

## Letter to the Editor

## George Bush's war in Iraq

We have recently been exposed to some of the most disgusting and outrageous photographs of the maltreatment of human beings by other allegedly human beings in the history of humanity on this planet. I refer specifically to the pictures that are coming out of the prisons in both Guantanamo Bay, an illegally occupied part of Cuba, and the prisons of Iraq.

First, we see prisoners being stacked on top of each other with soldiers posing next to them. Then we see Iraqi women prisoners actually being gang-raped by U.S. soldiers, and this is not uncommon behavior. In fact, the Red Cross has indicated that this is all too common. One might ask why. It is simple.

Basically many of the people who engage in these acts are police personnel or people who perform police or prison duties here in the United States. They are clearly used to performing in this manner because here in the United States, what they are doing to Iraqis, they routinely do to African-American people.

When you vilify people and make them subhuman, any act you wish to perform on them now becomes acceptable, whether they be African-Americans, Latinos or in this case Iraqis.

Some misguided Neofascists, lets go back to the concentration camp mentality people have indicated this is necessary to get information from prisoners. The Nuremberg trials clearly indicate for the rest of the world, if not for Mr. Bush, that that's unacceptable behavior under any circumstances.

Clearly, all one has to do is declare that there is some type of crisis which Mr. Bush and his cohort of criminals continually feed the American public and you can behave in any way you choose and blame it on the need for information in the time of "crisis."

We in the Alliance believe that the American people have not become so barbaric, so

inhumane, and so insensitive that they will sit idly by and allow Mr. Bush and his band of criminals to continue this type of behavior. It has been argued by some that continuing to bring this information to light will demoralize the troops.

The troops are already demoralized, and if one lives in a city where information is available such as in Washington, D.C., and is able to read the newspapers in D.C., one will find out that indeed the highest echelons of the military are beginning to be demoralized, not by the revelations of what is going on, but by the realization that no one is listening to them when they tell them that this is not the way to prosecute a war.

This is not the way that you will win over the Iraqi population, and indeed all you have succeeded in doing is solidifying the mass of the Iraqi people, regardless of their personal differences, behind getting rid of the United States by any means necessary.

Finally, we are aware of the attempt on the part of the United States to attack two other countries.

Clearly they have no military capability of attacking anyone else now since the entire armed forces of the United States are tied up in prosecuting Mr. Bush's war in Afghanistan and Iraq, but the recent revelation that the United States is imposing sanctions on Syria and increasing sanctions against Cuba, shows that Mr. Bush is unfortunately certifiably psychotic in that he thinks that he has some kind of moral authority to make over the entire world in his image.

The last psychotic individual who tried that is now remembered only as a leader of a failed Third Reich, having been burned to death in his bunker somewhere in Berlin. Adolf Hitler was one of the first. George W. Bush, Jr. is now Adolf II.

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## Waters

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ties — and that President Bush did not know of his cover-up. Then, we should also believe that General Myers, the commanding general, called "60 Minutes II" to keep them from showing the pictures and that he did this all on his own, without any direction from the White House.

In other words, we are supposed to believe that Bush was not informed about all of this and did not issue any directives or guidance or make any decisions with respect to these events, taking the concept of "deniability" to one of the wildest heights in history. Our ignorance can only be resolved in the court of an impeachment hearing.

What connects this administration to a "high crime," is that it has committed war crimes as defined in the Geneva Convention. We have participated in an International Criminal Court hearing against the butcher Melosovich of Bosnia fame. And while at first blush the atrocities committed by the Bush folks don't appear to be anywhere near that, the fact is that we don't know of the extent to which this has occurred where prisoners have been kept.

What is coming out is that there was tremendous pressure on the White House to justify its role in Iraq, to find weapons of mass destruction and to obtain the kind of intelligence that would lead them to Saddam Hussein and his remaining combatants who were killing American soldiers. This pressure was the fuel for the tactics used against other human beings and could have happened in other locations as well.

So, the question is who, or what entity will lead where the information goes? The Democrats appear to be knock-kneed, lily-livered punks when it comes to achieving anything like the aggressiveness with which the Republicans pursued Clinton. You wouldn't know there was an election going and this issue could decide it. Karl Rove knows and he is putting up one hell of a fight for Bush while Democrats are tap-dancing. If Bush overcomes this, John Kerry, his handlers, and Democratic National Committee leaders should be placed in a prison camp. Don't even bother to send me the pictures.

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## Overstreet

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defeat Republican Chester Richardson, in the general election.

