Music and Dance

UO School of Music & Department of Dance

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UO Faculty Artist Series — 8 p.m., Beall Hall
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Sat. 4/24 — ON THE ROCKS
UO Men's A Cappella Group — 8:15 p.m., Beall Hall
$8 General Admission, $5 students

Tue. 4/27 — PAUL TAYLOR 2 DANCE COMPANY
Guest Dance Ensemble — 8 p.m., Dougherty Theatre
$20 General Admission, $10 students & senior citizens

Thu. 4/29 — OREGON STRING QUARTET
UO Faculty Artist Series — 8 p.m., Beall Hall
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Fri. 4/30 — THE JAZZ CAFE
UO Jazz Combos — 8 p.m., Room 178 Music
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UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

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Bush's inability to command without God troubles critics

A new book written by Bob Woodword has highlighted how George W. Bush has jumbled church and state

By William Douglas and Maria Recio
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON — At a recent news conference and in a new book by Bob Woodword, President Bush conveys a sense that when it comes to foreign policy, he's on a mission from God.

"I also have this belief, strong belief, that freedom is not this country's gift to the world. Freedom is the Almighty's gift to every man and woman in this world," Bush said during a news conference last week. "And as the greatest power on the face of the Earth, we have an obligation to help spread that freedom."

Nearly four years into his presidency, Bush's strong Christian beliefs are well known. But through Woodword's book, and the president's own words, Americans are learning how Bush's faith drives his decisions, political and religion experts said.

"Clearly what I'm hearing ... is a sense of religious calling, and not even around the mission or goal of the country," said Robin Lovin, a Southern Methodist University ethics professor and former dean of the university's divinity school. "But a sense of religious calling for the policies of this president."

In "Plan of Attack," Woodword's book, Bush describes praying after giving the go-ahead to launch the war against Iraq. The president told Woodword he wasn't praying to "justify war based upon God."

"Nevertheless, in my case I pray that I be as good a messenger of his will as possible," Bush told Woodword.

The president's revelations have made some uneasy. Independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader on Monday called Bush a "Messianic militarist" for mixing religion and policy in his public statements and interviews about the U.S. role in Iraq.

"He's an unsuitable officeholder," Nader said. "Talk about separation of church and state; it's not separated at all in Bush's brain. We want him to make decisions as a secular president."

White House officials dismissed Nader's claims.

"The president talks about the principle of the separation of church and state and how it is a bedrock cornerstone of our democracy," said Trent Duffy, a White House spokesman. "He does believe that deeply. Having said that, he has a strong personal faith, but he leaves that at the residence before he enters the Oval Office."

The danger of injecting God into the Iraq war, Nader said, is further angering a Muslim world that already distrusts U.S. policies and motives.

"Anybody with a stable approach to this would keep his mouth shut," Nader said.

Shortly after Sept. 11, Bush angered many in the Muslim world by calling the war on terrorism a "crusade," which they equated to the medieval efforts by Western Christian crusaders to stem the spread of Islam.

The White House said the president regretted using the term. But it resurfaced last month in a Bush-Cheney campaign letter that praised the president for "leading a global crusade against terrorism."

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