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COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS SUPPORT PEACE

BALTIMORE, Maryland – The College Libertarians of Towson (CLT) will be tabling, along side the Towson Campus Greens, on the second floor of the University Union (Towson University), on Thursday, December 1st, from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

“Both my sister and her husband are in the army,” said Alex Peak, President of the CLT, “and I’d hate the thought of them dying.

“The College Libertarians are not involved in this activity to oppose the war on al Qaeda,” continued Mr. Peak, “to whom we have a very legitimate opposition. We’re participating in this event to oppose the war in Iraq. We hope for a speedy end to the conflict, so that our friends and family currently fighting can come home safely.

“Some would say that this is not the time to discuss the war, that since we’re there now, we must shut up and just support the President. This is absurd. Now is the most pertinent time to speak up and express one’s views about the war, whether for it *or* against it.”

The Libertarian Party supports non-interventionist policies, both foreign and domestic. It is the only political party thus far to pose a viable exit-strategy to the Iraq War. Further, those wishing to join the Libertarian Party are asked to pledge that they “do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.”

The war in Iraq began on March 19th, 2003. Since then, there have been, according to Antiwar.com, over 2,100 American Military Casualties in Iraq, along with an uncountable number of dead Iraqis. There have been over 15,700 officially recorded

Americans wounded.

Since the initiation of the war, Iraq's dictator Saddam Hussein has been removed from power, he currently awaits trial, and the country has a new government set up including a new Constitution. In addition to this, the government has admitted it was wrong about the alleged stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction. Mr. Peak said, "whenever it is brought up that we should bring the troops home, the Bush administration claims we can't, and that instead we must 'stay the course' until the 'mission is complete.' Yet they never elucidate what more 'mission' there is to be completed. Our loved ones are dying without even a clear reason, and this is unacceptable."

Iraqi leaders representing Shiite, Kurdish, and Sunni communities, included Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, met on November 21st to call for a timetable for the withdrawal of American forces. "The gathering was part of a U.S.-backed league attempt to bring the communities closer together and assure Sunni Arab participation in a political process now dominated by Iraq's Shiite majority and large Kurdish minority," according to CBS News.

Former Libertarian presidential candidate Ron Paul, who currently serves as a Republican Congressman in the House of Representatives for the state of Texas, was one of the first in the House back in June of 2005 to formally call for a timetable for withdrawal. On June 21st, Rep. Paul said before the House, "A plausible argument can be made that the guerillas are inspired by our presence in Iraq, which to them seems endless. Iraqi deaths, whether through direct U.S. military action, collateral damage, or Iraqis killing Iraqis, serve to inspire an even greater number of Iraqis to join the insurgency. Because we are in charge, we are blamed for all the deaths.

"Continuing to justify our presence in Iraq because we must punish those responsible for 9/11 is disingenuous to say the least. We are sadly now at greater risk than before 9/11. We refuse to deal with our own borders while chastising the Syrians for not securing their borders with Iraq. An end game needs to be in place, and the American people deserve to know exactly what that plan is. They are the ones who must send their sons and daughters off to war and pay the bills when they come due."

Mr. Peak added, "Our aim isn't to alienate those that *do* support the war. We realize this is a touchy issue with many people, and we're prepared to respect that. We *do* aim to raise awareness about the issue, and to encourage more open discussion between reasonable persons of differing views. We believe this is the best way to get our non-interventionist message across."

The College Libertarians of Towson meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in room 316 of the University Union.

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