I guess Chester must think being a divisive force in Black politics is a formula for getting elected as a Republican in a heavily Democratic district.

The Commission race that will generate the most interest is for the District F seat. Former Republican City Councilwoman Lynette Boggs-McDonald will defeat her primary challenger, but could face an uphill battle in the general election against a popular Democrat.

If the date of the birth of another member to her family were not so close to election time, I would pick her to win based on her being a good campaigner.

Given her circumstance, however, this one is going to be too close to call given voter registration figures favor Democrats in her District.

Lester Lewis, seeking to unseat Mor-

mon school trustee Ruth Johnson of District B and Les Pierres Streater, seeking to unseat Denise Brodsky of District E are among a pool of four persons. Unfortunately with no name recognition, they have no chance of unseating incumbents who have shown to be openly hostile to minority issues presented at board meetings.

The race for School Board District C seat could prove to be a case study in political science. Popular incumbent Shirley Barber is facing opposition from six primary opponents, including two other Black candidates, Tammy Green and Pastor Gary Hunter.

What is going to make this race interesting, however, is that a White civil rights attorney, Richard Segerblom, who is well respected in the liberal White and Black communities, is in the race. "Tick" is in a position to call in a lot of favors. Look for Shirley or Tick to win this race.

There you have it fans of politics!

## Fletcher

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that there is no discussion of sex, gender roles and the danger of the spread of HIV, forces us to ask whether this king is nothing more than a modern-day Nero who fiddled while Rome burned. In this case, we witness a ruler making a mockery of authority, while the pandemic further devastates his own country.

In this sense, the fight for genuine democracy in Swaziland — a democracy at the political level for full participation and ultimate control over society, and a democracy at the economic level where workers have the right to join and form unions free of the interference of employers and government — is actually a fight for the survival of the country itself. It is a fight that people of conscience should support here in the U.S.A.

Yet, there is almost no attention to Swaziland in the U.S.A., and, if we are honest, there are not a lot of people who even know where Swaziland is to be found. The HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa has received growing attention, but at the same time, it is so overwhelming that, for most people, it is an abstraction. This permits, regardless of intention, many of us to deny

the seriousness of the situation.

For this reason it is useful to focus on identifiable situations, such as Swaziland, and emphasize a very basic point: without massive assistance, and a turn around in the manner in which Swaziland's government addresses the crisis, the country could conceivably vanish.

With the growing popular consciousness about the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, so should our concern about democracy. Governments must be in place that can and will address this crisis. At the same time the U.S.A. and the pharmaceutical industry must provide the conditions and support needed to address this crisis on a global scale.

Swaziland's future is hindered by the self-absorbed monarch who rules that country. It is also hindered by foreign governments, including our own, and an international pharmaceutical industry that would rather focus on patents and profits than addressing the catastrophe of our age.

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## Struggle

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center has been devoted to teaching visitors about the civil rights movement before and after the ruling.

"This story is not just about Linda Brown," Miller said. "For too long, the myth has been perpetuated that it's been about her."

The visit starts in the school's former auditorium, which is filled with large photos of civil rights leaders, including Thurgood Marshall and Frederick Douglass.

Large screens running along either side of the room, and another screen on the stage, will play an introductory video that includes historical footage of the civil rights movement. On the opposite side of the hall are two galleries. Along the wall runs a timeline of key civil rights events. It is in the first gallery where visitors walk through the "Tunnel of Courage," with its period footage of jeering crowds.

In a mini-theater nearby, visitors can view a film about the importance of education in the Black community. Also in the room is an interactive terminal where visitors can learn more about the five cases that overturned the doctrine of "separate but equal" accommodations for minorities.

Transforming the aged former Monroe School into an historic site seemed like a long shot in 1990 when an auction sign appeared outside the two-story brick building. The school had closed 14 years earlier because of falling enrollment and fell into disrepair under several different owners.

Linda Brown's sister, Cheryl Brown Henderson, was too young to be part of the case as a child. But as an adult she started the Brown Foundation to educate the public about the ruling. She thought the school where her mother and siblings had been students and she later taught would be the perfect place to interpret the story of the decision.

She organized a group of volunteers that began to plead its case to the U.S. Department of Interior, the National Park Service and Congress. In 1992, a measure was passed making the former grade school a National Historic Site.

In the years that followed, money was appropriated to the project and workers restored the brick exterior, replaced walls that had been torn down and painted and plumbed the former school.

Child-sized drinking fountains still line the walls.