If You Hate the U.S., Leave

By Beth Klima

Style Editor

Due to the overwhelming anti-war/pacifist viewpoints expressed in The Weather Vane by students and Weather Vane staff alike, I’ve come to the conclusion that it might as well be called the Pacifist Times.

I mean no disrespect. I am taught by, befriended by, and supervised by many of those who share this perspective. After three semesters at EMU, I have yet to encounter anyone who isn’t willing to share their beliefs in a respectful manner. I am, however, frustrated with the viewpoints expressed by some of those who do not consider themselves pacifists.

For some reason, certain pacifists seem to believe that if one is supportive of the war in Iraq, they are therefore heartless, ignorant, or morally and ethically inferior. I have news for these people:

Most of us who support the war in Iraq are in no way ignorant. We understand that war is horrible. We understand that devastat- ing atrocities are going on in the course of warfare. Our hearts break for the lives lost in war. We also understand that unfortunately it is at times, necessary. As a Christian I am indeed concerned with the moral implica- tions of war.

I do not consider myself a personal belief that the Bible does not prohibit war. I am frustrated with pacifists who discount such scriptures as Ecclesiastes 3:8 (which states that "there is a time for war") simply because they occur in the Old Testament. These same people hear the Ten Commandments or the story of creation. The fact that something is written in the Old Testament does not make it invalid. The consideration of cul- tural relativty and historical con- text is important when discussing Old Testament scriptures. I do not believe, however, that they apply to all Old Testament scriptures.

Although I do respect the pacifist opinion, I am aggravated with what appears to me as an extremist viewpoint. I have had professors refuse to view and dis- cuss the star spangled banner, the pledge of allegiance, and the armistice day ban- ner. Does pacifism have to equal anti-patriotism? If you hate the war you live in, leave. No one is stopping you. Many people around the world have not even had the freedom to leave their country if they so choose. But do not live there if you disagree. I am not even saying you should refuse to support it. This seems inconsistent to me. What if you hate the war and do not want to go to war as well?

Many anti-war enthusiasts believe that war is always wrong under any circumstances. I have heard the argument that since vio- lence is never morally acceptable, then refuse to support it. This seems inconsistent to me. What if you want the war to end, but you do not want to leave the country?

In the process of question- ing, here’s what I have found: we are asking the wrong question. Instead of asking “why did you let this happen?” we need to ask “how are we going to use it?”

First of all, God is not a safe word. He wants us to become more like Him, and He has delivered us from such a time as this (2 Corinthians 1:5).

A couple weeks ago during Celebration we talked about God’s faithfulness. We were sup- posed to list the times when God has been faithful in the past as a reminder that God will continue to be faithful through our current struggles. 2 Corinthians 1:10 says, “He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us.”

It doesn’t have to be a huge problem like losing a job. We experience all kinds of life’s hurts and trials and struggles, but each wound brings back that question.

“My dad has lost his job. I hate that feeling of help- lessness, like there’s nothing you can do but trust God. And that’s the hardest thing you can do because there’s always that nag- ging doubt in the back of your mind saying, “If you are really a loving God, why did you let this happen?”

It turns out something bad happened to Dad at work, so that’s what had happened. It turns out his job was in jeopardy. We didn’t know what would happen so all we could do was pray.

I hate that feeling of helplessness, like there’s nothing you can do but trust God. And that’s the hardest thing you can do because there’s always that nagging doubt in the back of your mind saying, “If you are really a loving God, why did you let this happen?”

Hard Times Lead to Glory

By Jess Wilson

Contributing Writer

This past month has been crazy. I’ve been living in a place of uncertainty where everything just seems to be up in the air. Last week I called my mom and she started crying. It turns out something had happened to Dad at work so that his job was in jeopardy. We didn’t know what would happen so all we could do was pray.

I hate that feeling of helplessness, like there’s nothing you can do but trust God. And that’s the hardest thing you can do because there’s always that nagging doubt in the back of your mind saying, “If you are really a loving God, why did you let this happen?”

It turns out something bad happened to Dad at work, so that’s what had happened. It turns out his job was in jeopardy. We didn’t know what would happen so all we could do was pray.

I hate that feeling of helpless- ness, like there’s nothing you can do but trust God. And that’s the hardest thing you can do because there’s always that nagging doubt in the back of your mind saying, “If you are really a loving God, why did you let this happen?”

