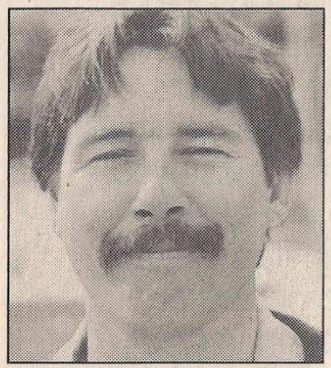
VOICES FROM ACROSS THE USA/What should be the USA's response to the bombing of our warship?



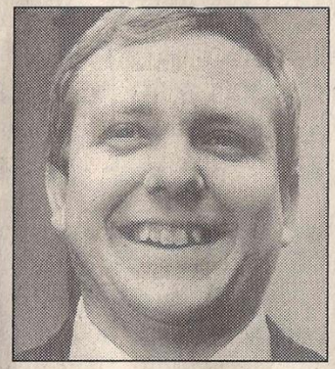
JEFF NORTHROP, *34*
Yacht broker
Westport, Conn.

The USA should retaliate. I have always thought that we have been soft on the Middle East. With today's sophisticated radar systems, I find it hard to believe that Iraq bombed one of our frigates by mistake. Coming from a maritime background, I think that is impossible to do. They should have known the frigate's identity.



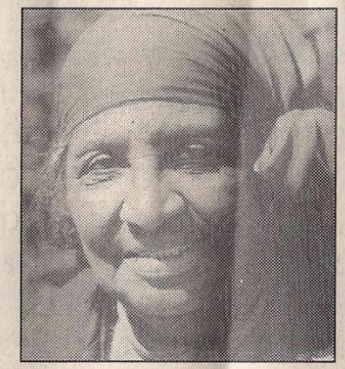
KATHY DALE, *28*
Data manager
Washington, D.C.

It is certainly much smarter to conduct an investigation of the bombing rather than react in a knee-jerk way. Bombing Iraq does not make much sense. The only logical thing the USA can do is to look further into the situation to see if anything was done intentionally. That is the only safe way to go about it.



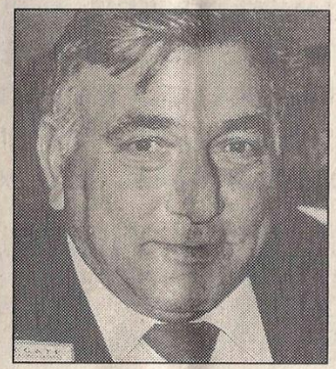
ROBERT BEATTIE, *31*
Firefighter
Wichita, Kan.

Our response should be to steer clear of war zones. What could be more obvious than that, unless we were looking for trouble or trying to provoke them? The frigate was traveling through a known war zone. We should have recognized that. The answer is simple: Our military ships should stay out of that area.



MYRTLE PARKER, *76*
Retired
Louisville, Ky.

If the bombing was truly a mistake, we have to accept that. But we must make it clear to Iraq that we will not allow this to happen again. If it does happen again, we will have no choice but to take some type of action against them. They must realize that they cannot bomb our ships and expect to get away with it.



BEN TRAINA, *61*
Retired
Farmingdale, N.Y.

The incident should be investigated thoroughly before we do anything drastic. Iraq has said it did not know the ship's identity. If it is proved a mistake, there is not much we can do except take their word for it. But if the ship was intentionally bombed, we should not hesitate to do everything possible to avenge the bombing.



JUDY COLLIER, *40*
Social services
Ocean Beach, Calif.

I do not believe in wimping out, but the USA should use every means possible to solve the incident without going to war over it. We should negotiate in a way that we avoid war while retaining our national integrity and honor. We should give them every opportunity to apologize and accept their apology when it is offered.



BARBARA HOCK, *53*
Secretary
Green Bay, Wis.

For the sake of peace, I would give Iraq the benefit of doubt. It could have been a bad mistake, as Iraqi officials have stated. After all, that country is currently involved in a war with Iran, so the bombing could have been an accident. Apologies will not bring back the dead, but they will help us understand the situation.