

Cerritos Couple Camp Out in Crawford

By LARRY CABALLERO

While most of us would rather spend our vacations in a cooler spot this summer, Cerritos resident Mike Stabile and his wife chose to go to Crawford, Texas, along with other Americans from every state across the nation.

"We have trouble finding vacation spots we like," Stabile said jokingly.

They chose to spend it with the families that are supporting Cindy Sheehan, who lost her son in Iraq. We all know by now, unless we have been sleeping under a rock, that the main



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question she wants to ask President Bush is: "What was the noble cause that cost my son his life?"

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cated people, who came purely because of their convictions, had set up an efficient, well-run operation in the middle of nowhere in 100-plus-degree weather.

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volunteered their time and resources to send a message to the president and the country. Nearly the entire operation is run by donations and individuals who just showed up and asked how they could help."

Stabile said he was surprised to discover that the only newspaper in Crawford has a readership of 425 people, out of a total city population of 705, and yet it endorsed John Kerry in the 2004 presidential election.

"It made me realize that even in Texas there are people who are not supportive of Bush or the war."

The location of Camp Casey II is literally next to the driveway that enters Bush's ranch. During their three-day stay, thousands of people came and left. "I cannot tell you how uplifting it was to be around such a large group of people who care about exactly the same things as you," Stabile remarked.

The one person who left a lasting impression on him, besides Cindy Sheehan, was Lance Corporal Jeff Key. He is currently awaiting discharge from the Marines.

"Each night he played taps at sunset to honor the dead soldiers Bush had sent off to protect the oil of the president's buddies," Stabile recounted. "He would play in front of the memorial crosses that the volunteers had erected in the grass to represent each American who had died in Iraq since the war began.

"I found the man to be someone who makes me realize that, in our

world today, we can have a military to protect us and still have it composed of servicemen and women who can be compassionate toward foreigners," Stabile continued. "This, in spite of being led today by a ruthless administration in Washington whose only objective is to use the military for strictly personal financial gain."

Stabile also remembered the uplifting remarks of 85-year-old Liz Carpenter, who came to Crawford to show her support of the parents who

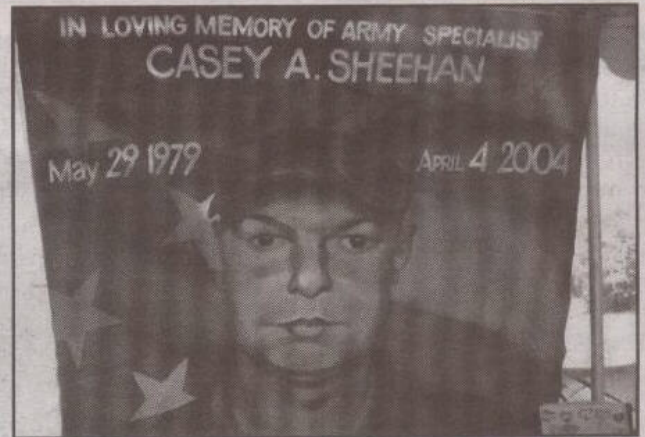
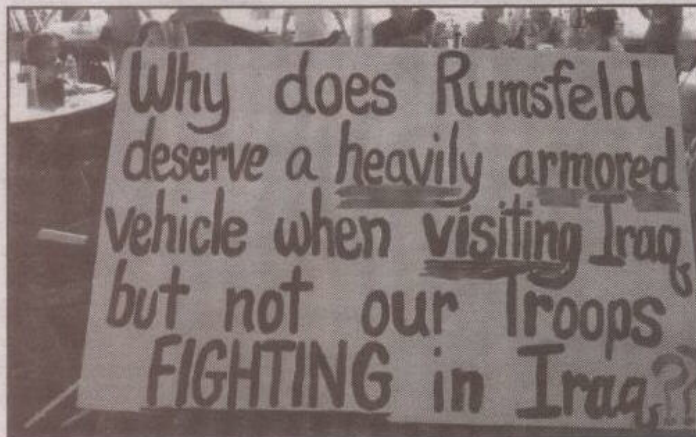
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Stabile said that although Cindy Sheehan is the seed and symbol of this movement, she is no longer the driving force. "The driving force now belongs to you and me, people who have finally found a way to express their outrage against, and resolve to stop, a war that has taken thousands of young American lives and tens of

thousands of peaceful Iraqis. This is the genesis of the people's anti-Iraq War movement."

Sheehan has said that she planned to leave Crawford when the president left, and would then participate in a bus caravan scheduled to start on August 31 and end on September 24 when it arrives in Washington, D. C., for a massive rally opposing the war.

For information about Stabile's trip to Crawford, check out his blog at <http://mstabile.blogspot.com>.



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