

RESPONSE TO "THROUGH THE EYES OF A SENIOR"

To the Editor:

On May 25th of 2005, the article "Through the Eyes of a Senior" by Michael Turk really surprised me. America's popularity throughout the world has steadily declined, and I think this article shows us why: the mindset of the average ignorant and arrogant American. I cannot take this article seriously when the writer himself degrades France, sarcastically calling them "oh so brilliant and cultural" and stating that every single Frenchman sits "at home all day in France on their government welfare checks," and then gets so upset he tries to rile up the readers to boycott a movie because the maker degraded America. This article is heavily biased and ignorant with little or no factual information to back up the writer's claims. I want to address some issues the article brought up, especially President Bush and the war in Iraq. Michael Turk exclaims that we, the Americans, need to wake up and send a message to George Lucas - I say we need to wake up to what's going on around us.

According to the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, an important factor in the world opinion in America is the perception that the U.S. acts internationally without taking account of the interest of other nations. I think the war in Iraq is largely responsible for this. On February 15th, 2003, millions of people all over the world came out to protest Bush's war. A few of the estimated number of peace demonstrators include: Paris - 400,000 protesters, San Francisco - 200,000 protesters, Madrid - 800,000 protesters, New York City - 500,000 protesters, London - 1.5 million protesters. George Bush didn't listen and went to war with Iraq regardless - even after the U.N. said no. Donald Rumsfeld, on a televised interview, told his interviewers that "you and a few critics are the only ones I have heard using the phrase immediate threat. I didn't. The President didn't." His interviewers promptly brought up a citation of Rumsfeld speaking:

"No terror state poses a greater or more immediate threat to the security of our people and the stability of the world than the regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq." In another instance, Rumsfeld was asked about the locations of Iraq's nuclear weapons and Rumsfeld responded with "they are north, south, east, and west of Baghdad," which doesn't strike much confidence in the listeners. When the persons who are in charge of your country appear to be lying or just not as smart as they should, it is no wonder that others may lose faith in that country's administration.

In Michael Turk's article, he states that the French "sit at home all day in France on their government welfare checks," and I was completely infuriated by this ignorant statement. In America, a rap artist by the name of Old Dirty Bastard pulled up in a limousine to pickup his welfare

check. The point is - there are rotten apples in every barrel. In both countries, France and America, you will have bums who try to live off the government, and in both countries you will have hard working individuals trying to create a future for themselves and their families.

Michael Turk also criticizes George Lucas and Michael Moore for being 'cowards' and 'backstabbers.' Even though Michael Moore's films are heavily biased, which Moore admits, he does raise very good points and points out important facts that make you think. It takes more courage for a man to stand up and ask questions than to go quietly with everyone around him. Turk also writes that Mr. Lucas will be able to "bash the nation that gave him the cash." The American government did not give George Lucas any money, he made his money off of the popular Star Wars franchise around the world.

Criticizing these two men for speaking their minds and utilizing their free speech in this way is not right. I go back to my point I made earlier: the article by Michael Turk cannot be taken seriously as it is incredibly biased, childish, ignorant, and arrogant. Just because you are born in the United States of America does not make you any better than a person from France, Iraq, or any other country. I want to end my letter with a quote from Edward Abbey - "A patriot must always be ready to defend his country from his government."

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