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Dictators make the world go 'round

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As we stand at the beginning of a new war, I can't shake this feeling of déjà vu. I could have sworn we fought Saddam 12 years ago with the intention of beating and deposing him, liberating some people, and getting crude oil as a reward. Why, then, has this "madman" been allowed to sit as

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the head of one of the world's most oil-rich nations?

The reason is that we secretly need dictators. Dictators (when we like them, we call them chairmen, but when they don't agree with us, they are "evildoers" and "strongmen") make the world go round. I'm not saying that dictators are a benevolent force; I'm simply saying that these individuals spice things up in our otherwise humdrum, democratic existence. If it weren't for Saddam Hussein, we would be watching 24-hour coverage of the battle at the Oscars. Just think of it: a terrifying graphic with ominous music, displaying "Zellweger vs. Zeta-Jones: Gray skies over *Chicago*."

Right now, the world stage looks like the setup for an epic plot found only in comic books. Our hero (Bush), who seeks revenge for his father's incomplete victory, goes head-to-head against the villainous dictator (Hussein) in order to free millions of inno-

cent people (and millions of gallons of "Texas tea").

The Justice League (U.N.) is currently not siding with our hero because they believe he is acting too quickly. However, he knows that if he hesitates, the evil mastermind could easily terrorize another area with his chemical and biological weapons.

Of course, our hero has his pick of villains; on the other side of the world is the evil Asian stereotype (played by freakish movie critic/ruler Kim-Jong Il), who is currently keeping a low profile, but could be plotting to hold the world hostage with weapons of mass destruction as we speak.

Slap them all in colorful unitards and you could sell the plot to Stan Lee.

I guess I should feel bad for all the people that are being oppressed by these leaders, but I don't really have the time, with all this worry about how much my gas is going to cost, and whether this will affect the amount of financial aid I get for college. I'm just happy we live in a world where there's a scapegoat or two; a few men who, despite lack of character, intelligence, or sanity, come upon the leadership of a nation and can run secretive projects and spend loads of the citizens' money. Then again, men like these can also find their way

