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KAREN BABICH

(JG) I sympathize with your problems with the project manager who was trying to impose her bad design ideas on you. It seems to me that you've got two problems, one fairly easy to solve, and the other one you will probably have to give up on changing.

The first (solvable) problem is that of incompatible style sheet preferences. You should be able to explain to this (or any person) that it's important that electronic design jobs which will need to be revised over the years can be more efficiently worked on if they each one does not use a different style sheet technique. Otherwise, when you call up a year-old job, you have to waste too much time figuring out its styles and formats, whereas if you alone are responsible for all the publications, or if there is some agreement on formats, it will be relatively easy for you to make the corrections because you already know how the pubs have been set up. I've noticed that as we progress in desktop proficiency, my co-worker and I have developed distinct styles of setting up publications. I rely on style sheets far more than she does and get frustrated working on her's on those few occasions when I have to do an update on a publication that she set up. (She likes to attach notes to pubs with style "exceptions.") But she and I agree that our rather esoteric differences are nothing compared to working with a publication originally designed by someone who is just beginning or is just dabbling in desktop design, and we are guite firm when we require a word-processed document, rather than a pre-designed document from clients who offer to "help" us by pouring their text into a layout program document.

The other problem—of a boss or client who wrongly believes (in your opinion) that they possess good design sense—is almost impossible to do anything about. When I have a client who demands control of layout and I find myself disagreeing with most of their opinions, I usually let them know (once) that we are in disagreement, butthen if they insist—step back and give them exactly what they want. At that point I stop interjecting my own opinions If they get enough negative feedback about the results, they may understand that their aesthetic opinion differs from most other people's and they can decide to give up on aesthetic control next time or not. But for me, the important part is to get my own ego out of the situation and avoid writer IINTX printer. Text was created with Microsoft Word 4.0 and laid out with Aldus Pagemaker 4.0. The Union Street Logo was designed with Aldus Freehand 2.0. All contents are copyrighted © by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, 1990. Jaunuary 1991 for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #56. Members FWA.

feeling that my own skills, and aesthetic sense are under attack. Of course I still get a little irritated that such people ignore the fact its my *job* to do what they are co-opting, but then I figure that's more their problem than mine. I don't put my name on a job I don't feel is mine, and they simply pile more work on their desk, and—usually—are disappointed by the reaction they get from the publication.

Thanks for clearing up the felt-tipped cd mystery. An April Fool's Joke. How perfect.

ALISON BRON

(SC) Your "Things To Come" have left me salivating. Can't wait to see some of these adventures.

MIKE DUCHARME

(JG) Too bad you didn't get offered the job, Mike. Had you made up your mind about whether or not you would take it before you got the letter? All was not lost, at least, since you got an entertaining zine out of the experience. What a genre, this might be, if others follow your lead: "Job Interview Sagas." On the other hand, most of us wouldn't have the romantic scenery in which to set our stories. I could tell about how I almost ruined our car and got a job with *Amazing Stories*, but it all happened in Lake Geneva, a rather dingy little town, and so I'll skip that...

BILL DYER

(JG) Quite a horrifying story about the guy who literally held women responsible for causing him to beat them up. I had something more to say about it than that, I know, because I scrawled an "x" in the margin, but I don't remember now.

PAT HARIO

(JG) It's too bad that SF³ doesn't have a library, or at least a physical place for one. It would be great if we could take the Maryland library's books off their hands.

(SC) Congratulations on the new job, and on attending the raily. I haven't been to any rallies since early fall, but I plan to change that. I agree with your review of *Edward Scissorhands*. It was much better than I expected. Thank you for including the Zipperer column. The Star Trek column looks like it's from Newsweek. It was pretty good. I think Roddenberry is now the



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series' worst enemy. The series showed the most promise last year under the script supervision of Melinda Snodgrass who left because Roddenberry was such an asshole. Our loss.

BILL HOFFMAN

(JG) Thanks for the recipes Bill.

What a great metaphor, comparing Freudian theorizing with channeling. I think the analogy was quite valid—farfetched, but a good match, in my mind. It started me thinking about whether there is a human impulse to devise fantastic (or unfantastic) explanations for the basic questions of existence and unexplained aspects of reality. Perhaps some people make religions out of their speculations. Others write novels.

An excellent essay, Bill.

