

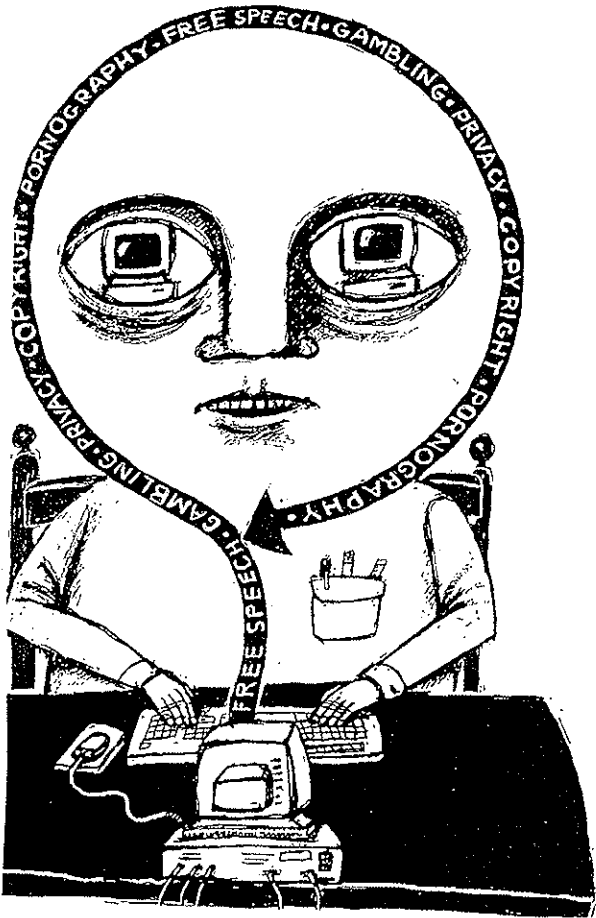
# OUTLOOK

Commentary and Opinion

Feb. 15/1998

## EJA VU.COM

net Brings the Biggest Issues to the Fore Again



BY ROBERT MEGANCK FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

John Schwartz

the future hits you even before that first sip of coffee. Lance the director of George Washington University's Cyberspace Policy Institute checking his e-mail before dawn when he found a message that from his early morning haze. duct to sell for my class project in a open a sperm bank," wrote one asn't the kind of proposal that d when he gave his class an a businesses that could operate /orld Wide Web.

il detailed a sexually explicit ; the sperm bank that might be science for The Washington Post.

described, charitably, as irreverent. Hoffman read through the proposal, uttered an expletive and thought, "Do I have to deal with this?"

Yes, he did. And so will the rest of us. Because the global computer network known as the Internet isn't just a communications medium for swapping e-mail and surfing Web sites. It has become a new battleground for refighting the wars that shape our culture: society's attitudes toward sex and obscenity, libel, search and seizure, patent and copyright law, gambling, personal privacy and more.

It might seem that the nation has already been slogging through the issues raised by the Internet for some time, but in fact we've barely begun. Few people know this better than Washington-based attorney Stewart A. Baker, a former counsel to the National Security Agency who now represents many clients trying to stop

See INTERNET, C5, Col. 3

### VIEWS FROM ABROAD

As the U.S. government rallies support for military action against Iraq, Outlook asked two European commentators for their perspectives on the impending hostilities.

## The Problem Of Punishing Saddam

### Questions About The True Aims Of U.S. Policy

By Ghassan Salamé

PARIS  
The more one thinks about the U.S. government's stated rationale for bombing Iraq, the less convincing it seems. Even someone like me, a critic of the Iraqi regime's human-rights record for 20 years and a public opponent of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, finds it difficult to accept the various U.S. explanations for pursuing a shortsighted policy that will bring further death and destruction to an already traumatized society.

Is the objective to defeat a dangerous dictatorship? But how does launching smart bombs from afar bring about a democracy? Why would bombing Baghdad miraculously produce a government that respects human rights or a society that obeys the rule of law? And how many sorties will be necessary to find and kill Saddam Hussein (as some bellicose commentators have openly called for) and rouse the population against the Iraqi

See OBJECTIVES, C6, Col. 3

Ghassan Salamé is professor of international relations at the Institut d'études politiques in Paris and editor of "Democracy Without Democrats: The Renewal of Politics in the Muslim World" (St. Martin's Press).

### Answers From Europe Are All Over the Map

By Josef Joffe

MUNICH  
As the United States is priming those bombs destined for Saddam Hussein's biological and chemical weapons labs, Europe is applauding faintly. Only the British—cheers to the "special relationship"—are ready to fly along.

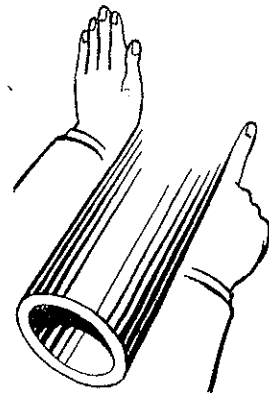
What a change. During the Gulf War in 1991, if some European allies did not dispatch ground forces as the French and British did, they contributed at least a frigate or two. The Germans and the Japanese, citing their unsavory pasts, preferred to buy their way out—with billions of dollars for the American war kitty. The Soviets made a significant contribution just by doing nothing (apart

from frantic mediation), rather than siding with their old ally Iraq.

This time, Europe has split along classic lines—never mind its mad dash toward monetary integration and all those sonorous commitments to the "common" foreign and security policy" enshrined in the fabled 1991 Maastricht Treaty.

See EXTREMES, C6, Col. 1

Josef Joffe is editorial page editor of the Sueddeutsche Zeitung in Munich and an associate of Harvard's Olin Institute for Strategic Studies.



BY CHRISTOPHE VORLEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST