

Bush eschews rational worldview

George W. Bush treats war in Iraq more like a monarch than a president with a mandate.

King George W. Bush II is alive and well. You can tell by the grin under his cute, vacant little puppy dog eyes that he is quite content. Not only is God on his side, and God told him so, but something happened even better than that. You see, his Christmas present came early this year, and he got what he asked

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for. And that is power, ladies and gentleman. Bush has grabbed more power to his presidency than any president since Franklin Delano Socialist Roosevelt. He can send our military anywhere he wants, without the approval of two-thirds of Congress, without the approval of the Constitution, in fact without anybody's approval. In the old days, the United States used to at least wait until someone attacked us before going to war, but not anymore. King George needs no justification to kill; all he needs is his royal whim. He seems to want to underscore that point and show off his shiny new power by going to war at least once a year against some hapless third world country that just happens to worship Allah instead of Jesus. Who wants peace when you can get such a high off of controlling the most efficient killing machine the world has ever seen?

Bush hasn't just made his power known in foreign countries; he's tightened down on things here at home too. The passage of the Patriot Act grants the FBI and CIA more power to tap phones, conduct internet snooping activities, search E-mail, search library records and detain suspicious people without the permission of courts than ever before. Bush is likely giddy with joy at getting rid of so many checks and balances all at once. He is riding the wave of fear from Sept. 11 right over that bothersome Constitution and its amendments. He'll make you think twice about typing "Osama Bin-Laden" into a search engine if you don't want the FBI knocking at your door.

There is a reason the founding fathers put limits on federal power to begin with. They were classical liberals, the equivalent of modern day Libertarians, and they knew that wherever power existed, so did the potential for its abuse. They had just come out from under an authoritarian government and had no desire to see another one grow in America, even an

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authoritarian democracy. In their wisdom they tried to give the government the minimum amount of power necessary to protect the rights of the populace. What little power it did have was distributed among different branches of the government so that no one branch could exercise too much authority.

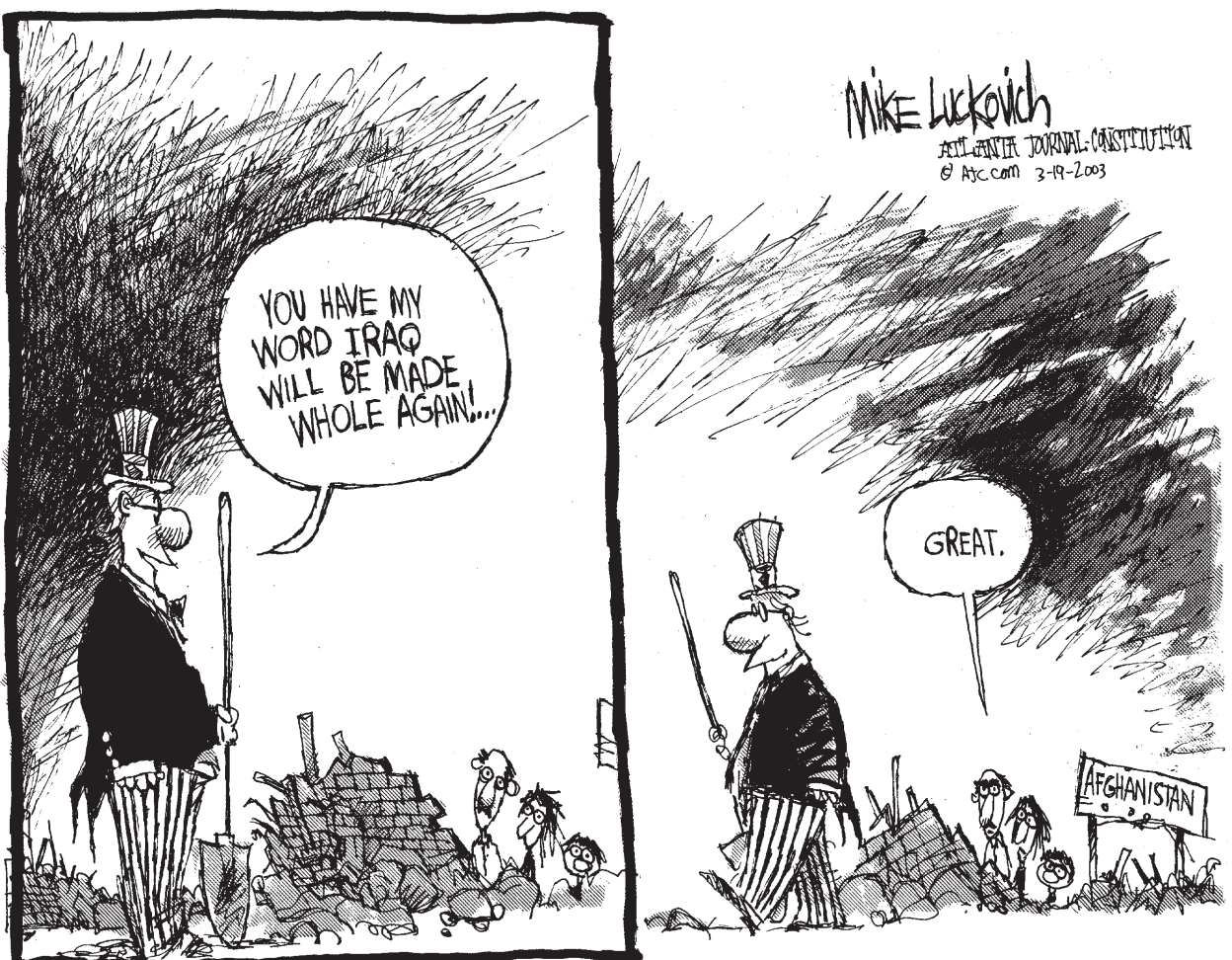
Jefferson, Washington, Patrick Henry and others who founded our government were heavily against war. They were isolationists and warned about "entangling alliances" that could get America involved in overseas wars. They saw America as a nation minding its own business and trading peacefully with the rest of the world, thus avoiding a repeat of the power games and devastating wars of Europe. However, they knew that war would sometimes be necessary so they made it possible, but difficult to declare, requiring a two-thirds majority of Congress. War should be the weightiest decision a nation can make, only in self-defense and only as a last resort.

