

War proof of Bush's false advertising

Andrew Horvat
Staff Writer

During the Persian Gulf War, American planes sent two missiles into what the Bush Administration claimed was "a military command post." The Bush Administration went so far as to suggest that if there were any civilians in the "command post," they were placed there to disguise it. This was followed by the government saying, "Saddam Hussein does not share our belief in the sanctity of human life."

I would like to mention an excerpt from a report filed by Don Mosley. Mosley is the head of Jubilee Partners, an organization in Comer, GA., that works for peace and understanding in the world. Their work deals with political refugees from Central America. Mosley headed a delegation of the official representatives of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, one of the oldest peace organizations in America, to Baghdad shortly after the beginning of the Persian Gulf War.

In the May 1991 report of the Jubilee Partners, Mosley wrote, "Baghdad is a modern city with well over a million inhabitants. Middle class neighborhoods alternate with commercial districts and parks... Many of the tallest buildings are ruins, their steel frames supporting tons of debris left from multiple strikes by laser bombs and cruise missiles. Here and there are private neighborhoods and less conspicuous buildings that have been leveled by bombs. At night the city's most widespread problem becomes more obvious: the municipal power system has been destroyed... Water is available only here and there, at very low pressure... Without electricity the sewage must be dumped into the river untreated."

Mosley also traveled to the Ameriya shelter. "Dr. Boghossian (director of a Baghdad hospital) had directed the removal of the bodies from the Ameriya shelter after the tragedy on Ash Wednesday. He took us to the shelter itself, and soon we were picking our way through its charred interior. The room was hauntingly lit by the sun's rays filtering down through the hole blasted through six feet of reinforced concrete in the roof. Built to withstand a possible nuclear attack from Israel, the roof had been penetrated by the first of the two missiles that hit it. According to every survivor we interviewed in the Ameriya neighborhood, the shelter had been full of women and children.

"After the initial blast some had made their way through one set of steel doors, only to find that the outer set of doors were still locked. About four minutes after the first explosion, according to witnesses, a second missile had plunged precisely through that opening made by the first and killed everyone except a few of those trapped between the two sets of doors.

"After the attack, fire trucks had sprayed water into the shelter for days to cool it... No one knew how many more bodies were going to be found there to add to the hundreds already removed..."

Who do I believe in this situation? Do I believe Don Mosley, a man who helps political refugees and who led a rag-tag group to Baghdad, or do I believe the president of the United States?

How many massacres have occurred in Iraq and Kuwait at the hands of the United States? Why have the newspapers not been investigating the situation in Baghdad after this war? Is there a figure, even to the nearest thousand, of how many civilians died?

For a democracy, our nation has settled into a thunderous and deafening silence in the period after the Persian Gulf War.

For a copy of the Jubilee report, drop a note in box 17282. If you would like to contact Jubilee Partners or Don Mosley, write to Jubilee Partners, P.O. Box 68, Comer, GA., 30629.



Supreme Court confirmation reflects preoccupation with "little" issues

Ryan Page
Staff Writer

One of the top stories in the news this week is the confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas.

The debate has focused on his views on abortion, his "blackness," and his views on natural rights. The first two reflect our nation's sad tendency towards single-issue politics. The last should be an issue, because it involves Judge Thomas' legal philosophy, but it also has been turned into an embarrassing display of ignorance about our history.

The constant rattling of sabres over abortion, which manages to turn so many elections into circus acts where each candidate attempts to straddle the fence better than his opponent, continues to obscure what should be the real concerns of the Senate Judiciary Committee, namely his competence, his interpretation of the Constitution and his voting record as judge.

This country needs to ask itself if it really wants an

incompetent on its highest court simply because of his beliefs on a single issue. Thomas' record shows that he is not incompetent, but what if he was?

What if he was a real loser, and nobody on the Senate Judiciary Committee found out because they were all too busy to either asking questions about Thomas' views on abortion, his answering of which, by the way, would show a striking lack of judicial discretion, since he will in all probability be deciding cases regarding that issue.

So now, assuming he is confirmed, we have an incompetent justice on the Supreme Court, but, by God, at least he's pro-life!

Or on the other side, what if he is the next Oliver Wendell Holmes or John Marshall, and he is not confirmed because of his abortion stance? Then we've got an eminently qualified juror who won't be serving our country because the current members of the Senate Judiciary Committee felt that their own political prejudices took precedence over obtaining a quality justice for the Supreme Court. And the real

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Corrections:

Several pieces of information were incorrectly printed in our Orientation Issue.

Kathy Adams' official title is Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean..

Michael Geisler is the Coordinator of Academic Affairs.

Provost Dan Poteet's name was incorrectly spelled.

The Editors apologize for any misunderstanding these errors may have caused.

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