

# VIEWPOINT

## POW-MIA

### Demonstrators make mistake by interrupting Bush speech

It is a very emotional topic. Many believe there may still be missing servicemen alive in Southeast Asia. Husbands, fathers and sons. But those who want more information had better watch their step.

During President Bush's speech Friday to the National Alliance of Families for the Return of All America's Missing Servicemen, many demonstrating members started yelling "No more lies." An obviously disturbed president responded "Shut up and sit down." A public relations blunder.

However, if two wrongs are made, one is usually worse than the other. In this case the demonstrators were without a doubt the more foolish. Bush is never going to apologize to the group, for such a move would be construed as weakness. The administration has said that such an apology is not warranted anyway. Few would argue.

If a group wants to get the president to do something, the proven way is not to belittle him and interrupt a speech. Bush has done more for the cause than any president before him. Just a week ago, Bush ordered the release of Vietnam-era documents, amounting to 1.5 million pages thus far. It is without question the group has not been able to sift through all those pages in just a week. Give him time.

In an election year, Bush will be trying to relate to all groups to gain much-needed votes. One sure way not to get help is to make him look foolish.

Ann Mills Griffiths of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia said the president's reaction was appropriate. The demonstrators, led by Jasnella Rose, said a good way for Bush to apologize would be to release the rest of the files.

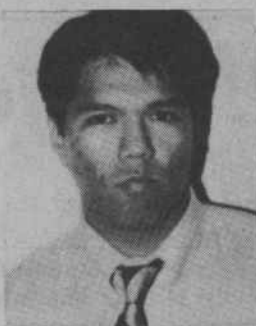
One Vietnam vet asked "What are they afraid of," referring to the Bush administration. A better question would be "what are you thinking?" No President is going to succumb to pressures as minor as these.

It is not an easy topic. Those who would have the president release all of the files must realize he is not at their bidding — but will instead do what he feels is right, right for his campaign and for the country. Bowing to hecklers is not likely to be right for either.



## USC VOICES

Question: Should the Republican Party and President Bush dump Dan Quayle?



"No. I don't think so. I think they should keep him. If they were to drop him it would look as if they don't have trust in their leadership. But I'm voting for Clinton anyway."

Ralph Sarmiento  
Education Graduate Student



"Yes. I think they should. He's made too many mistakes, especially talking about Murphy Brown. I think that was a big mistake."

Derrick Seabrook  
Nursing



"I think people have been too critical of him. A lot of people give him a hard time just to be giving him a hard time and don't really know anything about him."

Kathleen Davis  
Education



"I can't stand him anyway, so they might as well get rid of him."

Tomer Tishgarten  
Biology, Pre-Med

## Cross Fire

### U.S. military strikes on Iraq idiotic

Once again the world turns its attention toward Iraq. If soon-to-be ex-President George Bush gets his way, he'll also be turning the American dogs of war loose on Saddam Hussein.

For the past three weeks, U.N. inspectors were camped outside the Agricultural Ministry to gain access to information on Iraq's weapons programs. Let me repeat they have been waiting for THREE WEEKS! I will never say Hussein is an intelligent man, but even he is smart enough to remove any relevant documents within that time period.

The entire idea of sending any kind of military intervention into Iraq is truly "the mother of all lunacy."

What will it accomplish? Kill a few more Republican Guards, and Iraqi civilians? We've already tried military action, boy did that accomplish a lot. I applaud the bravery and valor of our troops in Desert Storm for risking their lives. I supported the troops, however, I did not support the war.

But honestly, I don't feel anything was accomplished. Gas is still cheap, human rights in Kuwait are still atrocious, Hussein is still in power, and George Bush is still whining about creating a "New World Order." Let's face it folks, our military is becoming nothing more than a band of mercenaries the government hires out to the highest bidder.

George Bush's recent actions are nothing

more than a political shell game to help him keep his job. He seems to feel Desert Storm was his greatest accomplishment. I rank that accomplishment right behind choosing Dan Quayle to be his running mate. Is the American public really so stupid to fall for this ploy?

