

Time for columnists to apologize for war

Dan Matuszewski writing in the July 32 Herald holds up columnists David Brooks, George Will, Robert Samuelson and David Ignatius as responsible conservative spokesmen unlike "ideologue" Charles Krauthammer. Has Matuszewski really researched the record of their advocacy?

All five strongly supported the 2003 invasion of Iraq which is probably the most unjustified war in American history. Four out of the five (the exception being Brooks) publish under the auspices of one the most war hungry newspaper editorial pages in the world, the Washington Post. Several of the five continue to armchair quarterback the Obama administration on Iraq now that there is no easy solution.

Isn't it time that these columnists apologize to their readers for a war that has inflicted untold misery on a people that the American people knew next to nothing about? Shouldn't they explain that their advocacy has now helped spark a regional war that continues to spin out of control? Is it Obama's problem to fix, or should it be, at least partly, theirs?

In most endeavors, a record like this would get you fired. But in foreign policy punditry, abysmally bad calls count for nothing against you, and apparently make you more reputable.

— *Thomas F. Lee, Monterey*