

# Iraq: a deadly reality

God gives a warning through the prophet Ezekiel: "...they have seduced My people, saying, 'Peace,' and there was no peace."

I believe it just as great an evil today as in Ezekiel's time to cover

we went people made it clear that they held the United States government responsible for the sanctions and the misery they cause."

And who can blame them? In the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, a cry of heartbreak and outrage rose up from the American people against the person believed responsible. How then if such incidents of death and destruction were a commonplace event, and the perpetrator not an individual, but a sovereign nation?

I must stress, as did Darris, that I am not "Anti-American." Our country is in many ways one of the best in the world. I do question, however, the virtue of building that prosperity at the expense of other nations. I am just a young man trying to make sense of the behavior of our government—a behavior in which, as a voting citizen, I cannot entirely claim innocence.

How many of us, when George Bush initiated "Operation: Desert Storm," were truly informed on the situation? The war as popularized was an almost comic affair—a quick, easy in-and-out strike, with the Iraqis' "inaccurate SCUD missiles" and the quick-to-surrender Republican Guard no match for our intrepid, efficient aircraft and ground troops.

The reality that journalists such as Greg LaMotte reported was far from comic: "It was the most horrific thing I had ever seen in my life: bodies everywhere, body parts everywhere." Why were we, the public, not informed of this side of

the coin?

It is our responsibility as Americans to take a hand in the running of America. I can offer no solutions for our present political situation except to no longer turn a blind eye to it. This country will not function as it was intended until we inform ourselves.

As citizens, this may mean taking a political science course, reading books by those who have dug up the truth, or more radical still, even acting on this knowledge.

As Christians, it means living up to a mighty legacy of great social remedy enacted by people of faith, as well as overcoming a dark heritage of evil perpetrated under Christ's banner.

In both cases it means opening our eyes to ugly truths of war and devastation.

India-born theologian Ravi Zacharias, in his book *Deliver Us from Evil*, warns that the best of human intentions will fail if we forget one thing: "Our chronic bent for destruction. No incident illustrates this better than the slaughter we have witnessed in Bosnia after the fall of the Berlin Wall... a catastrophic blind spot that prepared freedom for the people failed to prepare the people for freedom."

War is hell. There are no two ways about it. And so I ask that we think twice before crying, merely because the bombs are falling on someone else's neighbors, "Peace, peace."

For multitudes both within these borders and without, there is no peace. *I show you a more excellent way.*

## THE ALTAR OF AN UNKNOWN GOD

JOEL P. SHEMPERT  
Copy Editor



the truth—to sweep disturbing realities under a societal rug and pretend that everything is "OK."

Many today are concerned over the so-called decline of America. I have, in past columns, addressed frequently what I perceive to be America's spiritual decline, but I believe it is equally important to cast a critical eye on her political decline as well. This is why the United States' actions overseas often disturb me.

For instance, Dean Darris' Iraq colloquium on Feb. 16th was a flurry of information—too concrete to deny, and too compelling to ignore—on a disturbing reality that the U.S. helped to bring about. The forum was packed with documented facts and gripping testimony. And, unlike the Holocaust survivors' discussions that have been held recently on campus, it was a revelation of horrors inflicted by our country.

"The people of Iraq are angry," states former Attorney General Ramsey Clark in his book, *The Children are Dying*. "Everywhere

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Latino Experience Class

On Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 to noon p.m. during Spring Term, a Latino Experience Literature class will focus on writing, essay composition and Latino literature. Students will have opportunities to explore their cultural backgrounds through class discussions and the exploration of various genres of literature by Latino and Hispanic authors.

### Scholarship Workshop

A scholarship workshop is offered in Barlow 112 from 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, now through the week of April 2nd. These classes are geared to educate students about scholarships. Contact Chippi Bello at ext. 2373 for more details.

### Scholarships Available

Any student can be considered for all scholarships offered through CCC and the Foundation. The deadline is April 2 by 5 p.m. Applications (limit one per student) are offered in the Financial Aid Office scholarship rack outside the Registrar's office.

### Early Spring Registration

Spring Term registration has begun and will continue for returning Clackamas students until March 7 when open registration begins. Students can register by phone, fax, mail or in person. In-person hours at the Community Center are 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Fridays. Students can also view the schedule online at www.clackamas.cc.or.us.

### Earn Credit while Volunteering

The Service Learning Program offers college credit to volunteer tutors, who are needed to help Timber Lake Job Corps students. Various subjects requiring tutoring are mathematics, reading, languages, study skills and basic education. Call Virginia in CC149 at ext. 2690 for more information.

### Volunteers Needed

Enthusiastic, dedicated volunteers are needed to teach prepared science programs to 4th through 6th graders. Students can work with kids from the age of 8-12 in the classroom and the outdoors at the CCC campus. Comprehensive training is required and begins in March, running every Tuesday through Thursday until May. For more details, call ext. 2637.

### Game Room Volunteers

The Clackamas Community College Game Room is looking for honest and assertive volunteers to help keep the game room open in Randall Hall. Students need to have basic people skills and work well with money. For more details, contact Michele in CC140 at ext. 2245.

## CORRECTION

In the Feb. 24 feature on *Inherit the Wind*, on page 6, an incorrect name was printed. Kelsy Adesina Cole, cast makeup artist, is applying makeup to Erin Adkisson.

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WORD UP  
ANSWERS  
February 24

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