hibernating, praise be to Allah!) The only visible mammals in the area, aside from US troops, are Bedouins with their camels. I'd like to have one to ride on my inspection rounds.

Our morale is pretty good, even though we've had no personal mail yet. All the cards, letters and care packages addressed to "Any Ser-

vice Member" are heartwarming, however. A batch of misspelled notes from a clan of first graders really got to me. I wrote them a long letter.

We're living in an open-sided warehouse on a pier along with several thousand troops and too many tons of ammunition. There's not much privacy, and men and women sleep side by side in long rows of cots. The shaver shacks are outdoors and the lukewarm water loses to the cold evening breeze. The latrines are four-holes built over 55-gallon drums. Pwew!

The Desert Shield editor of the Stars and Stripes is newsy, with a surprising amount of news about anti-war activities in the States. Armed Forces Radio-Television Service is an insult to everyone's

intelligence. One station plays elevator music. I have yet to hear any news on AFRTS. Instead I listen to the French and English broadcasts on Radio Riyadh. Up north, all you can get is shortwave.

What do I need? Letters. Clippings. More letters. Please pass my address along. You're welcome to let the Campus quote from this.

Professor Stuart J. Bullion Stationed in the Persian Gulf
Editor's Note: Bullion, a professor of journalism and member of the 268th Supply and Service Battalion of the Maine National Guard, has been stationed in the Persian Gulf since December. This letter, written to the faculty, staff and students of the Dept. of Journalism and Mass Communication, was dated Dec. 20, 1990.

Professors shed light on Middle East crisis

By Michael Reagan
Staff Writer

War in the Middle East involves problems like a possible Israeli retaliation against Iraq to the problems of the media saying too much, according to two University of Maine professors.

If Iraq launched missiles at Israel, which occurred Thursday evening, and if Israel retaliates, "Israel's involvement will change the whole picture," according to Bahman Bakhtiari, an associate professor of political science.

The involvement of Syria, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt may be jeopardized by possible Israeli involvement, according to Bakhtiari.

But with countries like Syria on our side, "the Middle East is the ideal setting for a

Machiavellian morality play," said John Battick, an associate professor of history.

But one lesson that should be learned "is that unwarranted aggression won't go unpunished or unrewarded is a valid one," he said.

Although Iraq launched a missile attack against Israel, Saddam Hussein "is an extremist who knows when to stop," Bakhtiari said.

He cited examples from the past where Hussein has changed his mind, like ending the war with Iran and maintaining cordial relations with many Arab countries during the Iran-Iraq war.

"That may be interpreted as very dangerous, but it also can be interpreted as a sign that he will back down at a time when his survival is at risk," he said.

Whether or not Saddam backs down de-

pends on whether he perceives his survival is at risk and how well he is able to withstand the massive U.S. attack, according to Bakhtiari.

"I think he counts on standing up for a couple of weeks and is counting on internal opposition within the U.S. and European countries to weaken the stamina of the U.S.," Bakhtiari said.

One of Battick's concerns about the Gulf war was the leaking of tactical intelligence by the media.

An example was given by Battick of media leaking of important tactical information occurred during the Falklands war. The BBC world service reported that British royal marines were moving into the direction of Goose Green, an area of the Falkland Islands. "A couple hours later additional Argentine

forces were brought in by helicopter to reinforce Goose Green and it probably cost a few marines their lives."

"And this is the one of the reasons why the Pentagon does not want reporters wandering around reporting in real time what's happening," he added.

Battick said that while the limits imposed on the press may mean limiting the freedom of the press, "it may also mean lives."

The new international order mentioned by President Bush in his speech Wednesday night means that "regional instability, aggression by a power like Iraq against Kuwait ... will be dealt with," Bakhtiari said.

To deal with potential instability, the United States will sell more conventional arms to countries as part of this world order, he said.



An unidentified youth is arrested after he refused to comply with police orders to not obstruct traffic, according to Bangor police. The rally was not marked by any other arrests or any acts of violence, although most onlookers said they disagree with the protester's stance. (Photo by John Baer)

Mainers support Bush

By David Sharp
Associated Press Writer

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) — People in this coastal town, where President Bush directed the start of the Persian Gulf confrontation in August, said Thursday it was about time their summer neighbor took on Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

But several residents said they're glad they aren't in his shoes right now.

"Everyone's real supportive" of the attack on Iraq, said Donna Sabaka, whose son Jason, 20, is serving aboard the USS Kennedy in the Red Sea. She admitted, though, that the thought of war made her "sick to her stomach."

She was joined Thursday morning by her husband Al and dog Carlos in front of the television, following developments in Operation Desert Storm.

"It's tough times for the world," Sabaka said. "I don't think anybody wants war. If

we're going to do it, we need to be firm, get it over with and hope something positive comes out of it."

In other areas of Kennebunkport, a quaint, affluent town along Maine's rocky coast, residents went about their daily routines, their lives largely unchanged by the war that erupted Wednesday in the Persian Gulf.

Mary Murphy, a co-owner of Meserve's Market, said the only difference she noticed Thursday was that newspapers were selling well - sometimes four to a customer. She also kept the TV tuned to the news.

"I don't know what to think. The more I think about it, I get sad. You almost want to shut it out. It's depressing," she said.

Ken Raynor, the golf pro at the Cape Arundel Golf Club in Kennebunkport, said he was worried about the president. Raynor has joined Bush for golf almost every time the president has vacationed in Kennebunkport since taking office.

US Navy flier reported as first Gulf casualty

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Pentagon on Thursday identified the first American casualty of the Persian Gulf war as Lt. Cmdr. Michael S. Speicher, 33, stationed at Mayport, Fla.

Speicher was listed as missing in action because his body was not recovered after he

was shot down in his FA-18 based on the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga, which has its home port in Mayport.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, however, had said the pilot was killed.

A Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lundquist, said no other information

about the victim would be released, in accordance with standard Pentagon procedures on military personnel who are missing in action.

Pete Williams, the chief spokesman for Cheney, said Thursday that the Navy pilot was the only known U.S. casualty so far in

the gulf war.

Speicher's plane was shot down by an Iraqi surface-to-air missile over Iraqi territory.

The single-seat FA-18 Hornet is a fighter-bomber.

Washington braces for terrorist attacks

By Frank Spurr
For the Campus

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Tension in the capital is evident on the faces of the population here as Operation Desert Storm and possible terrorist repercussions have created tightened security around the city.

Metropolitan police, as well as officers of the National Park Service, have maintained a high level of visibility around the Capitol building and its corresponding office buildings in response to Wednesday night's bombing of Iraq and Iraqi military facilities. Routine glances at personnel identification cards are a thing of the past. Guards now closely scrutinize these pictured cards employees must carry in order to gain admittance to Capitol offices. X-Ray machines examine all packages entering the build-

ings.

In addition, security has been tightened at the area airports, Dulles and National. Workers at the airports have been told to be on the lookout for "stray" luggage and additional police have been added to these locations, according to local newspapers.

Police can now be seen at the entrances to the Metro, Washington's rapid transit system, as it is considered a prime terrorist target.

The House Sergeant at Arms Jack Russ assured Speaker of the House Thomas Foley (D-Washington) that the Capitol Police could effectively deal with the threat of terrorism.

In an interview with "Roll Call," a newspaper of Capitol Hill, Russ said he told Foley of "what we were prepared for."

"I told him of the intelligence we received," he said. "I told him the Capitol Police were

trained and ready."

One of the most alarming security preparations is the presence of sharpshooters on the roofs of the Capitol office buildings. Staff members whose offices are on the top floor of these buildings can go out on terraces for a scenic view of the Washington monument or other landmarks. With these sharpshooters on alert, such practices have been curtailed to prevent cases of "mistaken identity" and the possibility of shooting a staff member.

Capitol authorities have told Senators, Representatives and staff to take precautions against terrorism such as removing candidate bumper stickers from automobiles, taking different routes home, and in general, changing the daily routine.

Security in front of the White House is extremely tight as well, not only because of

the terrorist threat, but also because of anti-war demonstrators, who have maintained an almost constant presence at Lafayette Park, across the street.

