

Submitted to the Fairbanks Daily News Miner:

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To the editor:

It is difficult to know what to believe or do these days. Most Americans seem content to fly the flag and ask no questions. This worries me. All around I see concerns which I can't resolve. Where is mercy, and where is humor? We are urged to shop for a strong America, to keep America rolling, while corporations raid the treasury and congress dissolves the once touted surplus into tax refunds. Americans charitably gave hundreds of millions of dollars to the victims and aid agencies in compassion for the September 11 tragedy. So how is it just to refund corporate taxes?

Worst of all is the saber-rattling of political leaders in Washington to invade Iraq. This idea is beyond insane. Why would a country which calls itself the home of the free and the brave do this? It's beginning to look a lot more like Orwell's 1984 than Christmas.

Indeed, this is the Christian high season. Peace on earth, good will toward ALL men, (and women, hopefully). Are we just going to pass on that whole celebration this year? If not, are we going to bomb?

Is America to become a fascist land of darkness, civil liberty suspended due to fear? A shabby consumer land of gluttony and despair? Could we pause and read the Beatitudes, (Matthew 5: 2-11). Perhaps realize that peace and honor are not opposites, hate and violence are not worthy of us, and look into our hearts which gave charitably to victims. Let politicians follow our own people's good examples. Listen to the carols.

Sing even. The world is, after all, what we make it.

Seasons best,

Rich Seifert