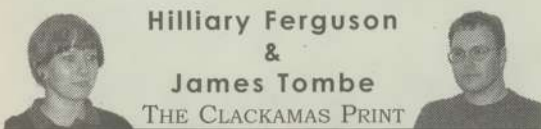


Iraqi abuse shocks America

New photos disgrace nation, military



Hilliary Ferguson
&
James Tombe
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

The abuse of detained Iraqi prisoners by their American captors is nothing short of atrocious. These soldiers were put in a position of trust, and that trust was horribly betrayed. To shrug one's shoulders and say that "these things happen in war" is not only irresponsible, it is an insult to other members of the armed forces who show moral courage under these circumstances.

The photos broadcast by "60 Minutes II" last month showed Iraqi prisoners being physically and sexually abused. The images described by CBS are both horrifying and inexplicable, no matter what excuse comes forth as the investigation continues. In one instance, a man stands upon a box with his head in a bag and his hands connected to wires as he is threatened with electrocution. A different picture shows naked prisoners piled into a pyramid with slurs written across their bodies. In another, prisoners are bound to the ground and left to bake in the Iraqi sun. One more shows nude prisoners with bags over their heads posing as if performing fellatio. The images are as obscene as they are disturbing.

What makes these photographs even more horrify-

ing, however, is the occasional included presence of smiling faces and thumbs-up from gleeful soldiers, apparently taking pride in their accomplishments.

Several Americans now face court martial in response to these allegations. According to www.worldrevolution.org, the charges include assault, cruelty and maltreatment, dereliction of duty and indecent acts with another person. Some even face being relieved of their commands.

The repercussions of these soldiers' actions go far beyond the chain of command, however. To the soldiers on the street in Iraq, the ones who are actually trying to help the Iraqi people in the midst of this tempest, these images mean increased resistance from extremists as they are used for propaganda.

To other soldiers providing care to Iraqi prisoners, giving them much-needed food and medical attention, these images mean heightened hostility from the prisoners, unnecessarily putting their lives at more risk.

To the intelligence community, which is trying to get information from these prisoners, these images mean shattered trust and obliterated lines of communication.

To the U.S. military, these images mean not only shame and dishonor, but also a throwback to the idea of a soldier as inhuman.

"We're appalled," said Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt of the allegations. "These are our fellow soldiers, these are the people we work with every day, they represent us, and they let their fellow soldiers down. If we can't hold ourselves up as an example of how to treat people with dignity and respect, we can't ask that other nations do [the same] to our soldiers."

To America, the political ramifications are significant.

"They have not just lost the hearts and minds of Iraqis," said Abdel-Bari Atwan, editor of the Arab newspaper Al Quds Al Arabi, "but all the third world and the Arab countries."

It would be incorrect to attribute too much negativity to the publishing of the photographs, however. Some hope to sponsor censorship by saying that making the photographs public did more harm than good. This downplays the individual responsibility of the soldiers themselves. The investigations into prisoner abuse had been ongoing since last year. The pictures were merely the proof, and ignoring them would have been far more dangerous.

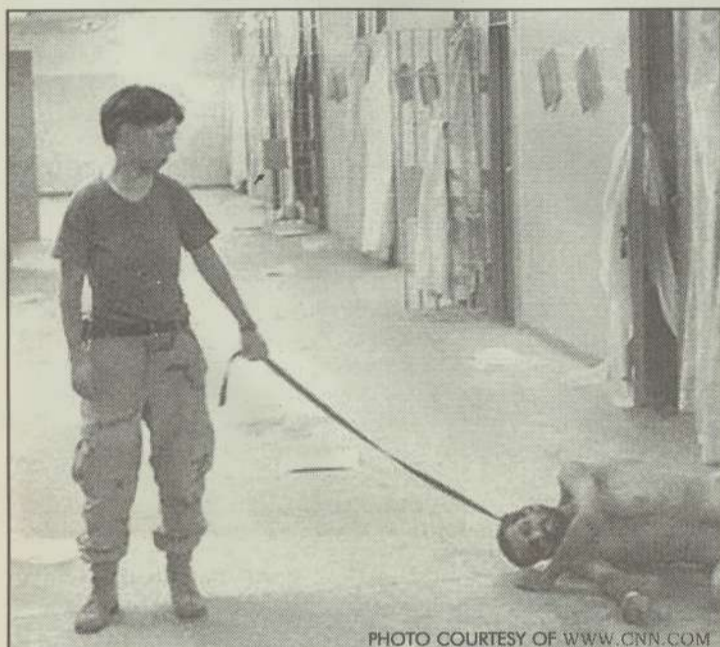


PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.CNN.COM

Photos of Iraqi prisoners being abused by U.S. soldiers were published this month, sparking national controversy.

Biodiesel offers clean alternative fuel



Ben Maras
OPINION EDITOR

Soon people all over America will be able to purge their oil-soaked consciences of Haliburton and Chevron, in favor of something a little less ... prehistoric. Rather than running diesel engines on dead dinosaurs, we will be able to fuel up at the local McDonald's—on cooking oil.

If the future is now, then "biodiesel" technology is the way of the future. The process is relatively simple: oils, fats and greases react with alcohol to create a biodegradable, clean-burning compound with a high cetane number that is known as biodiesel. It can run any diesel engine without much modification

and smells much better than regular diesel.

According to the Department of Energy (DE), biodiesel has a high cetane number (as high as 64). The cetane number is the performance rating of diesel fuel, referring to the amount of cetane in the fuel. Translation: the higher the number the better, and biodiesel is an efficient fuel source. In addition, it works to dissolve and remove sediment built up fuel tanks, making it a self-cleaning fuel.