Washington D.C. and National Park Police have parked about thirty police cruisers, paddy wagons and motorcycles on the median strip on Pennsylvania Ave. A wooden fence was also erected to keep demonstrators confined in Lafayette Park.

Police, some wearing riot-crash helmets, numbered over one hundred during a candlelight vigil Tuesday evening in which protestors carried signs such as "Don't Kill and Maim for Arab Oil: Bring Our Troops Home," and "I Lost My Son in Vietnam: The Useless War. No Blood for Oil."

Frank Spurr is a senior Journalism major from Gorham interning with Rep. Thomas Andrews for this spring semester.

Sports



Jeff Pinkham

Put it in perspective

Although the possibility of war in the Middle East seemed inevitable, when the news came over that the United States had begun the bombing of Iraq, the feelings of fear and sadness came over nearly everyone.

And because of the most recent events in the Middle East, the importance of sports and sporting events begins to become an issue.

When crisis such as Desert Storm arise, people everywhere throughout the U.S. realize that although sports are a very important part of our lives, it pales in comparison to the life and death situation the troops and civilians in the Middle East are faced with.

Sports play a key role in many people's lives, and the media and fans put a tremendous amount of importance on them. On the University of Maine campus, sports play a vital role in moral and campus spirit.

The UMaine hockey team packs Alford Arena for every game, while the football, baseball and women's basketball team always have good attendance.

However, when a crisis like the one in the Middle East comes up, a game-winning goal by Jean-Yves Roy, a long touchdown run by Carl Smith or a 30-point performance by Rachel Bouchard suddenly don't seem that important.

"It's a scary time, and it puts everything in perspective," said UMaine hockey coach Shawn Walsh. "I think (sports) do give a healthy divergence, and if I can get people's minds off war for a couple of hours on Friday night, I think it will help."

Elsewhere, Wednesday night's game between North Carolina and North Carolina State was postponed because of the crisis in the Gulf. There has also been a lot of talk of postponing the remainder of the National Football League Playoffs, but as it appears now, the games will continue as scheduled.

Frank Deford, Editor in Chief of the *The National* said on an interview on NBC that the playoffs would provide a good diversion, but they should be seen in perspective.

Sports do provide a good diversion, and allow people's mind, if only for a couple of hours, to escape from the fear and anxiety war puts on them. They give the troops over in the Persian Gulf something to occupy their minds, besides the threat of war, and it gives them a piece of mind that things back home are basically business as usual.

And anything that can help the troops and take a little of the pressure off them, the better not only for them, but also for the worried friends and family here in the states.

Gulf war rattles sports world Stars speak out, games postponed

By John Nelson
AP Sports Writer

The sports world tried to reconcile itself to a world at war on Thursday. Superstars came to grips with their insignificance, the games lost much of their luster, and athletes everywhere turned their thoughts to the Persian Gulf.

"It really makes the significance of this basketball game seem very small," San Antonio Spurs center David Robinson, a graduate of the Naval Academy, said.

Several events were cancelled, but many went on despite war - perhaps because of it. Both Army and Navy played basketball games Wednesday night even as the bombing of Iraq began.

"This win should give the guys over there something to cheer about," Army guard Chad Michaelson said after the Cadets beat Lafayette 64-57.

School officials of North Carolina and North Carolina State cancelled their basketball game at Chapel Hill, N.C., the U.S.

men's and women's World Cup ski teams headed home from Europe.

"I think people will certainly understand that the importance of the basketball game pales considerably in comparison to what's on the minds of a lot of Americans," North Carolina athletic director John Swofford said.

In Hartford, Conn., where Los Angeles was playing the Whalers in a hockey game, Kings center Wayne Gretzky called on the NHL to cancel this Saturday's All-Star Game in Chicago.

"The game is great for Chicago, great for hockey, but that's all secondary now," Gretzky said.

The NHL said it would follow the lead of government in deciding whether to play the game.

"Right now, we're proceeding as usual," NHL spokesperson Jane Freer said in Chicago. "Everything is being taken into consideration."

Security against terrorism also became a concern at some events. The PGA, for ex-

ample, said it was considering extraordinary precautions at its tournaments, but it would go ahead with its schedule.