However, the glorious vision of a peaceful America has disappeared. The glory of the Red, White and Blue fades as the soil of Iraq runs red with blood. The militarism characterized by huge standing armies and a belligerent foreign policy that infected Europe before World War I has spread to the USA. War is taken lightly as an acceptable way of pursuing our political and economic objectives. It's not like war poses a risk to us, we're good at killing. Too damn good.

Killing someone is murder when it is not in self-defense; there is no other justification. It may be in my best interest to shoot you in the head and take your money, but that doesn't make it right. This is the same whether by an individual or a country. Killing large amounts of people and calling it "war" does not sanctify it.

Our founding fathers would weep at what America has come to. They did not get rid of one King George to have there be two more. If history repeats itself, one more and we have a revolution. Thankfully in a democracy we have the option of revolution with votes instead of violence, an option that I think we should exercise. Of course, we can wait until the next election and vote Libertarian for a peaceful small government party, but I wouldn't object to a recall election or impeachment.

Jacob Lyles is a sophomore who plans to major in economics and mathematics.



'Pro-War' label wrongfully applied

Students can support troops without being "pro-war."

As war in Iraq rages on, so too does the debate here at home on whether we should be fighting in the first place. This is how the United States and the freedom of expression works; the fact

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hates war."

So how can the term "pro-war" be applied to anyone? Believing that war is the only solution is one thing, but being a zealot is quite another. When I open the newspaper, and I see college students no older than me holding signs that read, "Honk for War!" and "We want Blood!" I can't help but be disturbed.

The first thing I notice is that these are overweight, slovenly young adults that stand in stark contrast to the lean, mean fighting machines that make up our military. While this is an aesthetic and straightforward observation, the irony and significance of it is still noteworthy.

Of course those students like and support war. They, and many people of all ages who think like they do, have the luxury of never facing anything resembling a ramification or a consequence of what they support so vehemently and blindly. I understand that most citizens who can be classified as supporting this war are not nearly so giddy about it, however, it is a rule of thumb that the small amount of zealots are always the loudest in any argument. And so it is in this case.

Young and old alike have exhibited more examples of such militant behavior across

the country. "Pro-War" rallies have risen in response to the anti-war movement. Supporting your troops is a wonderful thing and I support it wholeheartedly, but supporting your troops' possible deaths is not a wonderful thing, nor should it be celebrated. And after watching too much CNN and Fox News on this very issue, I often find that the loudest supporters of this conflict, and those most likely to identify another as "unpatriotic" for disagreeing with them, have never served in the military in any capacity, and subsequently have no real understanding of the rhetoric they are spouting.

I would urge students and citizens who think like those I mentioned above to back up their proclamations. If you want "blood" that badly and believe in it that strongly, you should at least be a part of it, don't you think? Do not let other men and women fight your fight for you. Fanaticism is not an aspect of your character I would recommend celebrating unless you can back that fanaticism up with some backbone.

In conclusion, I do not think or believe that the majority of citizens, be they supporters of the war in Iraq or protesters, qualify as "pro-war" under any and all circumstances. It is a small minority of zealots I am attacking, but it is a vocal minority.

I would ask all Americans to understand the grim nature of soldiering, and not use it to propel yourself onto a soapbox. If you feel that intensely about what you are preaching, I must say, as trite as it is, walk the walk if you're going to talk the talk. While war may be a necessary evil, hypocrisy is not.

Matt Gallagher is a sophomore.

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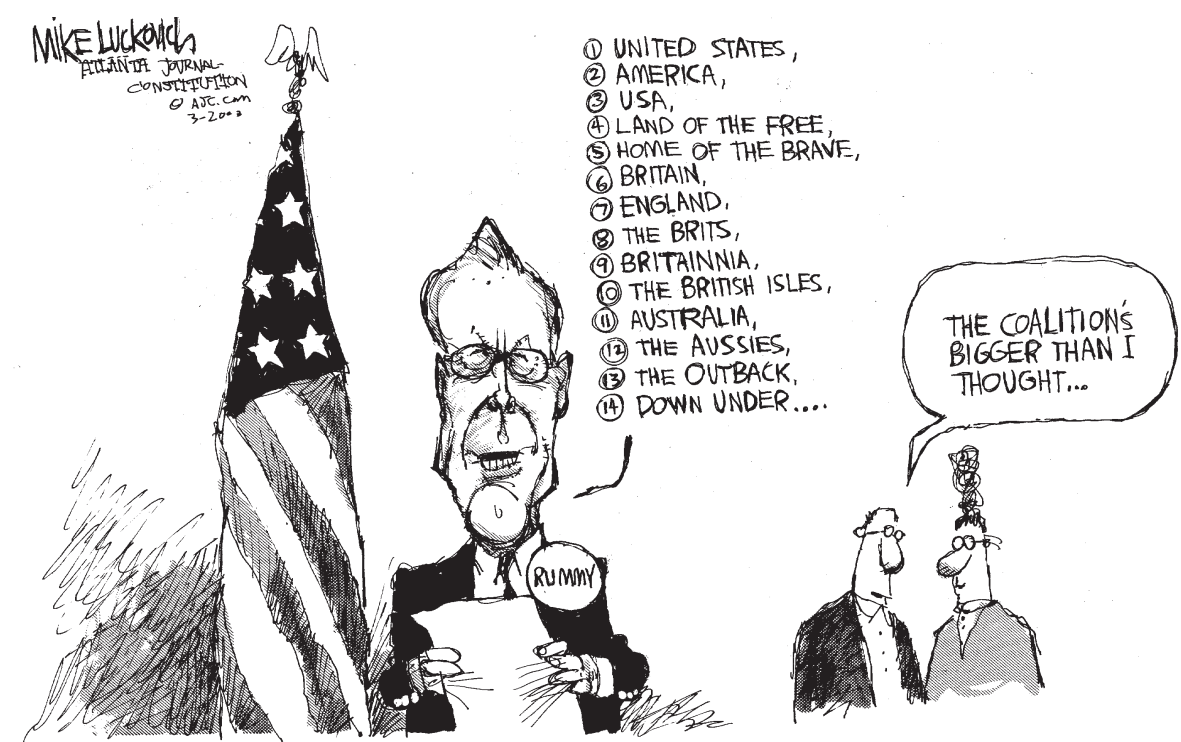
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that we can debate peacefully is something all Americans should be proud of.

However, I would like to comment on how those arguments can sometimes be perceived, and as a U.S. Army ROTC Cadet, I believe I can offer a unique perspective on this situation.