(SC) Aha! I always thought with bouillabaisse you wound up with a great stew with fish heads floating in it. What a relief! I don't care if they *cook* it with fish heads, I just don't want to try to eat around one floating in my dish. Thanks Bill! I have to admit that I've never tried oysters either, but I could imagine doing it bolstered with a couple drinks first. Your salmon recipe appealed to me the most. Have you ever tried Rocky Mountain Oysters?

STEVEN VINCENT JOHNSON

(SC) Congratulations on the new job and good luck. Leaving the "safety blanket" of state service takes guts. Particularly when you have a significant amount of time invested with the state. And particularly when you have house payments to make. Go for it, you wild and crazy guy!

HOPE KIEFER

(JG) My goodness, you've had an interesting-in-the-Chinese-sense-of-the-word last few days. Hope your newly recovered eyes currently gaze out on a fully repaired apartment.

The argument between the Christmas eve presentopeners and the Christmas-morning present-openers has raged for years in my family. When we were kids, we almost always opened presents in the morning, though a couple times "Santa Clause" would pay us a visit the night before, usually when relatives were visiting, and we'd reschedule. But because we grew up with that tradition, we kids always preferred the morning for opening presents. Mom, however, apparently never liked it done that way. (Perhaps her family's tradition used to be centered on Christmas eve.) It turns out that for years she hated getting up at the crack of dawn when one of us kids woke up (usually not long after she and dad had finished wrapping and arranging presents under the tree), and then having to quick clean up the mess and make the huge, traditional breakfast for us and my grandparents, and then go to church and then come home and have to start cooking dinner. (Gosh, I can't figure out why she didn't enjoy that.) It was a pretty exhausting day for her, and of course, all we remember is the playing with toys part... But it's more than that. Even when we assured her that none of us were going to get up early, and even though we started going to midnight Mass after the youngest of us got old enough to stay up that late, and even after she had begun to get lots of help with the breakfast and dinner preparations, she still hated it, and wanted to "get it out of the way" the night before, so as to have a nice quiet Christmas day. All this only strengthened us kids in our preference for Christmas morning presentopening: it seems as if we lose more and more of the magic of (even the secular) Christmas as we get older, especially when there are no little kids around anymore, and a further attempt to "normalize" Christmas day, and make it less exciting seems to be going against the whole purpose of the secular Christmas, which—to me—is partially anticipation. Dad tends to stay diplomatically out of the fray, even though I think he likes the morning tradition better. And in recent years, we've taken to alternating styles...

Whatever, I like the idea of establishing some sort of tradition, and Scott and I are beginning to develop our own, although it won't have much to do with times—or even specific days—for doing certain things, since Scott's holiday work schedule tends to change drastically from year to year.

You asked for suggestions for making your apa production easier and cheaper. How about using a modem to send your zine to your mailing agent and having her xerox your zine with her own? Of course that means that your marginalia will probably have to go...

JOHN PEACOCK

(JG) You say (to Kathi Scheller) that you "don't know much, or care much, about the nature of your martial arts training." My, what a succinct, witty reply. I wish I had thought of something like that when you were boasting about your own scientific background and explaining to us that because of your training the only opinion that mattered was your's.

JULIE SHIVERS

(SC) I suppose it will do no good to ask, but what are your opinions about this "war stuff?"

NEVENAH SMITH

(JG) It is weird how the phrase, "the lessons of Vietnam," have gotten twisted by people into so many different meanings. I neverthought the lessons of Vietnam had to do with not losing...

The verbal doublespeak of this war seem unusually bizarre. That's been covered by a lot of commentators. But I continue to be horrified by the news media's use of movie titles and music themes for their coverage. Even the pentagon's code name for the Gulf War, "Desert Storm" sound as though they could be emblazoned on a lurid, sexy pulp novel. Did you hear that the name, "Desert Storm," is supposed to honor "Stormin' Norman" Schwartzkoph? I think it's a pity that Norman's name isn't Scheiskoph, and then we could have called it "Desert Shit."

(SC) Excellent cover. Congratulations on making Dean's List. Nice zine layout. It's so good to have you back writing again for us. I've never had any experience with the personals, but the impression I've always had was that a person needed an almost bullett-proof ego to do it. Considering your connections with campus, fandom and work, you should hit paydirt in time without resorting to the personals. Congratulations are also in order for your appointment to editorship of ASFA Quarterly and your physical recovery. Pretty upbeat zine all in all.

MARK RICHARDS

(SC) Good to hear from you again.