"We are reviewing the next six weeks with an eye toward security," PGA Tour spokesman Sid Wilson said.

The NFL said it was still monitoring events, but plans right now were to go ahead with the two conference championship games on Sunday and the Super Bowl a week later.

In Melbourne, the Australian Open continued, although it was clear that players' minds were on war.

"The second round of the Australian Open is pretty insignificant compared to the gulf war," Pat Cish of Australia said. "It might seem important when you are out there, but you're not going to die on the court."

Despite the constant threat of terrorism, organizers of major European events - such as the European Figure Skating Championships in Bulgaria and the European Speed Skating Championships in Yugoslavia - planned to press on, although some athletes said they would stay home.

Women's hoop looks to extend 6-game streak

By Tim Hopley
Staff Writer

The University of Maine women's basketball team will travel to Hartford, Conn., this Saturday for a North Atlantic Conference match-up with the Lady Hawks of the University of Hartford.

UMaine is currently riding a six-game winning streak, including three consecutive wins versus NAC foes New Hampshire (72-55), Boston University (77-49) and Northeastern University (62-42).

Rachel Bouchard continues to lead the Lady Black Bears, despite missing the Northeastern contest with a stomach virus. Bouchard is averaging 22.2 points per game, good for 21st in the nation, while pulling down 11 rebounds a game, also putting her in the national ranking at 15th.

UMaine has also received a strong performance of late from first-year point guard Chris Strong, who was named NAC Rookie of the Week for her efforts against BU and Northeastern.

In those two contests, Strong averaged 12 points and eight rebounds a game, while shooting 50 percent from the field. She also had eight assists and four steals in the two games.

According to Hartford head coach Mark Schmidt, Strong's improved play of late, has helped improve UMaine's other guards Julie Bradstreet and Carrie Goodhue.

"Chris Strong has been playing very well lately and it seems it has also led to improved play by Bradstreet and Goodhue," Schmidt said.

"UMaine has a very balanced attack with four very good players."

The key for the Lady Black Bears will be stopping NAC Player of the Week

Mary Jane Besselink. Besselink is averaging 12.8 points a game while adding 8.5 rebounds. In the recent week, Besselink scored 46 points and pulled down 21 re-

bounds in Hartford's losses to Vermont and BU.

"Mary Jane has just been getting better and better. She has finally started to realize her potential and is becoming a focal point in our offense," Schmidt added.

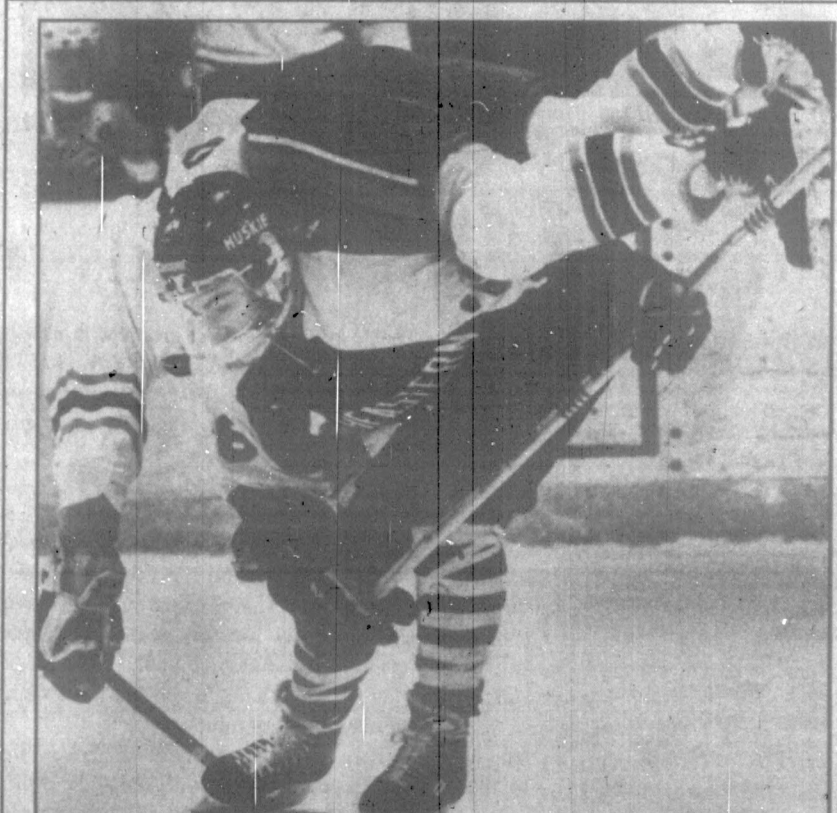
"We have tremendous respect for Maine and expect the game to be a challenge, the girls are really looking forward to playing against them," Schmidt said.