First of all, and I cannot emphasize this enough, I speak for myself and myself alone. I am a ROTC Cadet, not the Secretary of Defense. I do not speak for the United States or the U.S. Army. In simpler terms, on the grand totem pole of voice and responsibility, the ROTC Cadet falls somewhere under the earthworms and before Hell.

With that said, war is a very possible future for my fellow cadets and me across the country. While we know this, understand this and accept this, that doesn't change the fact that war is simply a necessary evil and soldiers are simply doing their jobs. General Tommy Franks, who is leading military operations in Iraq presently, is fond of quoting the old adage, "No one hates war like a soldier



Feminism compatible with slang for non-traditional feminists

Is there an unwritten guidebook on how to be a feminist?

I have my own opinions about what it means to be a feminist. Of course I do, because I consider myself to be one. I also have my own opinions about the diversity of this campus.



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These opinions, however, have been confronted many times over the course of this year. This of course is fine and expected. Recently my views particularly on feminism (or being a woman's rights activist) have been questioned. According to Wake Forest, in order to be a feminist you cannot

use slang and cannot have blond hair. In order to be a feminist based on these standards you also absolutely cannot write columns and you for sure can't question anything unless it is the rights of women. I was unaware of all of this until I came to Wake Forest and started writing.

So where does that leave me? It leaves me confused, mainly. Why wasn't I told that there is a feminist dictionary that we feminists have to abide by? Maybe some of you wanted me to sound like a hypocrite who lacks class and experience. So be it, but how am I supposed to get better, and earn "credibility" by staying silent?

Slang is not used in order to make us look unsophisticated or uneducated. I do not use slang in order to offend anyone, or indirectly point fingers at others. I use slang because it is part of my language and my culture. The terms I use in my writing are for visual purposes.

I use them to make people grasp what I am talking about by seeing it immediately after I say the word. Obviously, my tactic worked. When you read a particular word I used in a review, an image of a tank-style

Is the motto of this school not Pro Humanitate? I, like all freshmen, had the option of writing about what this meant to me prior to my acceptance. When I wrote this I said that Pro Humanitate meant individuality. "For the people" meant difference, yet acceptance. It meant entering a new world with many different people, and getting a feel for the diversity of the real world.

underwear shirt whose origin was based on the stereotype that physically abusive husbands wear, popped up in your head.

In fact, the white sleeveless T-shirt's connection to domestic violence is also sometimes credited to the 1970's machismo seen in such films as *Rocky* and *The Godfather* trilogy. Many terms in fact today have greater stories that precede them that help us visualize them.

For example, maybe you can't visualize a feminist until slang like

"lesbian" or "man hater" is used. That's fine. If it helps you to see me and "my kind" better, then so be it. You must then realize however that we are not all that our slang suggests. I, for example, am far from both. And probably, many of the thousands that wear certain articles of clothing are not participating in domestic violence.

In fact, US summons designer Tommy Hilfiger says that the article of clothing today is a "symbol of rebellious youth."

I don't understand. Is this campus not used to someone actually expressing their opinions? What makes it worse? That I am female? A feminist? Or a freshman? I hate to break it to you, but only one of those things is going to change sometime soon. First this campus tries to regulate opinions, now slang? What's next? Will the diversity of students on this campus be threatened? Will we all have to look and think alike - and if not, become loners and have our motives of coming to Wake Forest questioned? Is the motto of this school not, Pro Humanitate?

I, like all freshmen, had the option of writing about what this meant to

me prior to my acceptance. When I wrote this I said that Pro Humanitate meant individuality. "For the people" meant difference, yet acceptance. It meant entering a new world with many different people, and getting a feel for the diversity of the real world. True, our motto still is about these things, but unfortunately Wake Forest mostly is not.

It seems some people on this campus feel the need to be a clone or to have their selves cloned. If you go against the flow, all of the sudden you are known all over campus because people now love to hate you.

Did I make the wrong choice on colleges then? No, did you? So I'm not the typical girl that attends WFU - and? Whether it has been brought to your attention or not, there are individuals with minds of their own here at Wake Forest.

Feminists, anti-war activists, cheerleaders, athletes and Greeks all help in the making up of this campus. Whether you like them or not or agree with what they stand for or not, it is humanitarian to accept them.

Jenny Billings is a freshman.