

# MAIL DROP

**I** wish to thank you for *The Leader*, Fall 2003 edition, which I received on the 15th of this month [December]. Even though I am not yet a student of Embry-Riddle, I can perceive why you have such great successes, e.g., alumna Peg Billson and your being #1 in aerospace engineering for four years in a row. You do not know how much this magazine has helped sharpen my vision of my future in the aviation industry. I especially enjoyed the "Pop Quiz" segment.

— **Robert Roland**

**I** am an alumnus of Embry-Riddle (Extended Campus) and, having just recently returned from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, I was upset to see the article "Weapons, Intelligence and Policy: Behind the Case for Lying" by Dean Richard W. Bloom in *The Leader* Fall 2003 edition.

This article, despite your disclaimer, leaves me and other officers in my unit with the belief that you think the Bush administration is lying and not worthy of trust. That you would provide your magazine for this purpose insults me and makes me ashamed to be associated with the university.

— **CW4 Sean Morrill**  
'92, U.S. Army

**I** am appalled by the publication of Richard Bloom's "Perspectives" article in the Fall 2003 issue of *The Leader*.

In his first section, "Lying through disparity," Bloom argues that it is the *difference in the positions* taken by the "policymakers" (read Bush and/or the Bush Administration) and "intelligence analysts" that "has been taken as a smoking gun of administration lying." In this case, the position being whether Iraq possessed or did not possess weapons of mass destruction. Bloom is misleading the reader. What is being criticized as lying is not the Administration's position, but its willingness to do things like cite the Niger uranium letter - which had been

discredited as unauthentic prior to it being cited - and to cite the aluminum tubes - which were (again, ahead of time) concluded to be of inappropriate design for a centrifuge and identical in size for a missile - as evidence or even *proofs* of an Iraqi nuclear program.

In his third section, "Lying through evil," Bloom argues that the "President's opponents have claimed that his administration covets and engages in the immoral and unethical," and "assume that immoral, unethical people are more likely to lie, so lying must have occurred." This is simply Bloom's unproven and flawed opinion presented as a fact. I don't think he lied for any of these reasons, I think he lied because he used the Niger letter and the aluminum tubes as evidence to support a position.

I have complete faith that President Bush believed his policy was right. I defend his right and the right of every citizen to have a position. It's even OK if that position turns out to be wrong - or appears to be wrong (WMD). What is not OK is misrepresenting evidence, or misrepresenting financial statements, for example.

In his closing paragraph, Bloom says "the only constant of truth is not its meaning but its function." I assume that in Bloom's world that means that truth's function is to serve the teller's purpose.

— **Thomas Feddersen, '93**

**I** was an Army Air Corps cadet stationed at Carlstrom Field, Arcadia, Florida, around April-May 1944. The years have passed (too quickly), but I still keep in touch with Ed Potthoff, whom I first met in primary over 60 years ago.

I received your magazine, *The Leader*, which I enjoy. It contained an article about Embry-Riddle preserving its heritage, and requesting old photos and documents.

I have saved a few memorabilia of my time in the service (the most enjoyable being at Carlstrom) and have put together a few photos taken and the special orders of our departure to basic flying at Bainbridge, Ga. I hope that these may be helpful for your collection.

— **Gerald F. Precourt**