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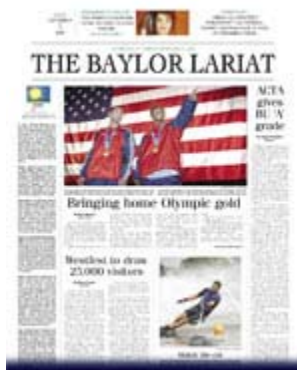
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Baylor should prepare to support those affected by Gulf situation

Feb. 5, 1998

Warning: Events in the news may hit closer to home than most people expect.

Almost halfway around the globe, a country slightly larger than twice the size of Idaho is threatening the peace of mind of some Baylor students. Currently dubbed the 'Standoff with Iraq,' the continuing conflict between the United States and Iraq is slowly escalating to a dangerous point.

With Fort Hood less than an hour away, an AFROTC building on campus and students who have parents in the Armed Forces, this conflict should worry more Baylor students than it currently does.

For starters, numerous Fort Hood soldiers were called to duty during the Persian Gulf War in 1991. There is a good chance that they would be called on again should another crisis with Iraq arise in the near future. If that should happen, there will be children who will live without one of their parents for an unspecified amount of time. Those children would need support during this time. Spouses and relatives left behind will also need support as they will be taking on added responsibility.

If the crisis doesn't break out until this summer, graduating AFROTC students could be called upon to serve in the Gulf. Baylor alumni who are serving in the Armed Forces could very well be stationed in the Gulf or in Europe right now.

What could hit closest to home, though, is the fact that there are Baylor students whose peace of mind has turned into worrying whether their parent will be called upon to serve in the Gulf. The likeliest situation for Baylor military 'brats' is that they haven't seen their families in a while because they are stationed on a base either in another state or overseas. No one knows what could happen during a war and these students, quite possibly, would not be able to see their parents before they are sent to the Gulf.

Baylor, with its Christian principles, should be ready to offer assistance in order to support the people who are defending our country.

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