

# OPINION

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. - The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

## Quote of the Week

“I say, if your knees aren’t green by the end of the day, you ought to seriously re-examine your life!”

~ Calvin in Bill Watterson’s ‘Calvin & Hobbes’

## Misinformation keeps soldiers fighting

By Patrick Webster  
managing editor  
paw175@psu.edu

It is three years later, and, as a nation, we still find ourselves stuck in that annoying country named Iraq.

Even though President Bush declared victory and mission accomplished quite literally years ago, the reports coming from military officials and political leaders in Iraq claim that the country closer to civil war than ever. Tensions between Sunni and Shiite Muslims seem to be escalating at an ever-increasing rate as daily bombings and attacks on opposing holy sites further stir up contentious feelings between the two sects.

Something even more troubling, though, is the result of recent Zogby polls of U.S. troops in Iraq. Almost a third think that a pull out should begin immediately. Nearly 72 percent believe that the United States should exit the country by the end of the year.

Most disconcerting, however, is the data that shows that around 90 percent of the troops think we’re there “to retaliate for Saddam’s role in the 9/11 attacks.” A slightly smaller number, only 77 percent, agrees that we went there to stop al-Qaeda.

What makes this disturbing is that it has been common knowledge for quite some time here on the mainland that

Saddam Hussein had no role in the attacks on September 11. Nor did he harbor terrorists from al-Qaeda or assist in any kind of training for the organization. It baffles the mind that in 2006 there could still be a sizable population that believes these things. Since the primary source of information for the troops overseas is the U.S. government itself, it is clear that this is the kind of information they’re being given and/or that the government is doing nothing to correct.

proper justice for the losses of their countrymen in New York and Somerset as well as preventing further al-Qaeda activities, they would certainly fight harder and more passionately. Such misinformation isn’t only justified, it’s necessary!

Such an assertion is ridiculous. We should not have to lie to our troops to get them to fight. If you have to make up fake reasons and goals for our troops to be able to fight effectively, there are far deeper problems with the war that you’re

fighting than you might think.

It doesn’t help that reports were released this week that revealed that the administration has started planning military options against Iran. Iran, of course, continues to develop its nuclear technology, and while it claims that its research is entirely peaceful, Bush has pretty well proven that the only way to avoid having the United States come in to “remove” your weapons of

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mass destruction is to actually possess them. Of course, with all our troops currently unavailable because they’re doing their best to keep the country next door from detonating into a messy full-scale civil war, the administration included plans to use nuclear weapons in a possible war against Iran. With the already touchy position the U.S. is in with both its allies and enemies the world over, this is a particularly bad time to start tossing nuclear weapons around.

Why? Shortly after the poll numbers were released, there were naturally several political pundits who stepped out immediately to give reasons why it might be necessary for the government to encourage our troops to believe such things. The most prominent argument, of course, was that it was necessary to maintain a higher level of morale and purpose that such beliefs would reinforce. If the troops were sure that by invading Iraq they were both dealing

Have a “Thumbs Up” or “Thumbs Down”?



Send Suggestions to [opinion@psu.edu](mailto:opinion@psu.edu)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Jailbait (1/1)  
NancyDrew0014

Instant Message with "NancyDrew0014"

NancyDrew0014

NancyDrew0014: as?  
NancyDrew0014: 14/f/dc  
NancyDrew0014: u?  
NancyDrew0014: 55/m/dc  
NancyDrew0014: I work at the department of homeland security  
NancyDrew0014: as an impressionable 14 year old girl, that impresses me  
NancyDrew0014: wanna cyber?  
NancyDrew0014: yes  
NancyDrew0014: what are you wearing?  
NancyDrew0014: I'm dressed as a detective  
NancyDrew0014: I'm a naughty internet predator, you'll have to frisk me  
NancyDrew0014: first I'll need some evidence  
NancyDrew0014: give me your office and cell numbers  
NancyDrew0014: and send me pictures of yourself  
NancyDrew0014: this is so hot  
NancyDrew0014: omg  
NancyDrew0014: buy a webcam, call me and we'll test it out  
NancyDrew0014: I'll call you at your office and set up a time to chat

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## The Behrend Beacon

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Penn State Erie,  
The Behrend College  
First Floor, The J. Elmer Reed Union Building  
Station Road, Erie, PA 16563  
Contact the Beacon at:  
Telephone: (814) 898-6488  
Fax: (814) 898-6019

## Submission Guidelines

The Beacon welcomes readers to share their views on this page. Letters and commentary pieces can be submitted by email to [dgm147@psu.edu](mailto:dgm147@psu.edu) or directly to the Beacon office, located in the Reed Building.

Letters should be limited to 350 words and commentaries should be limited to 700 words. The more concise the submission, the less we will be forced to edit it for space concerns and the more likely we are to run the submission.

All submissions must include the writer’s year in school, major and name as The Beacon does not publish anonymous letters. Deadline for any submission is 5 p.m. Tuesday afternoon for inclusion in the Friday issue. All submissions are considered, but because of space limitations, some may not be published.

All submissions must include consent to be edited before they can be edited for publication.

## Letter to the Editor

I’d like to commend the cast and crew of “The Laramie Project” for their performance thereof; the logistics were competently handled, set and lighting came off quite well, and all cast members proved well-practiced in their roles.

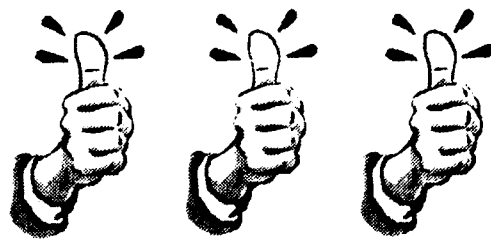
I would further applaud the group as a whole for their decision to continue Mr. Shepard’s memory, and the cast more so for their accurate rendition of the Project’s findings. Everyone succeeded in conveying the emotional charge attendant on losing a fellow human to societal failure.

In sum, your efforts are a credit to the theater program, H&SS, this campus, and most certainly yourselves. Know that you did well, and that it’s a shame we haven’t more of you and a larger theater—so that more folks could get the message.

Good work.

Chris Strayer

### Beacon Thumbs Up



- Pizza Hut lunch buffet
- Phil Mickelson wins The Masters
- Two weeks of classes left
- Warm weather attire

### Beacon Thumbs Down



- Burnt popcorn in microwaves
- No Easter Vacation
- Green Tea Emails
- Tight SGA budget
- Phrase, “Git R Done”