According to a CNN poll, 70 percent of the American public are in favor of military action against Iraq. I guess that figure speaks for itself. I hope in November that 70 percent of the American public is stupid enough to re-elect him.

George has the audacity to say he should be re-elected because he has more experience in foreign policy. Hey George, let's take a quick reality check! Sure, you're good at looking into others people's problems, but you seem to be forgetting those of us at home.

Then, he dared to ask "Who do you trust, me or Bill Clinton?" Sure, Clinton has his character problems, but at least he seems sincere enough to focus on America and not on a third-rate dictator of a Third World country.

I'd support sending a CIA assassination squad into Iraq to waste Saddam. But I don't think America should be willing to waste the life of one more soldier so that King George can keep his job.

—C.E. Holman

C.E. Holman is a staff writer for The Gamecock.

### Time is now for U.N. to oust Hussein

The time has come for Saddam to go. We have waited, the Bush administration has waited, and the whole world has waited for this confused and irrational leader to just disappear.

Months of sanctions and weeks of a prematurely terminated war didn't get rid of him, and the current cat-and-mouse game will turn out to be more of the same. It's obviously a game to Hussein, one he will play as long as he holds on to power.

The little power he does wield is now spent fighting over U.N. access to an agricultural ministry building, and still he manages to baffle his enemy. Bush, out of frustration, will resort to military action, but what will a few surgical air strikes do to solve anything? That is, of course, if they don't go after the man himself.

And why not go after Saddam Hussein himself? He is now the only link in a limp chain of toadies who parade around as the Iraqi government, propping up his inflated ego and protecting him from the harsh world outside. Removing him would not

make him a martyr. Removing him would be like removing a virus. It's tough to do unless you attack each one separately, but luckily for Iraq they have only one.

This should have been the goal from the sought to hedge his bet. He gambled and won, gambled and lost at the same time. A military victory for the short term without the long-run political benefits for himself and a far-reaching Mideast peace.

U.S. intervention and occupation under the flag of the U.N. is the only solution to the menace of Saddam Hussein. The removal of the remaining military and government structures in favor of democratic reforms is the only acceptable result. The "March to Baghdad" should start where we left off, and finish the job that we left behind. If not for eventual peace in the Mideast, then for the millions of Iraqis and Kurds who deserve the second chance, one that only Bush can give them.

—Jack Dunn

Jack Dunn is the Sports Editor of The Gamecock.

## Media is allowing talk shows to act as commentary

—Aaron Sheinin

With the general election just over three months away, the presidential campaign has turned into a juggernaut of political undermining and backstabbing where the candidate appearing on the most talk shows has the upper hand.

Arsenio Hall might as well wear a pro-Clinton button as much as he maligns President Bush. David Letterman would be hurting for material if Dan Quayle didn't exist. Jay Leno is guilty as well of concentrating mostly on the Republicans, however, he does take an occasional stab at the Democrats as a whole.

And the media continues to report it.

USA Today recently devoted a page-long column of copy to what other columnists are saying about Dan Quayle. Grouped in there surreptitiously was a recent Top Ten List from Letterman's program. Was USA Today trying to be funny, was it merely par for the newspaper's course, or was it testimony towards the declining intelligence of the American newspaper reader? More than likely all three or at least the latter two.

Since when was David Letterman considered a gauge of the American voter? As a Late Night fan, I've often found the gap-toothed Hoosier's comments brazen and bitingly sarcastic, but I would not consider it serious political commentary. Apparently, USA Today does. It was good for a laugh, but it's hardly worthy of valuable space. Unfortunately it is what we have come to expect from the colorful soundbyte newspaper.

Letterman is going to continue to ridicule those who leave themselves open — worthy or not. With the condition of the country such comic relief is, well, relief to many who can find little else humorous in daily life. But is it political insight? No, it is political humor, not worthy of newspaper space.

