

OPINIONS & LETTERS

COLUMN LEFT

## Bush & The Culture Of Death

By Charlie Ara

**T**his morning I joined with 300 others in the Relay for Life. This annual event at Gahr High School raises money to fight cancer. While walking around the track, I noticed a woman with tears in her eyes. In speaking with her, she related that her 16-year-old daughter had recently died of cancer. She thanked me for coming.

I thought to myself, how sad! The greatest pain a parent could have is to lose a child. Then I thought, could stem cell research (which President Bush opposes) have found a cure for her daughter? My next thought turned to the money we were raising in this Relay for Life. Our Optimist Club raised \$1,500. WOW! But then, this amount of money represented less than what is spent one second a minute by taxpayers to support Bush's immoral war in Iraq. A small portion of the money spent in Iraq could, instead, be sent to cancer research centers.

A short time ago, I saw a photo of Bush at a prayer breakfast in Washington, D.C. The theme was "The Culture of Life." But, in the opinion of many, Bush represents the Culture of Death. By some estimates, over 100,000 people have died in Bush's Iraq war. These include 1,700 U.S. men and women. How many more on all sides have been wounded or maimed for life?

Not only does Bush oppose stem cell research, he opposes programs and treaties that would clean the environ-

ment and thereby contribute to longer and healthier life spans.

In one sense, Bush does support a better life. Because of his ties to the oil industry (made richer by the war), the wealthiest of our population will have access to health care. However, the poor, the homeless, the unemployed, the mentally ill, workers without benefits, the recent immigrants and others who are less than fortunate are closer to death because of so many of the Bush policies.

The Bush people are masters of rhetoric, spin and propaganda when they try to tell us that they represent the Culture of Life. The truth is that they represent the Culture of Death for all but the few privileged.

*Charlie Ara is President Emeritus,  
Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club*

## **Text of Article**

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I thought to myself, how sad! The greatest pain a parent could have is to lose a child. Then I thought "Could Stem Cell Research (which Bush opposes) have found a cure for her daughter? My next thought turned to the money we were raising in this Relay for Life. Our Optimist Club raised \$1,500. WOW! But then, this amount of money represented less than one second a minute that it costs taxpayers to support Bush's immoral war in Iraq. A small portion on the money spent in Iraq could, instead, be sent to Cancer Research Centers.

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