

The Case for the War, from the Left

Siding With Hitchens

by Mark Grueter

It has become fashionable in some circles to oppose a war in Iraq. Around the New School, one frequently hears somebody chanting, "No War On Iraq" or "No Blood For Oil." For many, any conflict initiated by the United States is an evil, imperialist enterprise embarked upon solely to further the narrow, myopic interests of big business and greedy politicians. So one has the benefit of not having to think when deciding whether or not to support war. These people, pacifists or otherwise, enjoy gathering together at demonstrations, one of which I recently attended. Ralph Nader, Phil Donahue and others were speaking outside Federal Hall. I like Nader, but he tends to attract some of the more zany elements of our society; these events are always a spectacle of sorts. This one boasted,

among other absurdities, gigantic, inflated pigs that give it a certain Barnum and Bailey flavor. While Mark Green was speaking, a short, fat, unwashed guy with a ZZ Top beard kept screaming, "Mark Green is a phony Green!" Somebody might have told this poor heckler that Mark Green is not a Green anyway; he is a Democrat. Self-righteous dopes, a peculiar minority wing during the Vietnam era, are now the mainstream in current protests. One gets the sense that much of the Left has been hijacked by a herd of ungrateful and close-minded pissants, trying so desperately not to conform.

On October 30th, in spite of the sideshow, the Graduate Faculty held an engaging forum on Iraq. The three presentations all strongly opposed any conflict initiated by the U.S. or the U.N. Many intelligent criticisms of U.S. policy were made. However, there was a conspicuous absence of any dissenting views, either pro-war or pro-U.N.-resolution. And the case made against war in Iraq, although compelling, was insufficient.