DIANE MARTIN

(JG) The Gulf war reveals that the U.S. military has vastly improved the effectiveness of all its weapon systems, and that includes its propaganda machine. The pentagon and the administration act as if they consider the American public as an enemy second only to Saddam Hussain, and to counter that "threat," have been manipulating the information flow from the Gulf to such a degree that I now doubt nearly everything I "know" about what's going on there. And so I have to hang on to the conviction I formed before the propaganda blitz rolled over us, and that is that the reasons the administration offers us for war are immoral, hypocritical, and self-serving. It was wrong on January 15. It will be wrong on February 15. I disagree with no one who says Hussain is an irresponsible, immoral, and possibly an evil leader. But I do not believe that any lives should be traded off in order to drive him from power faster than would be possible with non-violent means.

I get angry a lot these days. I get angry because we've had so much time to reduce our dependance on oil and that now, because we were too selfish and lazy to reduce our addiction, we're willing to accept massive death and destruction, and feel justified in forgetting even the limited environment consciousness developed in the last decade, and are ready to start drilling in Alaska's northern slopes and risk more shoreline drilling. We're still not thinking about changing our *own* behavior and, like children, are willing to blame everyone else for the fix in which we find ourselves. Someone said recently that if Iraq's chief economic product was broccoli, we wouldn't be at war. We can all think of many modern tyrants that the US has ignored because our own economic interests weren't being threatened.

I might just be a little more sympathetic to this war if it were truly an international decision. But the US has been so cynical about the United Nations, using its resolutions when they happened to agree with our interests, and ignoring it when we were at odds with the UN. One day the UN condemns US mining of Nicaraguan harbors, and we say they have no jurisdiction, and the next we use the UN to support something we've decided we want to do. After ignoring Amnesty International for years and years because they criticized governments that we supported for "strategic" reasons or because they criticized US actions directly, we suddenly find use for one of their publications when it happens to criticize an enemy. Either we support the UN all the way, or not at all.

And I get angry about the criticism in our own country aimed at the minority who opposes the war. "We're involved in war now, you shouldn't demonstrate against it. And anyway criticism hurts the morale of the troops." If the waris wrong, it continues to be wrong *especially* after we've gotten into it. It continues to be wrong even if it appears that we're winning. It continues to be wrong even if it seems that casualties are low (on our side). I've never been a soldier and I never will be one, but I can't help but think that I'd rather have people at home trying to get me out of harm's way, rather than supporting a war that is wrong—but what the hell we're in now so let's get it over with.

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A couple weeks ago, Scott and I bought a peace yard sign (like political campaign yard signs, only it says "Stop the War" rather than "Vote for Kastenmeir.") A couple days after we set it up in our front yard someone stole it, and judging from the sudden disappearance of dozens of other peace signs in the neighborhood, we suspect that they were removed around the same time by someone who thinks that publicly advocating peace is unpatriotic.

Anyway, the next day we bought another sign, cut it in half (to make two signs where formerly there was a front and back) and installed them inside the windows of our front porch. I hope that whoever stole them notices that for all their trouble, they doubled the number of signs now visible at our address.

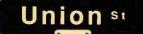
KIM WINZ

(JG) I've been following with interest your comments and others' about Prodigy, and last issue, about the Lotus Marketplace internet. Have you read David Brin's Earth? His vision of a future in which everyone in the world is connected to a computer network, through which they get all their news, information, and entertainment is fascinating. Individuals program their nodes to monitor the network for whatever kinds of information they are most interested in-mentions of themselves and people they know well, news items on certain topics with certain threshold priority levels, SIGs, random samplings, whatever. Then, individuals get paid royalties for the number of people who log onto their contributions. But the most amazing aspect of Brin's future stems from his assumption that society will eventually have to give up on the idea of privacy altogether, that since some people will be able to get any information, that all information should therefore be available to everyone. It's really quite interesting: he deals with the contradictions and drawbacks of such a situation and provides lots of ideas for interesting conversations and discussions. The main part of the novel has to do with the Gaia theory of Earth's evolution, and that is fascinating, and ties together well with some other reading I've been doing recently (Joseph Campbell's philosophy), but I think the thing that will most stick with me was the "background" stuff about the avalanching information revolution.

(SC) These privacy issues are coming at us thick and fast. Last time we were discussing Caller ID, now it's Lotus Marketplace. We must be alert to these developments and their potential impact on us. You are right to be concerned about this. I will share any additional information I come across. Thanks for printing the Lotus address and phone info. I plan to make a call to them.

TRACY SHANNON

(JG) Peacock as our own Cliff Klaven, what an idea! Thanks for the comments about so-called anti-male jokes made by feminists. It *is* a lot more complex than



generally believed.