UMaine is expected to start Strong and Bradstreet at the guard slots, Goodhue and

Tracey Frenette at forwards and Bouchard returns at center.

Hartford will counter with Maura Rodgers (5-foot-7) and Lisa Smith (5-foot-4) at guard, Lana Thomas (5-foot-11) and Betsy Andersen (5-foot-9) at forward and Besselink (6-foot-1) at center.

The Lady Black Bears return home Jan. 26 to take on NAC leader Vermont. Game time is set for 1 p.m., at the Pit in the Memorial Gymnasium.



An unidentified UMaine player is upended during last weekend's Hockey East battle against Northeastern. In other HE action, the Black Bears will travel this weekend to take on the University New Hampshire Wildcats and the Boston College Eagles. UMaine posted an impressive 8-1-1 record over the Christmas break. (Photo by Scott LeClair)

Middle East students react to attacks

by Michael Reagan
Staff Writer

Operation Desert Storm has brought war to the Middle East and the reactions of University of Maine students from Saudi Arabia and a visiting professor from Iraq ranged from anxiety to resignation.

Khalil Jassam, a visiting professor of survey engineering from Iraq, said most of his lives in Bagdad and that he has not been able to contact them since the attack.

He said that he felt pain when he heard that the attack started, "but that's the reality that was expected," he said.

"I think a great deal of my family will be killed," he said.

The country of Kuwait belongs to Iraq,

Jassam said, but he did not think his country's invasion was the correct way of going about it. Jassam said that the country of Kuwait was drawn up by Great Britain in 1961, although Kuwait was historically part of Iraq.

Jassam said that he believed the United States has been influenced by Israel. "Israel wants to sacrifice you so they won't have to face the Arabs," he said.

After this war is over the United States will face "deep anti-American sentiment from Arab people," he said. He said that the United States will also fall behind Europe and Japan because of the costs of U.S. actions in the Middle East.

"The United States will be in the Middle East whether you like it or not for the next 50

years," he added.

Two Kuwaiti students go to UMaine but they were unavailable for comment.

Tayseer Fateel, a Saudi Arabian undergraduate student at UMaine, whose family lives in eastern Saudi Arabia said that he expected something was going to happen Wednesday. He told some of his friends "watch t.v. this afternoon from 4 p.m. to 8 o'clock. Because that is midnight in my country."

Fateel said that he favored a more peaceful solution, but if it took violence to free Kuwait, he said he favored it.

He spent Christmas break in Saudi Arabia and said that he had the feeling that war was coming.

While the United States may have de-

stroyed most Scud missile sites in Iraq, Fateel said "I still worry about that."

Tiriq Al-Abdul Jabbar, a UMaine undergraduate student from Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, said he supports military action "if blood is shed for justice to drive aggressors from Kuwait."

Al-Abdul Jabbar, who has some relatives and friends on the front lines, said that the Saudi Arabian people care about Iraq, but power is in the hands of Saddam Hussein.

When asked if Arab nations would support Saddam Hussein if Israel was attacked he said "nothing deals with Israel in this conflict."

"He (Hussein) wants to change the views of Arab people," he said, "it's fake."

Anti-war rally held at Union



Students Thursday afternoon protest President Bush's attack on Iraq. See related story on page 1. (Photo by John Baer)

Bush condemns SCUD missile attack on Israel

By Terrence Hunt
AP White House Correspondent

President Bush condemned Iraq's missile attack on Israel as "further aggression" and the White House said bombers from the Desert Storm alliance had been dispatched Thursday night for a fresh wave of airstrikes against Iraqi targets.

