



Jamestownners Bruce and Madelaine Crabtree, and former Jamestown Grace Hyde in Washington, D.C., where they joined a protest against the war in Iraq.

Letters

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are by this war and the litany of other abuses perpetrated by this administration. Officially sanctioned torture, secret prisons, arbitrary and indefinite detention of people without trial or even access to a lawyer, a special kangaroo court convened on the president's whim, illegal wiretapping, a stubborn insistence that the executive is above the law — not to mention the toleration of outrageous war profiteering and mind-boggling incompetence — these things are not normal for the United States of America. I don't want my children to accept them as such.

When asked by a reporter what the American people have been asked to sacrifice for the war in Iraq — a war that he claims is the "defining ideological struggle of the 21st century" and that we must wage to safeguard civilization itself — President Bush said that, well, we've all had to give up our peace of mind. On the Mall, I heard from military families who've had to give up so much more than that — more, I believe, than this president is capable of even grasping. Along with the unfortunate people of Iraq, our military members are the ones who have truly suffered in this great misadventure. Bush has asked far too much of them and given them far too little. The fathers and mothers of servicemen and women who spoke at the protest made this quite clear. The families of the dead and maimed U.S. soldiers this war has produced will continue to pay for this policy for

many years to come. Their voices of protest were especially poignant.

If you oppose the war, please write to Senators Whitehouse and Reed and Representative Kennedy and tell them to de-fund it. Tell them that a nonbinding resolution opposing the troop escalation is simply not enough. Such a resolution is worse than useless, because it will allow politicians to say they oppose the war without actually doing anything to stop it. It's not possible to both oppose the war and continue to fund it. The fact that Bush has placed the troops in harm's way should not mean he gets a blank check to keep them there. The founders gave Congress the power of the purse for just this situation — to counter a president bent on waging an unwise, unjustified war. If Congress de-funds the war and Bush still insists on leaving the troops in Iraq, it will be Bush not Congress that imperils them. And the American people really wouldn't stand for that.

**Bruce Crabtree,
Jamestown**

Students thank sponsors, chaperones

The sixth-grade students recently participated in Project Adventure at Alton Jones. This trip would not have been possible without the generosity of the following organizations: the Jamestown Junior Women's Club, the Jamestown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force, and the Jamestown School PTO. Thank you for your support.

We would also like to thank the following fathers who helped chaperone: Mr. Treganza, Mr. Downing, Mr. Heath, Mr. Stanford, Mr. McIntyre, and Mr.

Rafanelli. We certainly appreciate the sleep you forfeited by agreeing to stay in the boys' cabins overnight.

**Beth Weibust,
teacher, grade 6**

Donation thanks

I have been remiss in keeping up with correspondence but I wanted to take the time to extend a belated thanks to Steve Cirella and the Newport Sunset League for their donation to Jamestown Baseball. The donation was actually made late last fall, but I am just now getting to express our appreciation. Jamestown Baseball truly appreciates the support and acknowledgement that so many organizations have given to us.

**Tony Rafanelli,
president, Jamestown Baseball**

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Tower

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fence and adequate foliage to act as a buffer on the sides exposed to residential areas. The .52-acre lot located in a public zone is primarily used for the town water towers and is shared by three other wireless companies requiring communications facilities.

In other business, the zoning board considered the application of Patricia A. Evangelista, whose property is located at 28 Coulter St., requesting a variance to construct a garage 5 feet from the side lot line instead of the required 10 feet. Local attorney James Donnelly represented Evangelista. The current non-conforming accessory structure located on the property has 3-foot, six-inch side and a 2-foot, six-inch frontage setbacks, he said. The building is structurally unsound and beyond rehabilitation, and the applicant proposed to replace the structure with a new garage that provides greater storage and improved compliance with setbacks, Donnelly said. The new garage is designed to provide additional storage and workshop space, he noted.

Local attorney Quentin Anthony represented property abutters opposed to the proposed application.

After a lengthy discussion among the board members, the application was denied with a vote of 1-4. Vice Chairman Don Wineberg voted in favor of the application.

After intense debate about whether to hear the application of Patrick Kilroy, who owns a lot on Conanicus Avenue, or send the applicant to the Planning Commission for consideration, the board elected to review the request for a dimensional variance.

Attorney Turner Scott of Newport represented the applicant and

gave a presentation of the proposed plans to build a single-family residence on the property. The request for variance was for a front-yard setback of 15 feet instead of the required 30 feet. Because of time considerations, John Murphy, the local attorney representing abutters opposed to the proposed request did not have the opportunity to present opposing views. The panel voted unanimously to grant a continuance to the March meeting of the board.

The appeal of Roger and Maryjane Lavallee was granted a continuance to the February meeting of the board.

Programs

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Maclean, a seventh-grader and council treasurer. He noted that the council made enough money through fund-raising to buy a wolf costume for the school mascot.

Lili Flour, an enthusiastic club member, acknowledged the success of the council's ability to raise money and collect goods for the community. Flour added that the group organized a walk for breast cancer, and collected toys for children at a social. "Everyone had to bring a toy to enter," she said.

In the art room, a dozen girls, mostly fifth graders, filled the tables with pottery creations. Julia Montminy, one of the instructors of the ceramics class, commented that the number of sign-ups for pottery "always go over the limit." Trish Van Cleef, another instructor, noted that they minimize instruction, "and let them make their own creations."

Two ceramic lovers, Megan and Kaela, molded pinch pots by rolling balls of clay and thumb-pinch them into shape. "I like to work with clay. It's fun to make things," Kaela said as she attached clay petals to the edges of her pot.

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