In a day and age where the news media is as much maligned as the politicians they seek to discredit, the media would be wise to reconsider who it accepts into its ranks. Let the Lettermans, the Arsenios and the Lenos have their fun but keep them out of actual

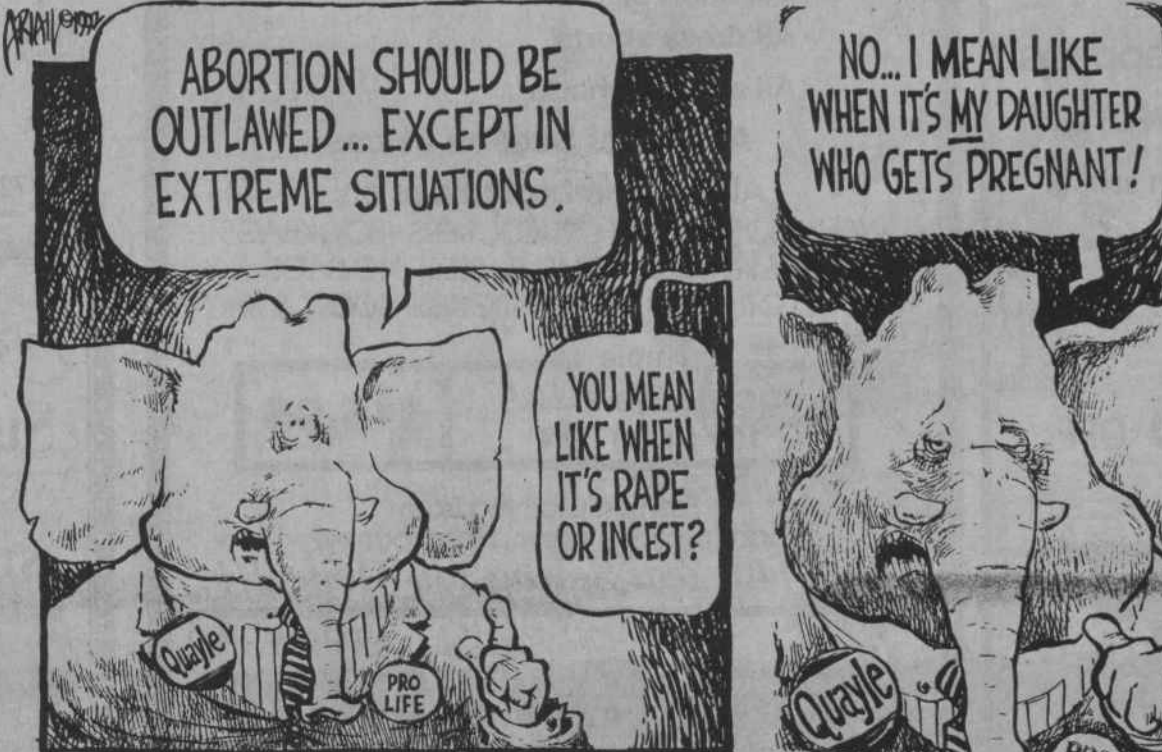
If the American voter is going to vote for the person the least ridiculed on late night television, the hosts themselves would be about the only ones who could earn enough electoral votes — remember those? Electoral College? Does it ring a bell? Even Quayle himself is getting on the talk show circuit. He has recently appeared on Larry King Live and the Rush Limbaugh program on radio.

Limbaugh praised him while taking shots at his favorite targets, the media and liberals. King went beyond the boundaries of acceptable questioning and asked the VP what would he do if his 13-year-old daughter, Corrine, got pregnant. Quayle, instead of telling the overrated broadcaster it was none of his or anyone else's damn business, said he would support his daughter's decision — an honest and encouraging answer from this staunch abortion foe. What did his daughter think? Who knows, nobody asked her.

Merely par for the election course.



**Wanted: Your opinion!**  
Summer is almost over, and very few of you have made your opinions known to your fellow students. There are only two more issues of The Gamecock before school starts back this Fall. Make your feelings known! Bring your letters by The Gamecock office, room 313 of the Russell House.



By Robert Ariail, The State

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