(SC) I loved your comment to "Doc" Hoffman. Actually I liked your whole zine. Got a lotta smiles from me.

KATHRYN BETH WILLIG

(JG) I forget which Suzette Haden Elgin book I read this in, but this is her explanation for the "sks" pronunciation mystery (i.e., the difficulty some members of the Black American subculture have in pronouncing that sound). Elgin, by the way is an eminent linguist, and all her nonfiction books are quite readable and have been valuable, personally, to me. She says that, as infants, we all start out being able to create all the sounds of all human languages and we do, as we begin to exercise our vocal cords. The language-learning process begins with the interaction between native speakers and children. When kids make a sound that is part of the local language, they are encouraged by those around them.

"Listen, she said 'ma' ... she recognizes me!...Say ma-ma, sweetie. MA MA."

And gradually, as certain sounds are rewarded and other sounds are ignored, the child learns to practice the sounds and the rhythms of the language she will know as her native tongue and starts sounding as if she is speaking even though you can't pick out any one purposeful word. This is why Japanese have difficulty with the "r" sound: they never practiced it as children. This is why some of us have trouble with the Swahili "click," a vowel in several African languages which is formed by placing the tongue against the roof of the mouth, sucking the air out of the mouth, and then sliding the tongue back until the vacuum is suddenly released with a click (or, as the linguists describe it: "the bilabial glottalized fricative consonant")

Last summer, Scott and I were visiting my brother, sister-in-law, and their children, one of whom is Eric—a very young child who was busy experimenting with all the sounds he could create with his mouth. He was sort of enjoying making the Swahili click sound at the time, and he and I conversed back and forth with clicks. He seemed to enjoy it. Nobody had ever spoken to him in that language before. Well, Scott and I left, and his parents couldn't form the click sound very well, and by the time I saw Eric again a year later, he'd forgotten how to do it, and had to be coaxed to "click" again, though he could no longer do it nearly as easily as he had done it before.

It's true, there are now Mac viruses that travel with data, and you had better be wary of more than systems and applications. I would think that if this is true for Macs that it's probably true for Apples as well, and that it would be a good idea to stop reassuring people that they are safe if all they share with other Apple users is data.

I've got quite a few boxed sets of opera cds, which were the first boxed sets I ever saw in the stores. There wasn't any other way they were going to produce complete opera cds, after all, especially with the need to include a small book with the libretto.

ROSS PAVLAC

(JG) The 15% pregnancy rate that you refer to with condoms includes the failure to use condoms properly or failure to use it every time. The actual failure rate of condoms, when used correctly, is something like 2%, which is a great deal safer than you suggest, and with spermicides makes the phrase "safe sex" quite meaningful in terms of both pregnancy and AIDS prevention. [The New Our Bodies Ourselves states that "A good-quality condom has a failure rate of about 2 percent when used as directed, but in actual use its failure rate is about 10 percent. We suggest combining condoms with a spermicidal foam, cream or jelly for close to 100 percent protection." Gay men practicing safe sex use condoms in concert with heavy-duty spermicides, and so they are assuring themselves of protection very close to 100%.]

I must compliment you on the careful and nonattacking tone with which you wrote your comments on abortion. I appreciate that very much. And while I'm going to respond to some of your points here, my preference is to drop the conversation here in the apa soon.

Your experience at the "Operation Rescue" incidents is very different from mine. I've seen a lot more violence on the part of the anti-abortionists than I have on the part of the pro-choicers. Besides that perception, I consider the verbal abuse directed toward the women who have made a very difficult decision, to be in itself unforgivable violence. Unlike the sit-ins and demonstrations of the anti-war movement of the 60s directed against institutions, laws, and agencies, the demonstrations in front of abortion clinics are directed against individual women.

I don't think that the comparison of aborting a fetus with cutting off a finger is a valid analogy. A better analogy might be when a person refuses to donate a kidney or bone marrow to save another person's life, and when that donation is the person's only chance to survive. Refusing to donate a kidney might conceivably condemn another person to death. Indeed, we've seen an example of this situation in which a woman refused the demand of her xhusband to donate their son's bone marrow (I can't remember what exactly was in dispute) to save her estranged husband's second son. He had abandoned the family many years ago and not maintained any contact until his second son's medical crisis came up. One could consider the woman cruel to have carried the grudge to the extent that she was willing to abandon a boy she never met to die. Some people argued that she was imposing a terrible psychic burden on the first son who would one day find out that he had not been allowed to save the life of his half-brother. But, on the other hand, few people disputed the fact that any person, or their legal guardian, has a right to refuse invasive surgery, no matter what the potential benefit to another person's life.

