

UNFOUGHT

When George W. Bush went to Arlington this Memorial Day and engaged in what in my view was a hypocritical gesture of respect for the sacrifice made by veterans of past and (sadly) present wars — particularly those whom could not be identified — I had a thought. When the sitting president eventually passes on, perhaps his marker might state: “The Tomb of the *Unfought* Soldier.”

Bill Smee
Springfield

COUNTERFEIT WAR

It has now been nearly a month since the leak of the “Downing Street Memo.”

It is time for a complete investigation by Congress.

It seems to me reasonable that if the Government can expend \$50 million on an investigation which ultimately revealed the shocking revelation that the former president had publicly lied while under oath about an extramarital affair, just maybe the government can find the financial resources to investigate the distinct possibility that our current president lied and continues to lie about something just a touch more serious: taking our nation to war on an entirely counterfeit pretense.

The time is now for a thorough investigation, complete with significant consequences, to determine if President Bush willfully lied to every citizen of this country about why he engaged our military in this mire of horror which has become the Iraqi war.

This war has now produced the tragic and needless deaths of 1,654 brave members of the U.S. military and the tragic, shameful maiming and wounding of another 12,348 brave members of our military as of May 26th, 2005 (www.rationalenquirer.org).

This war has caused thousands of Iraqi civilian deaths — regular folks just like us, our families, our neighbors — wiped out, killed and maimed because they happened to somehow be in the way as the massive plow that is our military, directed by President George W. Bush, was “sowing the seeds of freedom and democracy” during this potentially drummed-up hunt for “weapons of mass destruction.”

Michael D. Scheffer
Eugene

DOUBLE HYPOCRISY

On February 29, 2004, in gross violation of both U.S. and international law and in direct contradiction to every democratic principle this country was supposedly built upon, the Bush administration orchestrated a violent and bloody coup against the democratically elected government of Haiti, forcing into exile Haitian President Jean-Bertrand

Aristide and installing a pro-U.S. interim government.

Since then, thousands of Haitians have been tortured and killed by the Haitian police, the Haitian military and government-sponsored death squads. They are doing it in broad daylight and with the full support of the government of the United States and our born-again Christian president.

Good people: Pretending to believe in democracy is easy; anyone can do it. But if you're not outraged by what our government is doing in places like Haiti, you don't really believe in democracy, you believe in something else. Likewise, pretending to follow the teachings of Jesus is easy enough. But if you remain silent while your government consistently supports regimes that murder and torture their own citizens, you don't really follow the teachings of Jesus, you follow the teachings of someone else.

Remember, it was Jesus Himself who said that what we do to the least of us, we do also to Him. (And in the long run to ourselves.)

David Kennedy
Florence

REAL CRIMES

The Bush Administration is blaming the news media for violence by Muslims who are upset with news reports about the brutal torture of prisoners at American prison camps. They say these news reports are getting people killed. But it's not the news reports that are getting people killed; it's the news. The torture at Abu Ghraib really did happen. The Gonzales memo approving the torture really did happen. And the abuse at Gitmo as reported by Amnesty International really did happen. It's not the job of the news media to cover up for the president's war crimes. If the Bush administration wants to stop the news reports, I suggest that he stop doing the things that the news media is reporting on.

Marc Perkel
San Francisco

GALACTIC LOVE

If God made everything, what made God? It's possible that we've got it backwards — that God is at the end, not before the beginning all the way back to Chaos? That would suggest that, to make God real, we should stay focused in the present, not in the past. Current and looming wars are between contending religious blocs. In my view, none of them should prevail. Emerging technology could lead us to become, virtually, one.

Being in the here and now, creating universal compassion and creativity with our willpower and generativity could result, eventually, in a planetary reign of love. That would be God enough for me.

Paul Prensky
Springfield



Lilith's Lair

NOW OPEN

We serve healthy and delicious food and drink, with an emphasis on local, organic ingredients.

Hours:
Tues-Thurs and Sunday 11a.m. - 11p.m.
Friday and Saturday 11a.m. - 2 a.m.

453 Willamette St.
Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 484-3391

Lilith's Lair provides refuge for all seeking nourishment both of the body and soul.



Oregon Festival of American Music

The Shedd Institute

434-7000
www.ofam.org

All tix reserved. No tix processing fees. Concerts are at 7:30 pm.

Select Upcoming Concerts

06.13 Peter Cincotti & Bebel Gilberto
07.12 The Chieftains (Cuthbert)
08.01 OFAM 2005:
- 13 “Cole Porter-Night & Day”



ISLER&CO
Certified Public Accountants
and Business Advisors

The Chieftains

Tuesday July 12
Cuthbert Amphitheatre
682-5000



Monday June 13
The Shedd

Peter Cincotti & Bebel Gilberto

Mercedes-Benz of Eugene



JOHN ERIKA

SUPPORTING LOCAL ORGANIC FARMERS SINCE 1996

SWEETWATER NURSERY

AN ORGANIC FARM SINCE 1979

Adam's PLACE
30 East Broadway (541) 344-6948
www.adamsplacereastaurant.com