Most commonly, it is mixed with regular diesel to form "B20," a compound which is 20 percent biodiesel, although it can be used straight in the form of B100. One of the downsides, however, to using pure B100, is that it can cause rubber to fail in vehicles manufactured before 1994 because of its solvent qualities (engine conversion kits are available on the Internet).

The DE found that biodiesel has many benefits over other fuel supplies. It's easy to use and can be phased in and out. Little to no engine modification is required and can be switched with normal diesel from time to time as easily as someone switches from premium to regular. It is efficient due to its high cetane number and much safer due to its high flash point (148 degrees Celsius, compared to 53 for normal diesel). Also, due to its lubrication superiority, it helps prolong engine life.

In addition, it is obviously cleaner and renewable, the only alternative diesel fuel that reduces greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. So using it will not only produce less smog, but according to Pacific Biodiesel, biodiesel will combat it by counteracting such

chemicals as carbon monoxide, ozone-forming hydrocarbons, hazardous diesel particulate, acid rain-causing sulfur dioxide and lifecycle carbon dioxide.

Because of this, it also allows regulated fleets who run on biodiesel to be awarded Energy Policy Act (EPA) credits just for running on the fuel! Could this be why everyone from school districts to the U.S. military has been fueling up with this alternative source? Even the rich and famous are joining the crowd. On his latest tour in support of his album "Greendale," rocker Neil Young converted his eight diesel semis to run on it.

What could be better for the economy? Unlike fossil fuels, which are imported from places like Saudi Arabia or Iraq, or drilled from the wilderness, biodiesel can be made with a variety of organic oils, one of the most popular and efficient being soybean oil. Farmers right here in the U.S. would be paid to produce these crops that would now be in even higher demand, letting everybody win (except maybe the big oil companies, unless they learn to adjust quickly).

Most importantly, biodiesel is here, now. Unlike other alternative fuel sources, there is no need to wait for the proper research. Biodiesel is being used every day and is openly encouraged in some places.

So what excuse is left? Even if biodiesel is not the answer to all fuel-related problems, it will provide a perfect springboard into alternative fuel sources and finally liberating ourselves from the dinosaur-droppings we shove down our fuel tanks every day.

The Print endorses Murphy for student government president

For the current ASG presidential elections, The Print is endorsing candidate Rian Murphy and would advise Clackamas students to do the same. The reasons for endorsing him are numerous but most are centralized around Murphy's experience with the CCC student government.

During his first year at CCC, Murphy served in the position of Legislative Senator for the student government, proving himself to be involved in his college. This year, he served as Campus Activities Officer, a quite different role from that which he held the previous year.

Now Murphy is seeking election for President of ASG to "represent my friends and the students of Clackamas Community College" in addition to "[being] involved with representation and betterment of CCC, as well as Clackamas Colleges across the nation."

The Print believes that because of this, Murphy leads the petition in experience and drive, as well as a connection with the student body that would enable him to best fill the role of President.

ASG election voting will be held today and tomorrow, May 11 and 12, at CCC140. We encourage all students to come out and vote for their candidate of choice.

Student takes offense to editors' commentary regarding Bush's 'fetus defense'

(Regarding the op-ed in the April 21, 2004 school paper by Ben Maras.)

The editorial was titled "Fetus defense attacks choice." In it, Maras attempts to persuade the campus audience that the Bush administration is taking away the "right to choose." Maras starts out by saying he will not mention the war, then he does mention the war, not realizing that those who have served like myself and those who are serving "Volunteered." That's right folks they and I made a choice, fully understanding that we may be called on to fight and die.

Then Mr. Maras gives us a hypothetical situation of a scared teenage girl going to an abortion clinic, saying she can get an abortion and is now able to go on with "her life." How nice. She can now live

without a care in the world. Of course, we won't mention the psychological trauma that the young woman has to live with (forever).

Now keeping on top of the "unborn victims of violence act." Let's take a young teenage woman, let's say she wants to keep the baby, she as she walks down the street she is mugged and the attacker shoots her in the belly. Rushed to the hospital, the mother survives but her unborn baby dies. Under the old laws, the mother's crimes committed were assault and robbery. Now under the "unborn victims of violence act" the mugger would be facing murder charges. Well, because this woman had decided to exercise her right to choose, and she chose life.

Daniel Hunter,
CCC Student

Backpack dragger strikes back at Print

Once again, the proof is in the pudding that the pen is mightier than the sword. I cannot speak for the others, so please accept this as one man's opinion. I feel bad enough being forced to pull around one of those "girly" type headache makers without the aid of an honest, unbiased staff writer now bringing more attention to me than those noisy wheels do.

Believe me, I will continue to do my best to follow the smooth narrow paths that finished concrete affords. But then again, you probably do not know what I am speaking of since you obviously have two good legs. Getting a locker might help me to alleviate the irksome noise of my wheeled crutch, but that would mean not being able to take the much-appreciated shortcuts to save on the pain that I experience from "having" to go to school. If I were not at school and I was not allowed to park in the Crip

Zone, I guess that would allow me to return to my Union Journeyman position so that I could pay ever-increasing taxes to afford you more poison in your pen.

I will leave you with the thought: "When your beard gets as long as mine, and you have walked as many miles as I, you will learn to appreciate the difference between ignorance and stupidity. I can only assure that, with what education I attempted to impart, that you will be no longer be ignorant, without thought of mine and others' plight. With education, you are no longer ignorant and being stupid is a choice. Once you are educated, you choose to forsake that education, then you know what happens."

Thank you for your time and consideration of all who suffer under the wings of the A.D.A.

Ken Wells
CCC Student

Got something on your mind?

E-mail letters to chiefed@clackamas.edu or bring them on a floppy disk to RR135 by this Friday at 1 p.m. Please include your name and limit all letters to no more than 200 words.

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