Military officials said Iraq also had fired a single missile toward allied forces in Saudi Arabia. The missile was intercepted and destroyed, but even so the overnight Iraqi retaliation ended the eerie quiet from Baghdad that followed Wednesday night's commencement of war.

Throughout much of the day, official Washington was expressing unbridled satisfaction with the war effort, and Bush vowed, "We will prevail." But there was a sense that Iraq could eventually come out fighting, and the administration threatened to intensify the campaign against Baghdad if it used chemical or biological weapons.

The day's optimism was punctured by Iraq's missile attack on Israel.

"It's what we've been worried about all along," said Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams. White House spokesman Marlin

Fitzwater said. "The president is outraged at and condemns this further aggression by Iraq."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had vowed in advance to answer American hostilities with an attack on Israel, a bid to widen the Persian Gulf war and tempt Arab nations - Syria and Egypt among them - to desert Desert Storm in favor of a holy war against the Jewish state.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III quickly phoned the ambassadors of several key nations, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria and Israel.

Israel did not retaliate, much to the administration's relief. Fitzwater emphasized in his statement that the "coalition forces in the Gulf are attacking missile sites and other targets in Iraq."

Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador to the United States, said his country reserved the right to retaliate, but answered with a non-committal smile when asked if it would do so. "So far the State of Israel has paid the dearest price of any other countries in the Middle East which had faced Iraqi aggression, except Kuwait itself," he said, noting that the Jewish state is not part of the anti-Iraq coalition.

Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds mix up political options

By Cynthia Kopp
Staff Writer

There are many things the United States doesn't know about the war in the Middle East.

For instance, Saddam Hussein is a secular ruler who had been condemned for his lack of interest in Islam. His apparent new interest in the religion is actually a "tactical ploy" to gain support for a Holy War, said University of Maine Associate Professor Henry Munson, an expert on Middle East cultures.

In a telephone interview, Munson explained that Saddam is using the idea of a Holy War against the unbelievers to "whip up support there and elsewhere." Though this use may not deceive some, it will have an appeal to others, possibly encouraging terrorist acts, he said.

The ones it will not deceive are the Shiites, Munson said. Saddam killed many of their religious leaders during the war with Iran.

The Kurds, a minority group within Iraq, revolted against Saddam in an effort to gain independence and end discrimination. Saddam responded by attacking the Kurds with chemical weapons.

Saddam is a member of the Sunni, the dominant Muslim sect in Iraq.

Even with internal opposition in Iraq, there is this "rally around the flag syndrome," Munson said. This works in Saddam's favor as many may see this as a small David against an awesome Goliath.

On the other hand, a war is a devastating blow to the Iraqi military.

There will inevitably be civilian casualties and the people will not only resent the United States, Munson said, but they will also resent Saddam for bringing this situation about.

"He is responsible for a lot of this damage and Iraqi's know this," Munson said. To assume that everyone in Iraq is behind him is unrealistic.

Munson said that depending on the extent

of force the United States uses, Saddam might be overthrown by his own people and a new government be established. "This might be better than us going in," he said.

Munson believes people will see a government established by the United States as a "puppet of the Americans." In order to

establish this government, he said, allied troops will have to remain in the country for a long time. This would not be a good idea, according to Munson, considering past conflicts like Panama and Grenada and the enormous threat of terrorism acts against the troops.

UMaine reacts to war continued from page 1

"Hussein can't drive all over the Middle East, thinking he's God's gift," she added. Sophomore Jennifer Wells said, "we have to do what we have to do," although she also said she does not like war in general.

Sophomore Dan Gay said he thinks the United States is "doing the right thing." Gay, who has a friend serving as a tank driver in the Persian Gulf, said he is not worried about his friend's safety for the time being.

Gay said he believes, as long as Saddam

Hussein is safe, the war will drag on. Sophomore Scott Quinn said he "would like to think the situation could have been handled diplomatically, but now we should lend our support to the troops."

"I have complete confidence in the president," Quinn added.

Claude Jean, a student from Haiti, said he does not agree with the president's decision to attack.

"Now is too early," he said.