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Anti-war movement intensifies in Las Vegas

by Tom Lacy

As the war in the Persian Gulf intensifies, so does the anti-war movement in Las Vegas. A coalition of members from the Nevada Desert Experience, the American Peace Test and local citizens is demonstrating daily at the Foley Federal Building.

Demonstrations began in August, but have increased in intensity since the start of the war, according to Denise Stephenson, a UNLV student among those voicing disapproval of the United States' military bombardment of Iraq. Asked what the goal of the coalition is, Stephenson said it is "to oppose the current military policies of President Bush. We don't believe he gave (economic) sanctions a chance before he invaded Iraq."

While acknowledging the group's anti-war effort, Stephenson said she wants to make it clear that the group does not look down

on American soldiers already stationed in the Gulf.

"I think it's important to understand that those of us protesting the war do support the troops and, in fact, we want the troops to come home. We want them safe and we don't want them over there in danger. That's one issue that needs to be made very clear. We don't want this to be another Vietnam," she said. "We don't want the soldiers to come back and bear the brunt of criticism due to the government's military policies. It's the administration that bears the brunt of our anger and fears—not the soldiers."

Peter Ediger, co-director for the Nevada Desert Experience (a faith-based group aimed at halting nuclear testing) echoed the sentiments of Stephenson regarding support for the troops. Ediger, however, had harsh words condemning the military policies of the United States and its allies.

"The freedom movement in Europe came not from guns and bombs, but from the attrition by the people. The real power to change things comes from people's non-violent expression," Ediger said.

Ediger reiterated that the purpose of the coalition protesting is to promote more awareness among people. He said that the group doesn't try to offer any precise plans to deal with Saddam Hussein, but instead urges measures other than military action.

"What we're doing now is sowing more seeds of hatred...we're going to reap the harvest of more resentment, hatred, violence and warfare," Ediger said. He also had condemned the jet fighter missions occurring daily in Iraq.

"Ten thousand sorties—that's demonic, that's crazy, it's insane! I'm here to say folks, there is another way, we have to find another way," Ediger concluded.



photo by Rick Mealy

Students in Claudine Williams residence hall show their feelings for the American troops stationed in the Middle East.

Pentagon: "No plans to reimpose a draft"

by Bonar Tucker

Although thousands of calls each week are being received at Selective Service offices about a possible reinstatement of the draft, Chief Pentagon Spokesman Pete Wilson has announced, "The Congress and the public made the decision some time ago to go to a professional, full-time army of people who volunteer and receive full training. There are no plans to reimpose a draft," Wilson said, according to *The Baltimore Sun*.

The president's authority to conduct a draft expired in July 1973. However, the necessary

tools remain in place and could be easily activated if a draft were to be resumed by Congress and the president.

Under the current law, men must register for the standby draft after reaching the age of 18. The information about them is fed into a computer with a data bank containing the names of roughly 15 million draft-eligible men. Women are exempt. The law also states that draftees may not be sent overseas after induction for a period of 90 days.

Pentagon officials have said the time needed to train and ship

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Student-soldier goes to war

by Bonar Tucker

Another student from UNLV has been called to serve his country in the present Persian Gulf crisis, leaving a new semester filled with 16 credit hours and many friends behind.

Army infantryman Jay Durham was called to active duty last week. He left for Georgia on Thursday where he will await orders as to whether or not he will be sent immediately to the Middle East.

Although Durham admitted he is somewhat afraid and that he doesn't want to go, he quickly added his support of the decisions

to defend Kuwait.

"I am completely in favor of our involvement there," he said. "Iraq totally invaded this country and the United Nations and the whole world stepped in. We should be there, but I'm human and I'm scared."

Durham was a Kappa Sigma pledge at UNLV. He was enrolled as a freshman working toward a business degree.

"This would be my second semester," he said. "I had completed two years of active duty and was scheduled for six years of inactive duty until this situation occurred."

