Waking Up to Orwell's Nightmare

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Have you heard that story about Russ Feingold? U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, strong progressive Delegate from Madison, who introduced that big antiterror bill in Congress, Feingold had some things to say and wanted to open up a discussion. When the American Guard leaders took him aside and told him that this was not a matter to be discussed, Feingold threw a fit that was probably the biggest domestic surveillance bill ever without a word of comment. This represents pretty well what seems yet to be happening in the United States right now. When a highly regarded U.S. Senator is barred from voicing his thoughts on a piece of legislation, we've got problems.

Lots of what has been going on reminds me of a book I read four years ago. That book was "1984" by George Orwell. Let's discuss. Feingold threw a fit that was probably the biggest domestic surveillance bill ever without a word of comment. This represents pretty well what seems yet to be happening in the United States right now. When a highly regarded U.S. Senator is barred from voicing his thoughts on a piece of legislation, we've got problems.

WAR IS PEACE. We have a situation in the United States where our government is pouring money into the world's most impoverished nations with thousands of bombs. Meanwhile, we're told to go out and buy our daily lives. Instead of worrying and thinking about the war we are waging, we're told to worry about terrorism. America, through her position as the lone superpower, is leading the world into a new era where you can be hated just because you resemble someone who is hated. This is not a measuring stick by which a democracy should be judged.

IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH. Why would the staff we're talking about here be news to so many Americans? Because discussion is not permitted in the U.S. media. It's patriotic, we're told, to follow the government's line blindly and not question what we hear. Nobody is allowed to ask what we are trying to accomplish militarily what human damage the bombing in Afghanistan has caused, and most importantly, why we were bombed in the first place. Instead, people around the globe asking questions about America's actions are being chastised by the American government and media. Officials with the United Nations, World Food Program keep telling us seven million Afghan people could starve as a direct result of American bombing, but nobody in our government seems to care that much. Doctors Without Borders, a Nobel Prize winning group, has condemned American food drops because the food is usually dropped in the center of landmine-riddled fields. Last week Hugo Chavez held up pictures of Afghan children killed by American bombs, and the next day America recalled its ambassador. Days before his death, Northern Alliance leader Abdul Haq criticized the American bombing campaign as a worthless show of strength. American politicians mourned his death, but failed to consider his sentiments. A few days ago, a Green Beret leader from Maine opposed to the bombing planned to fly to Chicago to attend a conference. Unfortunately, her name had been flagged because she is a pacifist and she was prevented by six National Guardsmen armed with machine guns from boarding any plane. It's not about to be a COY Today banner headline. We also don't hear a whole lot about how the Taliban offered to turn bin Ladens over to a third country for trial days before we began our military campaign. Bush refused to entertain their offer of justice, turned them over to our own military solution. The American people are being cowed into silence and obedience. That's not how a democratic society is beginning to crumble.

We must remember that we are America. We are the American people. When we think about why New York and Washington were attacked, discuss what the long-term solution to these problems is, we are killing countless civilians in Afghanistan and standing by as our own civil liberties are eroded. Don't let America become Oceania. Make the people stronger than the power.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editors:

In response to Meghan Swan- son's article, “Holy Cross Cares...or does it?” I would like to point out that she missed many other things that Holy Cross is doing. I am feeling it as though the school cares only for promulgating the institution of Holy Cross.

The athletic department is a mess. The school has no fieldhouse. That hulk of a building by the top gate is simply inadequate for the school’s athletic facilities. I became aware of its deplorable condition after attempting to play lacrosse in the fieldhouse last winter.

Another issue is that of locker rooms in the Hart center. There are none. Last year, men’s lacrosse used a racquetball court as its locker room. Football would not let us use theirs saying, “We are okay with you using it, but the moment spring football begins, you must stop.” Hockey would n’t let us use theirs because the person who donated the money stipulated that those would be hockey only locker rooms.

Even if money is an issue, we the students should be the school’s first priority. After all, not only are we currently making substantial contributions to the school’s finances, but we are the people they will be asking for future donations.

Now, when no other team on campus has a locker room and there is no general locker room, you would think that football could store their helmets and equipment in their rooms when they aren’t in season (much like everyone else does) or that the school would reject the money when you can get a stipulation such as that (much like Rudy Giuliani did).

Another athletic issue is that of scholarships. The school, for better or worse, has a policy that doesn’t let us use their locker rooms. I would love to be able to do something for a private high school can do. If it is not possible to give money, I doubt that it would affect giving funds for say uniforms for the baseball team. I doubt that it would cost millions to put paper towel dispensers in the bathroom. I really seem like he’s been taking a beating recently. He’s protecting my freedom, but it’s not letting me do my job. Could he be in line. Considering that these minor issues will not get solved, the major one seems even less likely, but I’ll just have to see. Why can’t Kimball stay open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.? Even if they aren’t serving food, we would see three extra people needed to run a second meal line. Considering that these minor issues will not get solved, the major one seems even less likely, but I’ll just have to see. Why can’t Kimball stay open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.? Even if they aren’t serving food, we would see three extra people needed to run a second meal line. Considering that these minor issues will not get solved, the major one seems even less likely, but I’ll just have to see. Why can’t Kimball stay open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.? Even if they aren’t serving food, we would see three extra people needed to run a second meal line. Considering that these minor issues will not get solved, the major one seems even less likely, but I’ll just have to see. Why can’t Kimball stay open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.? Even if they aren’t serving food, we would see three extra people needed to run a second meal line. Considering that these minor issues will not get solved, the major one seems even less likely, but I’ll just have to see.