opinion

Gorbachev: still clueless

Column by Matthew H. Hersch

It's getting harder and harder to like Mikhail Gorbachev. That's probably because it's been a long time since Gorb's done something right.

He's a crafty devil, though. The guy was able to manage to make everyone forget the Soviet Union's repression of the Baltic states, as well as Gorbachev's losing his policies. But instead of using this hiatus from diplomatic censure to repair his crumbling states and patch up rifts between himself and the Bush government, Gorbachev has turned to some old-time double dealing.

While the coalition prepared for a ground war with Iraq, Gorbachev tried to pull off a diplomatic coup — negotiate a cease-fire. If successful, not only would he have regained some of his footing in the international community, he would have been able to guarantee the survival of the USSR's best customers — Iraq, Gorbachev, all never, were wanted to be bothered with this collective-security, all-out-war-for-all, 圣经-Kuwait—die-trying thing. While the 82nd Airborne was descending upon Saudi Arabia last summer to prevent an Iraqi invasion, the Soviets still had 3000 military advisors in Iraq teaching Saddam's boys how to keep their Scud clean and shiny.

The American-bashers, nuclear-weapons freaks and xenophobes in the Soviet central government must go.

Iraq was the perfect nation for the USSR to court as an ally. Gorbachev, and the military hardliners in Gorb's flying circus, will be unhappy to see Suddam go.

Instead of calling for unconditional Iraqi acceptance of all UN resolutions, the Soviets called for a cease-fire and gradual withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, with mixed overtures of settlement of the Palesinian question and containment of Iraq's reparations responsibilities.

The Bush administration's reluctance to engage in diplomatic efforts was cordial, but our spokesmen repeatedly announced that Iraq was wasting its time dealing with the Americans.

With the ground war underway, and Iraq taking

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Sorry, I don't have an opinion

Guest column by Jason Merkoski

I have learned that the only way to get anything published in The Tech is by having an opinion. I found this out the hard way when I submitted a semi-lunatic column for the Tuesday edition.

It was not printed, more likely because it lacked an opinion that would startle the MIT community. An ach. For comparison's sake, the only times I have ever had a column published in The Tech were when I had written a letter to the editor. For comparison's sake, the only reasons that I can find for not having an opinion is that the MIT community must have gone off its meds.

I am positive that such behavior is not normal (normal is one is a serial killer, person), and I can probably understand how terribly serious I was when I finally went myself to the office for The Tech. I then found that the editorial page had been filled with letters to the editor. So much for me. So much for the press.

Of course, I should have expected it. My column looked like a stab-in-the-dark effort to develop an opinion, and I could never be sure that the staff of The Tech happy, here is My Opinion : War is bad. Saddam Hussein is bad. Lollapalooza is very cool.

There. Happy? Now that all that ugly business is done with, let me complain. The other day, I gave the staff of The Tech a statistical column that I had written in the form of a television program, complete with commentaries and audio. I am sure you would have enjoyed it. However, it was not in opinion format, so it could not be printed. I had guessed this would happen, but I was crushed nevertheless. Let me tell you why.

I found it impossible to submit to the piece to The Tech. It was not that they avoided me, or discouraged my writing. I am just terribly shy (borderline agoraphobic, perhaps). And as for having heard of J. D. Salinger He is an American writer who is so reluctant to be friendly that he lives in an abandoned and station书画, where I am very sure he is not ind to him in many respects. For instance, I occasionaly pick up a copy of The Catcher in the Rye and with my denim fingers I "shoot" people walking outside. "Bang!" I say, to nobody in particular.

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I was descending upon Saudi Arabia last summer to prevent an Iraqi invasion, the Soviets still had 3000 military advisors in Iraq teaching Saddam's boys how to keep their Scud clean and shiny.

I would be slaughtered. With American units on the outskirts of Baghdad and the Republican Guards routed, the Soviets have finally joined the bandwagon in supporting Iraq.

For Gorb, it's too late. When the United States needed Soviet support in forming the coalition, the Soviets had other interests in mind. With US and British forces now occupying a large portion of Iraq, Soviet influence in that country will be deservedly diminished.

Gorb, get with the program. While we expect backhanded, whispering, tip-toe diplomacy from them, we don't expect it from you. If you can't work and play well with others, we won't work and play with you.

Gorb, needs, in short, a good purging. His global positions and the country he must keep must be reassessed. The paper must be bloody, but the American-bashers, nuclear-weapons freaks and xenophobes in the Soviet central government must go.

The column must be removed, before they mock up more foreign policy issues to show their strong points, but the only credibility that can do this is after all, and non-existent. With the USSR's present support for the Saudi side, the only power Gorbachev can effectively argue to maintain it dominate in foreign affairs. It's his only chance to stay in power.

Communism may be dead, but the USSR still has its own policy goals to worry about. In the "New World Order" meanwhile, the Soviet Union won't play a very big part. The brassy lady idiot in the global community, Gorbachev, has lost his backbone and up and down Main Street, never sure where it's going.