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# Solving a Slick Problem; Morally Preferable; Objectors by Conscience

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# featuring UD

Story ideas for print and broadcast media

Jan. 29, 1991  
Contact: Jim Feuer

**SOLVING A SLICK PROBLEM** -- Cleanup of the massive oil spill in the Persian Gulf may be hastened either by adding fertilizer to stimulate naturally occurring organisms that degrade the oil or by adding bacteria and seeding it to make it grow even faster, according to a UD biologist. Roy Ventullo says planes or helicopters could be used to spray a phosphorus-nitrogen fertilizer--one not too different from those used on crops. The fertilizer would stick to the oil and let the bacteria degrade it by converting some of the oil to carbon dioxide, which removes it from the system, says Ventullo. In any case, Ventullo sees trouble for desalinization plants.

Call Roy Ventullo at (513) 229-2503.

**MORALLY PREFERABLE** -- The use of "smart" weapons in the Persian Gulf, such as the Tomahawk cruise missile, is "morally preferable" to carpet-bombing--dropping many bombs on a given area in preparation for advancing ground forces, according to a senior research scientist at the University of Dayton Research Institute. "One can argue the moral merits of putting out the water supply, but people in Baghdad still have their houses," says Joseph P. Martino, whose duties included weapons development and systems analysis in 22 years of service with the Air Force. "After 10 years of unfavorable publicity and almost being killed in Congress, it looks like the Tomahawk and Patriot missiles work," says Martino.

Call Joseph P. Martino at (513) 229-3036 or (513) 492-4729.

**OBJECTORS BY CONSCIENCE** -- The University of Dayton campus ministry office and others on campus are providing counseling concerning the selective service law and legal options--including conscientious objection--for members of the UD community because of increased interest in the Persian Gulf. "A fundamental tenet of Catholic faith is respect for the individual conscience," says the Rev. Jim Russell, S.M. "Every person has a responsibility to make a decision about his or her part regarding participation in the military and combat." Russell, who provided similar counseling during the war in Vietnam, says the role of a counselor is to "assist people in discerning their own positions."

Call the Rev. Jim Russell at (513) 229-2549.

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*The University of Dayton*

For further information or assistance in scheduling interviews, contact Office of Public Relations, (513) 229-3241.