

GRADUATION 2004

Class of

104

Christian Brothers High School
Sacramento

Matthew Boyd

Is the war in Iraq a just war and would you enlist to serve?

I support the United States action in Iraq, but question President Bush's motivation. The fact that the administration claimed that the United States' action in Iraq was warranted by an extensive nuclear arms program, yet was not able to uncover a single nuclear weapon, is a problem for me. Had weapons of mass destruction – an actual threat – actually been discovered, I would feel differently. However, I am not going to say that I do not support the American troops that are dying daily in Iraq. The troops are there now, and I feel that we should all support them and pray for a quick resolution to the conflict.

Do you favor a requirement of high school graduates for public service at home or abroad?

I think that a national requirement of public service abroad would actually be a very good thing. It would most definitely show Americans what goes on outside of our borders. I am a proud American citizen and believe that showing young American citizens other parts of the world, giving them opportunities to interact in other cultures and countries, would do a world of good.

Looking back on your life 20 years from now, what accomplishment would make you most proud?

Twenty years from now I would like to look back and be able to say I brought people together – whether those people are from different countries, ethnicities, cultures or neighborhoods, I hope I will be able to teach people about one another. I come from a diverse group of friends and also from a diverse home and even now I like to think that through me people who normally wouldn't have a connection are able to find some bond.



Audrey Tucker

Is the war in Iraq a just war and would you enlist to serve?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that war is just if the damage inflicted by an aggressor on a nation or nations is "lasting, grave and certain." Therefore, the present war on terrorism is justifiable; the war in Iraq is not. While Al Qaeda is allegedly responsible for the 9/11 attacks, Saddam Hussein's regime has no direct link to the terrorist faction. It would be irresponsible to deny that Iraq's government is corrupt and that there is a need for action, but one cannot fight fire with fire. Using controlled violence to counter balance mass mutilation seems foolhardy rather than wise.

Do you favor a requirement of high school graduates for public service at home or abroad?

As Americans we live in the land of milk and honey. The United States owns more than half of the world's resources and has one of the highest literacy rates. We are privileged to have been born who, what, when, and where we are. Why not take advantage of this by putting privileged youths to use in mandated public service? This would benefit the world, give students life skills and a work ethic valuable in the labor force, help subsidize the lack of aid in poverty stricken areas and Third World countries, and facilitate camaraderie in the global community.

Looking back on your life 20 years from now, what accomplishment would make you most proud?

As a graduating high school senior, I stand on the threshold of my future. The choices I make now are determining who I will become. To live life to the fullest, one must be adventurous. Thus, in everything I do I try to extend myself and stretch my academic, emotional and spiritual boundaries; to think, live, and breathe outside the box; and strive to be not what I am told to be but what I am. When all is said and done and my roots are sprinkled with grey, to have made mistakes and learned from them will be my greatest triumph.

