

Iraq, by way of Vietnam

by Lou J. Parolis

On Thursday Feb. 28, I attended a meeting of Vietnam veterans against the war in the Persian Gulf. The vets were complaining about a statement that President Bush had made proclaiming the fact that the prevailing Vietnam syndrome has been defeated in light of the quick and stunning victory against the Iraqi Army. The syndrome that the president is talking about hurt this country in its ability to conduct foreign policy.

After the war in Vietnam most people were wary of sending our troops into a combat situation. The all too familiar cry was "lets hope this does not turn into another Vietnam."

During the first hours of the invasion of Grenada, the media was making comparisons to Vietnam. Despite poor military planning, the war in Grenada only lasted a few days. Our people held hostage by the communist government, were rescued and brought back to the states.

The Panama invasion received the same negative treatment from the radical left and the media. They felt the war was going to get bogged down in Panamanian jungles. Thanks to excellent military planning, the war was over within hours and, a few days later, strongman Manuel Noriega was brought to Florida.

The recent war with Iraq had its share of naysayers. Joel Achenback, writer for the Washington Post, points out the Vietnam syndrome by quoting a Pentagon official, "The protestors are protesting the last war, the press is reporting the last war, the politicians are debating the last war,

and the experts are out in space somewhere."

At the height of the Vietnam syndrome, the Soviet Union expanded their reign of terror throughout the world. The Soviets aided Communist regimes in Angola, Nicaragua, and in Vietnam. They invaded the sovereign nation of Afghanistan, imposed martial law on the peace loving people of Poland, and supplied arms to terrorist countries in the Middle East. During this time, the United States stood idly by worrying about being too aggressive in light of our so called "loss" in Vietnam.

Ronald Reagan came on the scene in 1981 proclaiming the Soviet Union as an "evil empire." The United States underwent the largest military build up since World War II, and the toughest diplomacy by a president since Richard Nixon. The combination of tough talk and military might brought about a halt to Soviet aggression.

Now that the Vietnam syndrome is behind us, communism and the dictators loyal to it are in full retreat. From the shipping yards in Gdansk, Poland to the barrios of Managua, Nicaragua, freedom is ringing loud and clear, and people are enjoying what they are hearing. The people of Kuwait are overjoyed by the fact that the country is once again back in their hands, away from the evil dictator, Saddam Hussein. Crowds of people in Kuwait are chanting, "Bush, Bush, Bush," and waving American flags.

While watching CNN, I saw a sign in Kuwait City that read, "Blood for Freedom." This is my answer to the radical left who question the president's decision

on sending our brave young men and women into combat.

To keep freedom ringing, the US government, and more importantly the American people, must expect the fact that the United States is the only superpower in the Western World. Countries like Japan and Germany are economic superpowers, but have no military whatsoever. Great Britain and France don't have the natural resources or the population that warrants superpower status. Israel has enough trouble protecting their borders, thus they cannot get involved in world affairs.

Former President Richard M. Nixon sums up the kind of foreign policy that the United States government should pursue, "National pride without the impulse to share that of which we are so proud, is selfish. Too often what we have called a restoration of national pride has been no more than complacent, comfortable smugness. Real pride comes not from avoiding the fray but from being in middle of it, fighting for our principles, our interests, and our friends."

The American people should give a collective round of applause to President Bush, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin L. Powell, and the commander of operation Desert Storm General H. Norman Schwarzkopf. The biggest thanks of all should go out to the brave men and women who fought and died in operation Desert Storm. Our prayers go out to them and their families now and in the future.

Parolis is a sophomore majoring in political science.

Prisoners of war

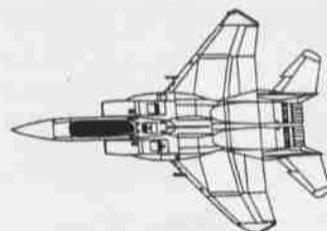
The Geneva Conventions are a series of treaties about the treatment of prisoners of war, concluded in 1929 and 1949, which require:

- Humane treatment of prisoners
- Adequate feeding of prisoners
- Supplying information about prisoners
- Allowing visits to prison camps by representatives of neutral states
- Allowing delivery of relief supplies
- Putting no pressure on prisoners to supply more than a minimum amount of information

In Desert Storm

- **Initial capture:** Each ally and U.S. service branch will transfer captured Iraqis to a holding facility
- **POW camps:** Under the joint campaign plans, Saudi Arabia has responsibility for prisoner of war camps. The Saudis have announced they intend to treat Iraqis as though they were pilgrims in the country for the annual Hajj holiday.

SOURCE: Chicago Tribune, Encyclopedia Britannica, news reports



What the military is really saying

Some terms used in recent reports about the Gulf war:

- **Battalion:** Group of 600 troops
- **AT-4:** Shoulder-fired weapon; can pierce a tank's armor
- **Bradley Fighting Vehicle:** Armored truck-like vehicle; carries nine soldiers, gear
- **Cruise missile:** Guided missile; low altitude, speed
- **LAV:** Light Armored Vehicle; eight-wheeled vehicle with thin armor used as scout and decoy; armed with TOW missiles
- **LAW:** Light Anti-Tank Weapon; shoulder-fired at tank treads
- **M1 tank:** Heavy, fully armored tank carries 105mm cannon to battle other tanks; M1A version has 120mm gun
- **Tomahawk:** Unmanned cruise missile; fired from ships, submarines; computer guided to targets 800 miles away
- **TOW missile:** Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire Command-Link Guided Missile; portable missile used by ground troops; can be steered after it is fired

SOURCE: News reports, "Department of defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms"

Campus Recreation/Intramurals

Intramural March Madness

Rankings #2
Pre-Playoff Rankings/Basketball

Women

1. Untouchables (These players/coaches may be the only challenge to the #1 mens team.)
2. AΓΔ (Will these ladies want to play again?)
3. Diggin' it (really looking foward to volleyball!)

Men

1. Nasty Boys 6-0 (Looking to go wire-to-wire, bet to win/place/show.)
 2. Lambda Chi "A" 7-0 (Maybe the jerseys are the answer, not sure these guys knew what the question was.)
 3. Bomb Squad 5-0 (Hoping the detonation does not occur, it shall.)
 4. Floor Play 5-1 (Failed the mid-term miserably, need some quality study time for the final.)
 5. Bruvva's Howse 5-1 (Long hiatus, will they be ready. Cannot believe it!)
 6. 7-1 (Rough-n-tumbling)
 7. TKE 6-2 (Late Bloomin—doomin ahead.)
 8. Get a T.O. Baby 4-2 (Will Dick Vitale show-up?)
 9. BDD 5-0 (Who are these "B"elow average players?)
 10. The Heat 4-2 (Will this group be warm enough? No way!)
- Others receiving votes:
KE-Red, D-Dubs, LDSSA, Pistons, 5-Amigos.....Maybe one win among 'em.

Soccer

Intramural Leagues for Women & Men

ENTRIES DUE/TEAM MANAGERS MEETING:
TODAY, TUESDAY, MARCH 12
4:00 P.M.
MOYER STUDENT UNION 201

Entry Fee/Forfeit Fee = \$20.00/\$20.00 per team
Any individuals looking for to get onto a time, please attend this meeting.
League Schedule begins March 18th.

Campus Recreation/Intramural Office is located in MSU, Room 126. Phone 739-3221