

Brainwashing, bullying, Bush all create volatile elixir for current crisis

Bush administration policies jeopardize the United Nations and give rise to new problems, but do not push for peace in the Middle East.

By Molly Chadbourne
Staff Writer

Osama Bin Laden is no longer the pot of gold at the end of the terrorist rainbow.

Since September 11th, patriotism has increased in the United States with the same frequency as duct tape sales during the orange terror code. As an American who was upset by the Twin Towers attack, I cannot comprehend how any other American citizen would support destroying others' lives.

Saddam Hussein is not a good man and certainly not a good leader, but I cannot hide behind a Bush who supports war with Iraq.

The United Nations is, for many, an idealistic international organization. Even if there were no UN, one would without a doubt be created. Society needs structure, and the United Nations acts as the highest overseer for the world. The organization can only function as world peacekeeper if it is treated with respect.

By declaring war on Iraq "without permission," Bush will be undermining one of the few hopes America has left for peace. If Bush believes conquering Iraq will help disseminate democracy in the world, then he should start by respecting one of the pillars of world democracy.

Speaking of wonderful democracy, what about the vote in the Turkish parliament allowing US troops to stage military actions

from Turkish soil? The United States treats the government of Turkey like a roast that can be carved and recarved endlessly. Meanwhile, the bribes the United States keeps offering Turkey are not exactly cans of jellied cranberry sauce.

When looking at this issue, there are some important facts that should not be ignored but nevertheless tend to be crushed like dead foliage. America claims 80% of Iraq's weapons were destroyed in 1991 after Daddy made a hole in one in the gulf.

American soldier boys did not

threatening to attack.

Iraq did not have chemical or biological weapons before the early 1980's, and they could not have acquired them without a helping hand from Uncle Sam. Great Britain also assisted. The US government did not condemn the use of gas warfare against Iran; Hussein killed 5,000 Kurds in the town of Halabja in 1988. No Western nations said anything much more than, "friend; good."

The US has now decided to turn on her own Frankenstein's monster. By claiming that Al Qaeda and Iraq are related, Bush is taking ad-



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clean up the toys after the Gulf War, leaving nearly 40 tons of Uranium for Iraq and Kuwait to play share. Now who is supplying "terrorists" with weapons?

Bush claims to be protecting the lives of Americans by attacking Iraq. If the pre-emptive strike policy allows America to attack Iraq because Iraq might attack America, then Iraq really should have already attacked America by now since America is the only one

vantage of vulnerable citizens victimized by terrorism after September 11th. The connection between Iraq and Al Qaeda is so clear that no one seems to be able to see it.

Mark Twain once said, "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel." Ironically enough, many Americans are now like Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer, lazily floating down the river on a raft, unaware of the scoundrels lurking behind every Bush.

Speak Out: What are your thoughts about the war in Iraq?



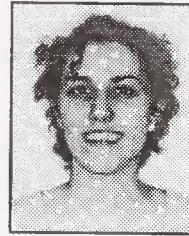
"Saddam has tried to assassinate Bush, Sr. He has tried genocide and invasions in his region. If we do not oust him, he will succeed some day."

Ian Booth,
senior



"At this point, I am not a supporter of the war with Iraq because war is not and cannot be the only option to resolve diplomatic conflicts. I think we should consider other options before settling for the 'inevitable' one."

Ridwana Khan,
senior



"I am a pacifist, but I am against this war for additional reasons. I believe it is unnecessary, arrogant, and portrays a personal political grudge."

Sally Neas,
junior



"It is our government leaders' jobs to protect us from threatening nations. Iraq is a nation like this. A simple assassination attempt would only escalate their hostility. Sometimes war is necessary."

Trace Williams,
sophomore



"By contributing to terrorist organizations, Iraq poses a threat to each US citizen. We should support our president and our military in their efforts to rid the world of that threat."

Jason Cheek,
teacher



"I agree that Saddam is a terrible man and should be relieved of his power, but I am against any action by the US that would kill civilians. If Saddam was going to attack us, he would have done it in the 12 years he had the chance."

Kelly Martin,
sophomore

Tricky testing methods not always reasonable

Abstract or "conceptual" problems may not be the most accurate method for teachers to assess their students' knowledge.

By Hannah Harrison
Staff Writer

Some say that as long as there are tests, there will be prayer in schools. This may or may not be the case, but I can say for certain

that I hate tests. I would be willing to bet my last dime that most students do, too.

High school students take a class, whether it is required or because they are actually interested (is that possible?) in the material. For whatever reason, it has to be done. More than likely, they will be tested on the material. Testing is an unavoidable fact of life. No matter how much people hate, love, or could not care about the classes they take, a teacher is going to

force them to sit down and prove that the material has been learned.

That calls something into question. Does a test prove that one has truly learned the information? I think not.

There have been many times when I have sat down at my desk with a sharpened No.2 pencil quivering in my hand, completely unsure of how I will be feeling at the end of the period. I usually study for almost all of my classes; however, there are just some that no

matter how prepared I feel, no matter how well I know the concepts, I always manage to bomb the test. Perhaps it is not me. Perhaps, just perhaps, my teachers' tests are a little unfair?

I really love coming across a problem or question on a test to which I have never been introduced. Some might argue that, theoretically, if I have in fact learned

the material, I should be able to apply the concepts and reach the correct answer. I am in Honors and AP level classes; naturally, it is to be expected that tests be challenging.

I feel that all students prove themselves and their abilities differently.

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