

It boggles the mind! It boggles the mind!

May I ask: Where do you get your haircut?

I am a cheapo, so I get mine from Great Clips. A haircut there costs \$15. But as a senior citizen, Tina, my Vietnamese barber, charges me only \$12. With coupons, \$9. But she does such a good job trimming my hair and telling funny stories about Vietnam in her lilting, accented sing-song voice that I usually give her \$15. And that to me is splurging on a trim.

So when I heard that former South Carolina senator and president wannabe John Edwards pays \$400 for his trims, I felt violated, I felt like that there was something not right with that, I felt inadequate.

I even felt hate for this man. No, not hate, probably envy ... no, not envy. I just couldn't pinpoint it. There's something, something that's very wrong and very disturbing to me. Four-hundred bucks for a haircut?

It boggles the mind.

"The common man, not to put too fine a point on it, doesn't pay \$400 for a trim," said Leonard Pitts, a syndicated Miami Herald columnist.

I think Pitts pinpointed my mixed-up emotions on the matter.

“Granted, John Edwards is a wealthy man,” Pitts said, “and he can pay whatever he wants for a trim. But those of us in the cheap seats are likewise entitled to think his pricey coif sends a message jarringly at odds with the populists theme of Edwards’ campaign.

“After all, this is the guy who likes to style himself the SON OF A MILLWORKER, standing up for the common man”

Yes, I think that’s it. The man is a FAKE! This son of a mill worker is no common man. He’s a fancy man. A pretty, pansy, fake. Fakes, people and things, no matter how pretty, should be done away with.

I am now taking a hard look at the African grandson of a goat shepherd: Barack Obama. He seems more in the know how to get it on with the common man. He’s got the moves. And he’s got game. I like his beliefs. It’s more aligned with the hopes and beliefs of the common man. Also, I like goats and I have a kinship with goat shepherds. My grandfather on my father’s side was a goat shepherd.

I remember those days of old when I would occasionally visit him in Piddig, Ilocos Norte, he would butcher one of his goats and make PINAPAIT that was so heavenly to the taste that up to now I still consider this Ilocano dish as something like food for the gods.

Moving on ... and this is something for the gods, too: Recently dug-up World War II-era documents show that after its surrender, Japan also set up “COMFORT WOMEN” brothels for American soldiers. The brothels, similar to the ones used by Japanese soldiers, also coerced women into prostitution, with “tacit approval” from the U.S. occupation officials.

The documents show the brothels were rushed into operations as U.S. forces poured into Japan in 1945. The rationale was “to create a breakwater to protect regular women and girls.” In other words, to contain the U. S. occupation forces from committing widespread rapes and sexual assaults on Japanese women, they opened up brothels to provide cheap sex for them. “The COMFORT WOMEN,” the report read “had some resistance to selling themselves to men who just yesterday were the enemy, and because of differences in language and race, there was a great deal of apprehensions at first ... But they were paid highly, and they gradually came to accept their work peacefully.”

Indeed, those generous American soldiers with their dollars, American cigarettes and nylon stockings to give, any girl in war-torn countries would have bedded with any of them.

But a year later, Gen. Douglas MacArthur shut all the brothels down, reasoning that the practice is NOT only “embarrassing” for the folks back in America, but also “IMMORAL for the troops.”

Ha! It boggles the mind, the immorality of it all, and the pomposity and hypocrisy of this otherwise great World War II warrior.

MacArthur, during this time, conducted his tryst with his own private COMFORT WOMAN that he kept at the posh Manila Hotel ... a widely-known whispered “secret” in Manila circles.

Moving on again ... and time is really a-moving on. Today, May 1st, as I write this, marks the fourth anniversary when Mr. Bush declared that “major combat operations” in Iraq had ended.

Well, it ain't over yet, that's for sure.

The violence, the killings, the chaos, and the deaths of our soldiers continue to escalate.

Written by Jesse Jose

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Last month, at least 104 more of our troops have perished in this war, making April, according to news reports, "the deadliest month so far this year and the sixth deadliest of the war." Three-hundred and forty-eight (soldiers) have already been killed this year.

Compared to last year and the year before, the deaths of our troops have TRIPLED. This increase in deaths is the result of a STUPID PLAN by top military brasses in Iraq when they began moving troops from huge fortified bases outside of Baghdad to small, vulnerable outposts in the city.

This plan daw was to secure the city of Bagdad. It boggles the mind, this plan. In all, 3,351 of our troops, and counting, have now been killed in Iraq.

Enough! The war is LOST, for God's sake! We are just sending those soldiers to the slaughterhouse! We, the American people, have spoken! Let's bring the troops home!

Last week, Congress had passed a \$124-billion spending bill that would force U.S. troops to begin withdrawing from Iraq by October 1st, with a goal of a complete pullout six months later. Mr. Bush said he's going to VETO it. True to his word for a change, Mr. Bush vetoed it today! Nancy Pelosi's Democrats do not have the two thirds majority to override this veto.

So, the war stays on course! How many more of our young, brave soldiers are going to die in this STUPID war? How many more bucket of tears are going to be shed by their loved ones? Is it all worth it?

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