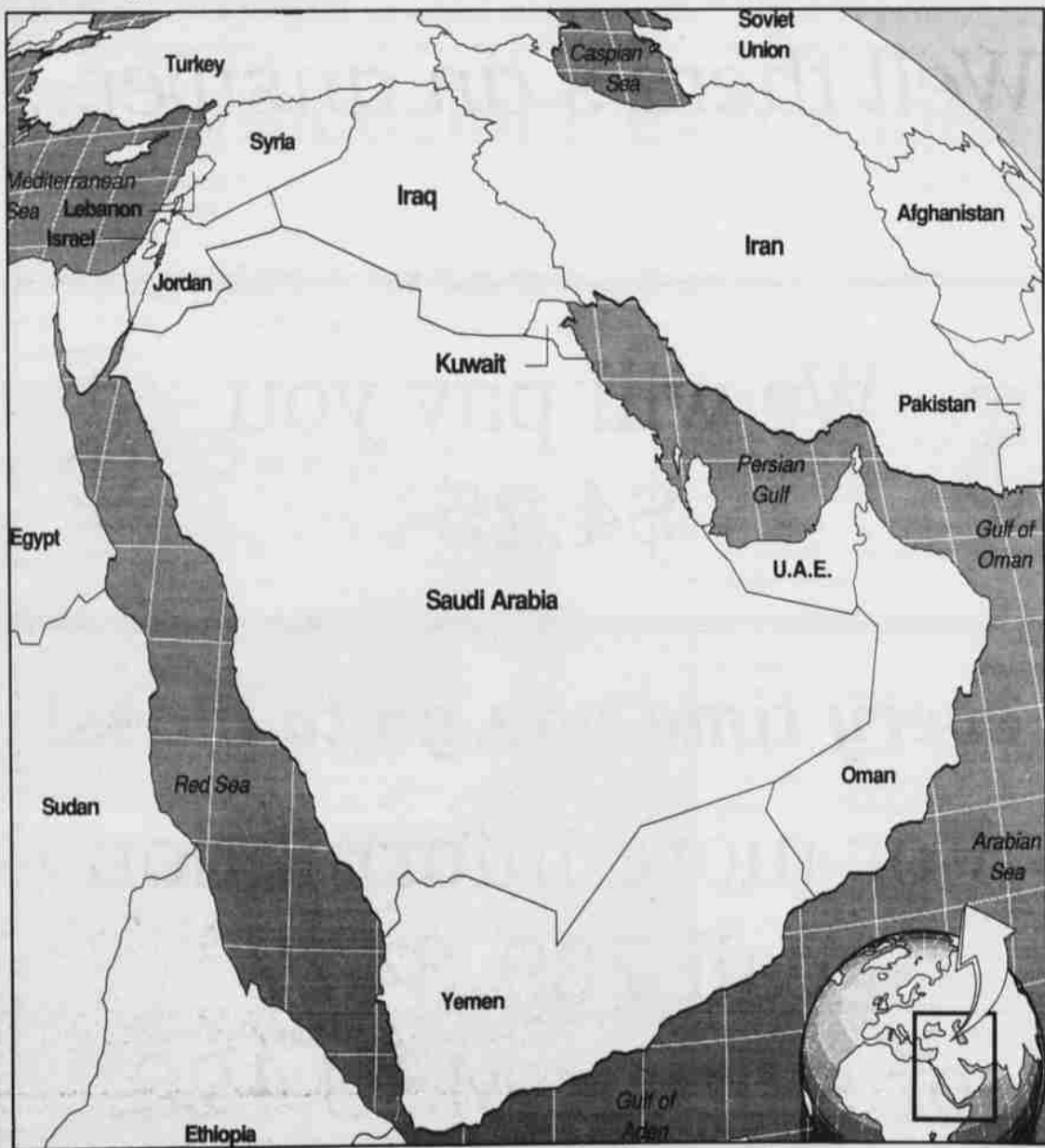
Durham said a lot of his

friends had called him on Wednesday telling him that they had received their orders to report to duty. After calling his mom in Houston, Texas, and asking her to check his mail, he was told he also had received the president's executive order to report to the base.

"Lots of my friends have been called," Durham said. "But I think we should be there. We're not just fighting for the oil."

Durham said he will miss his friends at UNLV.

"I had a fun time here," he said. "I'm really going to miss everyone."



The Persian Gulf region

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WE SALUTE OUR FRIENDS OVERSEAS.

★ ★ ★

14 days of WAR

MAY THEY RETURN SAFELY AND SOON.