I've never had to make the horrible decision about whether to carry a fetus or to abort it. I do not want to be a parent, but I'm not sure that I could make the decision to have an abortion. That's the main reason I had a tubal ligation; I don't want to put myself in such an awful position. Nevertheless, if I became pregnant and decided to have an abortion, it would be because I chose not to offer my body to nurture another life. If I chose abortion it would be because I believe that there are many kinds of life. We hoped to have found "life" on Mars and would have been happy to have found lichen. We breathe "life" in through our nostrils every moment. After the brain waves



flatline, a form of "life" still lingers. When I eat a bite of steak or broccoli, I consume what used to be "life." I believe that at some point the "life" in a woman's womb becomes a human being: certainly it is a human being at the time it is born, but I do not think it is a human being when it exists as a collection of a few cells, no more than I believe that the unfertilized egg and sperm constitute a human being.

I think that at this point in the argument we encounter the same assumptions that separate a deist from an agnostic, and the assumptions cannot be resolved. They are accepted or not according to the opinions of individuals.

I hardly think that it's a Big Lie that the anti-abortion movement fails to support adequate care of infants and children. I have no doubt that you can point to individuals and certain agencies that provide exceptions to this rule, but the pitiful record of state and federal funding provides ample evidence for how very little our society cares about the lives of children.

I thank you again for the reasonably civil and polite tone you've taken during this conversation. However, I am very sympathetic with women like **Kim Winz** who do not choose an objective perspective, who—as you say vents her rage when they write on this topic. She is and we are, feeling personally attacked by the anti-abortion movement and it's sometimes difficult to maintain a calm, dispassionate attitude in face of that.

I really enjoyed reading your numbered reasons for becoming a Christian. As you said in your mailing comment to me, it seems that we do share a lot more in common on this subject than I originally thought. Certainly as you define religion (as a set of beliefs concerning the nature of ultimate reality, humanity and the relation of those two) I spend a lot of time considering some very religious thoughts. (I would define that as spiritual interest, however. My definition of religion includes aspects of organization and imposed rules.) Lately I've been reading some Joseph Campbell material, and enjoying it tremendously, especially his comparisons of the myths of various world religions. He demonstrates that the same stories are repeated over and over again, with names changed, but the essence, the archetypal basis remaining the same. To me, this suggests that there are aspects of the human condition and self-awareness that we all share and need to understand, rather than to a personified, separate god. Campbell likes to define god as being the essence of life shared by all living things, and that's an interesting concept, but I tend to shy away from using the word "god" even for that idea. Growing up Roman Catholic has poured too much physical substance/image into the word "god" for me to be able to redefine it as a philosophic abstraction.

A Few Comments About The War

Our position on the war with Iraq has not changed since January 15th. We are firmly opposed to our involvement, and outraged at our initiation of hostilities. We feel an immediate halt to bombing and return to international sanctions are the only sane methods of dealing with Iraq's regional aggression.

We are proudly anti-war. It bothers us that people seem to be saying that supporting the troops must mean supporting the war. We take serious issue with this. We feel that only those of us calling for an end to the war truly support the troops by demanding their safe return. Favoring the war effort means standing by and cheerleading as our troops and innocent civilians are maimed, tortured, and killed for a war few people understand and fewer supported prior to our attack. People seem to believe that now that we have leaped into war, we must support it. In our view, if the war was a bad idea before, it is still a bad idea.

Why are we fighting this war? That question has not been explored nearly enough. George Bush has failed to really address the question. Even his own Administration is confused as to the reasons. Commonly held misconceptions currently peddled by the media as truth:

1. To depose Saddam Hussein because he is a monster.

No one would argue that Saddam is a nasty, dangerous and ruthless character. He has murdered his own people with poison gas. Conceded. But he is hardly alone in the world. There are monstrous heads of state at least as ugly as Saddam scattered across Africa, Central and South America and Southeast Asia as well, many who have killed their own citizens. The Chinese not only murdered their own people by the hundreds, they did it blatantly and in full view of the evening news (Tiannaman Square). Did we call air strikes on Bejing the next day? George Bush could barely bring himself to utter a mild statement of criticism. The Salvadoran government not only kill their own people, they've killed a few of ours. We responded by giving them money. No, the U.S. is quite comfortable dealing with monsters when it is in our interest or when they avow loyalty to the U.S. I daresay that the lives of innocent people hardly matter to George Bush when it comes to our National Interest.

