

Friday, January 30

Selectboard deserves praise for rejecting Bush petition

Editor of the Reformer:

I would like to applaud the Selectboard's recent decision to vote down a petition, filled by Kurt Daims, to indict former President George W. Bush for war crimes.

As we near the end of the first decade of the new millennium, tensions in the Middle East are escalating, genocide and AIDS continue to ravage Africa and terrorism remains a constant threat both here and abroad.

At home, the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression threatens jobs, forces families from their homes and precipitates the dismantling of numerous social programs that, now more than ever, individuals and families desperately rely on for food, health care and heating fuel, among other things.

In the midst of these difficulties and uncertainties, I find it astonishing that there are still individuals who wish to commit limited and valuable resources toward the indictment of former President Bush.

Now, I am not an apologist for the Bush administration, or their policies concerning the war in Iraq. However, an indictment is not a tool to be recklessly wielded simply because we don't happen to agree with, or support, the decisions and policies of our elected officials, no matter how much we may disagree with them. Much to the dismay of their many detractors, Bush, Cheney and the rest of the Bush administration committed any actions that support bringing an indictment.

I suggest that Mr. Daims heed his own advice, as he suggested in an earlier article concerning this issue, and get over it. As a nation, as well as right here in Brattleboro, we have a lot more pressing needs to address, needs that require our immediate attention.

In a sense the electorate has already "impeached" Mr. Bush and his policies by electing Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States. We should be looking forward to this, and not pursuing what amounts to little more than a personal vendetta against an unpopular president.

I have complete faith and confidence in the American people to fully heal from any "wounds" that Daims believes have been inflicted on them by the Bush administration. Let's drop this, move on and save the indictments for those who truly commit crimes.

Wade D. Lawrence,