

FREEDOM'S RING

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"Proclaim liberty throughout the land" (Lev.25:10).

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## **FR 237**

### **Monday Morning Quarterbacks**

Isn't it strange that everybody knows how to run the game, the government, and the church better than the ones who have been chosen for the responsibility? Church folks may serve fried preacher or stewed elder for Sunday lunch. In sports it is called coaching from the bleachers or Monday morning quarterbacking. In politics it is licensed as campaigning to oust an incumbent.

This is a critical mindset that allows those who have not borne the responsibility of decisions to look for and magnify the negative. It includes the sports commentators. This attitude may prevail even when the game is going well. "He threw to the short receiver instead of the one down field." "He should have substituted Bob for Rob." "I could call this game so much better than that stupid coach!" You never hear the coach from the bleachers admit, "I surely would have lost that game." So, whether the game is being won or lost, the critic is not deterred. Such quarterbacking is demoralizing to the coaches, players, and supporters if they hear it.

Have you ever accomplished a task so perfectly that you could not look back and see how you could have done better? Hindsight has 20-20 vision. Whether we used the best judgment in a situation or not, we can better see how to perform it the next time. But whether we win or lose, does the yelling from the bleachers by demoralizing critics help?

Has there been a demoralizing effect of the current political campaign? When our nation is publicly blamed for every ill in the world, the whole world listens and gloats. When the present administration is criticized as being wrong on every issue, it makes the daily news in other countries. It is interpreted by our enemies as our being and divided and weak-willed. No wonder that there has been uncertainty in the stock market and economy at home. No wonder that the insurgents in Iraq have increased their intensity as the election approaches. They want to influence the voters against the resolute Bush Administration to one who has questionable resolve to carry out the mission because he has declared it to be a vain mistake. He has boosted the moral of the enemy instead of our troops even as he did without apology in the Vietnam War at great cost to our service men.

Who does this angry yelling from the bleachers? Any good that is grudgingly attributed to the Bush Administration by the media is usually followed by some negative spin. It has long been evident that the television and newspaper media have favored liberal political and social issues. The recent scandal regarding Dan Rather and the falsified documents is not the beginning of it. I remember Dan Rather from the sixties as being boldly biased. Because movie-makers and entertainers attract their following by reaching over the limits of cultural and religious values, they lead the way in disdaining traditional and spiritual values. They even campaigned to bring "The Passion of Christ" into disrepute before it reached the theaters, and John Kerry joined in it. That was quarterbacking from the bleachers before the game started!

If you gain your impressions from the movies, television, and newspapers, then it is no wonder that you would hate President Bush! If, however, you want to hear the other side of the story, there are two sources that the conglomerate media controllers cannot silence. They are TALK RADIO and the INTERNET. From them you may be surprised to learn that there is a great populace that still stands for the moral and religious values espoused by the founders of our great nation and the Constitution they gave us.

I will illustrate my point by copying a letter from the internet which you are unlikely to see in your newspaper, the television news, or in a current movie.

THIS IS A LETTER FROM RAY REYNOLDS, a medic in the Iowa Army National Guard, serving in Iraq:

> As I head off to Baghdad for the final weeks of my stay in Iraq, I wanted to say thanks to all of you who did not believe the media. They have done a very poor job of covering everything that has happened. I am sorry that I have not been able to visit all of you during my two week leave back home. And just so you can rest at night knowing something is happening in Iraq that is noteworthy, I thought I would pass this on to you. This is the list of things that has happened in Iraq recently: (Please share it with your friends and compare it to the version that your paper is producing.)

- > \* Over 400,000 kids have up-to-date immunizations.
- > \* School attendance is up 80% from levels before the war.

- > \* Over 1,500 schools have been renovated and rid of the weapons stored there so education can occur.
- > \* The port of Uhm Qasar was renovated so grain can be off-loaded from ships faster.
- > \* The country had its first 2 billion barrel export of oil in August.
- > \* Over 4.5 million people have clean drinking water for the first time ever in Iraq.
- > \* The country now receives 2 times the electrical power it did before the war.
- > \* 100% of the hospitals are open and fully staffed, compared to 35% before the war.
- > \* Elections are taking place in every major city, and city councils are in place.
- > \* Sewer and water lines are installed in every major city.
- > \* Over 60,000 police are patrolling the streets.
- > \* Over 100,000 Iraqi civil defense police are securing the country.
- > \* Over 80,000 Iraqi soldiers are patrolling the streets side by side with US soldiers.
- > \* Over 400,000 people have telephones for the first time ever
- > \* Students are taught field sanitation and hand washing techniques to prevent the spread of germs.
- > \* An interim constitution has been signed.
- > \* Girls are allowed to attend school.
- > \* Textbooks that don't mention Saddam are in the schools for the first time in 30 years.

> Don't believe for one second that these people do not want us there. I have met many, many people from Iraq that want us there, and in a bad way. They say they will never see the freedoms we talk about but they hope their children will. We are doing a good job in Iraq and I challenge anyone, anywhere to dispute me on these facts. So if you happen to run into John Kerry, be sure to give him my email address and send him to Denison, Iowa. This soldier will set him straight. If you are like me and very disgusted with how this period of rebuilding has been portrayed, email this to a friend and let them know there are good things happening.

- > Ray Reynolds, SFC
- > Iowa Army National Guard
- > 234th Signal Battalion

Here is an internet sendout that may be helpful to voters of conscience.

## 2004 Election Voter Guide

Issues of Importance:

- \* Gay Marriage: President Bush is opposed. John Kerry favors.
- \* Partial-Birth Abortion: President Bush is opposed. John Kerry favors.
- \* Restoring voluntary prayer in the public schools: President Bush Favors. John Kerry is opposed.
- \* Mel Gibson & the making of a film about Christ: President Bush supported Gibson.

John Kerry participated in Left's assault on Gibson, suggesting possible anti-Semitism even though Kerry had not seen the film.

\* Boy Scouts' belief in God and not allowing Homosexual Scout Leaders: President Bush supports Boy Scouts' stand. John Kerry opposes boy Scouts' stand.

\* Asking for God's blessing on America: President Bush often asks God to bless America in his speeches. John Kerry attacks Bush for mentioning God so often (but now has changed his tactic!).

\* Judges: President Bush says "We need common-sense judges who believe our rights are derived from God." John Kerry insists on judges who support the ACLU's radical anti-Christian, anti-God, anti-family agenda.

John Kerry is insistent on blocking President Bush's federal judge appointments.

\* Overall Record: President Bush does not vote on issues before Congress but, based on his publicly stated positions, would receive an 85% conservative rating. John Kerry, according to the highly respected, politically-neutral National Journal, rates Kerry the most liberal U. S. Senator in 2003 - - more liberal than Ted Kennedy and Hillary Clinton.

May God guide our people and make our nation a blessing and may our people have the conviction and courage to follow His guidance. []

(Cecil Hook: October 2004)

Talkin' Texas: The Heisman Trophy was named after John William Heisman who was the first full time coach for Rice University, Houston.

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