2. Oil.

If Iraq keeps Kuwait, Saddam will control about 20% of the known world oil reserves. Very significant. But we have to wonder how many lives and futures that much oil could be worth. Even if you accept the idea that this oil is a vital national interest, who's fault is that? The Reagan and Bush Administrations have largely trashed the energy conservation programs instituted by the Carter administration. Had we not spent the last ten years foolishly increasing our dependence on foreign oil, but instead had pursued conservation and searched for alternative sources of energy, this 20% might not be worth the lives of our children. We are now engaging in war because of the failure, greed and corruption of the Reagan and Bush Administrations.

3. We are fighting for freedom.

Few Americans would be willing to die for freedom as exercised in pre-war Kuwait. Kuwait is not a democracy. Only Kuwaiti Citizens have any rights at all and few of the people who lived in Kuwait were Citizens. Kuwait was run by a very ancient sort of monarchy that did not understand or practice the concept of democracy or individual freedom as we know it. It



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is inappropriate for the U.S. to wage war on Iraq for the crime of invading a neighbor when we are guilty of the same crime in Panama.

4. We are enforcing U.N. resolutions.

This is totally empty-headed. The U.S. does not give a damn about the U.N. and its resolutions unless they kowtow to U.S. interests. The U.N. soundly condemned both our mining of Nicaraguan harbors and our invasion of Panama and the U.S. ignored them both times. Now that we want to fight a war, U.N. resolutions are brought in an excuse.

5. Anti-war sentiments only help Saddam.

This is Bush Administration disinformation. Saddam is facing a very real and powerful economic threat from the U.S. and the rest of the world via international embargo. If the antiwar movement is successful, Saddam still must withdraw from Kuwait or be starved out. Most informed observers agree that sanctions can work if given a chance.

6. No more Vietnams.

Ironically, this battlecry is heard now by more war supporters than war protesters. This is the Rambo-ization of history which assumes that the only reason Vietnam was bad was because we lost the war. When the Vietnam war ended liberals, progressives and war protesters dropped the ball. They celebrated the end of the conflict and went home. They halted discussion of the war. The conservatives and military establishment moved in and for the last twenty years we have been listening to their version of history. They have been pounding into the public the big lies that we lost the war because of an unrestrained commie news media, lack of support for the war effort by the folks back home, and spineless politicians who would not let us fight the war properly. All lies. But they were so successful in traumatizing people, that you can see clear evidence of it in the eyes of the "pro-war" demonstrators, many too young to remember Vietnam, who insist we not make the same "mistakes." When I see these people, it is clear to me that they don't care about the rightness or wrongness of the conflict. To them frank discussion constitutes a threat to the war effort. It's time that we reminded one another that the reason we protested the Vietnam War was because it was wrong. Just as this Iraq War is wrong.

Why are we at war? We believe that the oil argument, coupled with Bush's almost irrational personal hatred of Saddam, largely explain it. Our own oil dependence is hardly the only issue here. Saddam is a far greater threat to the economies of Japan and Germany who, in turn, finance our own famous budget deficit. We are sending our troops to their death and mutilation, not to mention innocent civilians on both sides, on partly on behalf of these two economic giants because the Reagan and Bush Administrations have put us economically at their mercy in the space of only ten years. We can also suggest several other reasons that we feel apply: the massive budget deficit, crime, drugs, the S&L disaster, recession, homelessness, abortion, AIDS and a large number of other pressing domestic issues that Bush has failed to deal with and were burying him and the GOP in the polls. Nothing like a good little war to move everything else to the back pages and project Bush as hero. It worked well for Reagan in Grenada, better for George in Panama, and a good enough little war now might carry George through '92.

Before the first air strikes were launched, most Americans feared war. Every major poll taken showed substantial opposition to war. Now that it is under way, the Administration is trying to blunt open opposition by claiming it is "hurting the troops" or being "unpatriotic" to oppose the war. Bush is trying to manipulate people by playing on anxieties left over from Vietnam. He is also manipulating and censoring news coverage on the battlefield because he is frankly afraid of Americans' reaction to the truth of war. This war is as bad an idea now as it was last month. Let's put an end to this madness. We thought we would not have to argue this again in our lifetimes. Support the troops, and the innocent victims of both sides. Oppose the Iraq War.

> Sincerely, Scott Custis Jeanne Gomoll