I urge those at EMU who con- sider themselves pacifists to try and understand where some of us are coming from. Believe me, the decision to support the war in Iraq does not come without a signif- icant amount of soul searching. I therefore choose, with no less moral integrity than those on the opposite side, to support this coun- try. President Bush, and the coalit- ion troops. God Bless America.

Beth Klima may be reached at inlebeth@hotmail.com

Iraqi Civilian Body Count

Iraq Body Count Project is an effort to establish an independent and compre- hensive public database of media-reported civilian deaths in Iraq resulting directly from military actions by the USA and its allies in 2003.

min: 1402 max: 1817

http://www.iraqbodycount.net for more information.

Is your health insurance worth the cost?

If you don’t know, call us. We can help you determine whether your insurance offers you the most protection for your money.

We understand how the cost of premiums compares to the reality of medical claims.

Call us today for a free evaluation of your current health coverage.

Chen Gingerich 1675-A Virginia Avenue Harrisonburg, VA 22802 Telephone: (540) 434-3666 Toll-free: (800) 442-7930 Fax: (540) 433-1867 www.mmapartners.org/harrisonburg cgingerich@adelphi.net

MMA

Stewardship Solutions

Jerry Hosopple Aftereffects

Have a contributor? Send it to wvane@emu.edu along with the professor’s name and class.

Iraq Body Count

Foot In Mouth

“In my experience, RAM is better than Viagra.”

Bob Colon

Iraq Body Count Project is an effort to establish an independent and compre- hensive public database of media-reported civilian deaths in Iraq resulting directly from military actions by the USA and its allies in 2003.

min: 1402 max: 1817

http://www.iraqbodycount.net for more information.

Is your health insurance worth the cost?

If you don’t know, call us. We can help you determine whether your insurance offers you the most protection for your money.

We understand how the cost of premiums compares to the reality of medical claims.

Call us today for a free evaluation of your current health coverage.

Chen Gingerich 1675-A Virginia Avenue Harrisonburg, VA 22802 Telephone: (540) 434-3666 Toll-free: (800) 442-7930 Fax: (540) 433-1867 www.mmapartners.org/harrisonburg cgingerich@adelphi.net

MMA

Stewardship Solutions

Jerry Hosopple Aftereffects

Have a contributor? Send it to wvane@emu.edu along with the professor’s name and class.

Iraq Body Count Project is an effort to establish an independent and compre- hensive public database of media-reported civilian deaths in Iraq resulting directly from military actions by the USA and its allies in 2003.

min: 1402 max: 1817

http://www.iraqbodycount.net for more information.

Is your health insurance worth the cost?

If you don’t know, call us. We can help you determine whether your insurance offers you the most protection for your money.

We understand how the cost of premiums compares to the reality of medical claims.

Call us today for a free evaluation of your current health coverage.

Chen Gingerich 1675-A Virginia Avenue Harrisonburg, VA 22802 Telephone: (540) 434-3666 Toll-free: (800) 442-7930 Fax: (540) 433-1867 www.mmapartners.org/harrisonburg cgingerich@adelphi.net

MMA

Stewardship Solutions

Jerry Hosopple Aftereffects

Have a contributor? Send it to wvane@emu.edu along with the professor’s name and class.

Iraq Body Count Project is an effort to establish an independent and compre- hensive public database of media-reported civilian deaths in Iraq resulting directly from military actions by the USA and its allies in 2003.

min: 1402 max: 1817

http://www.iraqbodycount.net for more information.

Is your health insurance worth the cost?

If you don’t know, call us. We can help you determine whether your insurance offers you the most protection for your money.

We understand how the cost of premiums compares to the reality of medical claims.

Call us today for a free evaluation of your current health coverage.

Chen Gingerich 1675-A Virginia Avenue Harrisonburg, VA 22802 Telephone: (540) 434-3666 Toll-free: (800) 442-7930 Fax: (540) 433-1867 www.mmapartners.org/harrisonburg cgingerich@adelphi.net

MMA

Stewardship Solutions

Jerry Hosopple Aftereffects

Have a contributor? Send it to wvane@emu.edu along with the professor’s name and class.

Iraq Body Count Project is an effort to establish an independent and compre- hensive public database of media-reported civilian deaths in Iraq resulting directly from military actions by the USA and its allies in 2003.

min: 1402 max: 1817

http://www.iraqbodycount.net for more information.