

Editorial: John Kerry

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Features Editor

Our country is at war. This is clear. The larger question remains who are we and who should we be at war with. No one disagrees that we should be fighting terrorism around the globe. But there are, and should, be severe qualms with our being at war with Iraq.

This election is going to be about many different domestic issues but the single biggest factor is going to be foreign policy and particularly the war in Iraq. Supporters of George Bush will argue that John Kerry has no plan to win the war in Iraq and that President Bush was correct in going after Saddam Hussein. Both of these arguments are false.

The first thing that must be addressed is the reason for going to war. Bush told us that there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and that Saddam Hussein was funding terrorism. These two things proved not true. Not only are they not true, Bush's own aides told him before the war that they weren't true.

Colin Powell, the much respected Secretary of State, is long known to have been against the war and especially the linking of Iraq with Al Qaeda. Bush's own anti-terrorism head, now departed Richard Clark, has confirmed that Bush was looking to go after Iraq as soon as 9/11 occurred. Clark has also refuted the President's claim of being good for the war on terror.

"Frankly," he said, "I find it outrageous that the president is running for re-election on the grounds that he's done such great things about terrorism. He ignored it. He ignored terrorism for months, when maybe we could have done something to stop 9/11. Maybe. We'll never know." This is Bush's own guy people! So at this point, the 9/11 commission has concluded that there was no link between Iraq and Al Qaeda. The CIA has just recently made its final report and said there were no weapons of mass destruction and actually Saddam was a "diminishing threat".

So this should mean that America recognizes that Saddam had nothing to do with 9/11. Wrong again! A new PIPA report concluded that 72% of Bush supporters continue to believe that Iraq had actual WMD and that 57% think the CIA report found that Iraq had a major weapons program. Also, the report showed that 75% of Bush supporters still think that Iraq was providing substantial support to Al Qaeda and that clear evidence of this has been found.

The bigger question is why these people think this. And that reason is clear, the Bush administration has continually associated the two to gain support for the war in Iraq. Senator John Edwards accused the Vice-President of such things during the Vice-Presidential debates and Cheney lied about his ever connecting the two. They have you on tape Mr. Vice-President!

So say you don't think the President lied and was indeed

mislead by his intelligence, which might just be the case. This whole war would be an honest mistake, right? That does not mean that Bush gets a pass. This is America, we don't give passes. If you were the executive of a large business or even the ice cream scooper at Baskin Robins, you don't get to make fatal mistakes. And here some of us are willing to re-elect a man who mistakenly has killed thousands of innocent people, both American and foreign, at the same time that we are calling for the kid who gave us pralines 'n crème instead of cookies 'n crème to be fired immediately. You don't get to make this kind of atrocious mistake when you are leader of the free world and not suffer the consequences. On this fact alone we should not re-elect George Bush. He created a mess that will take years to clean up. And who should clean up this mess? Well, right now it's John Kerry. And you will hear

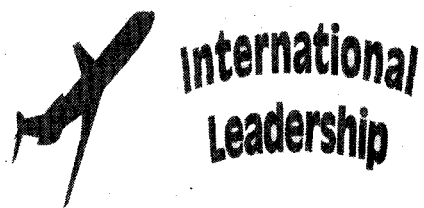
people scream that he doesn't have a plan any better than the President's. Well, to that all I have to say is it couldn't possibly be any worse. Kerry can gain the support of foreign leaders in our policy because he will actually sit down and talk with them. He does care what the rest of the world has to say because he understands Americans are global citizens not just American citizens. America might seem large while we're standing in it but there's a lot more of the world than there is of us. The biggest thing is he wouldn't have sent us into Iraq in the first place. He would go after terrorists, not countries he disliked. He wouldn't ignore the intelligence that showed Iraq didn't have anything and he wouldn't piss off the rest of the world with his stubbornness. The time for mistakes is over. The time for lies is over. The time for John Kerry is here.

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