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Letters to the editor: mdorrell@upei.ca

1. Last week's editorial should have included something like: Much respect to Canadian cross-country skier Becky Scott who, upon winning bronze in the five-kilometre pursuit, dedicated the medal to all clean athletes. (The two Russian athletes who placed first and second ahead of Scott tested positive for banned substances in a later Olympic event.)

2. Watching Peter Mansbridge interview Jean Chrétien on Monday night was like watching someone trying to capture a fog bank with a butterfly net. When Chrétien was asked what he felt he had left to do for the country, what his future plans regarding Canada might be, Chrétien replied that he wanted to, "make it better." I agree. By all means, make Canada better, Jean. Go for it. Perhaps, though, you might give us a hint about how you're going to do this? Just a little hint?

Chrétien also hedged on the question of Canadian troops assisting the US in Iraq, saying the situation was hypothetical. Ok. Yeah, Jean, it is hypothetical, but see, that's kind of the point. Leaders, Jean, occasionally consider hypothetical situations that might happen in the future, you know, in case, God forbid, a decision needs to be made that can't be decided by the flip of a coin. It's called *planning*. With the deafening clamour of US saber rattling and the naming of Iraq as an official member of the silly "Axis of Evil" club, it'd be nice to imagine that Chrétien might have a contingency plan. But Jean, he doesn't even have an opinion that he'd care to

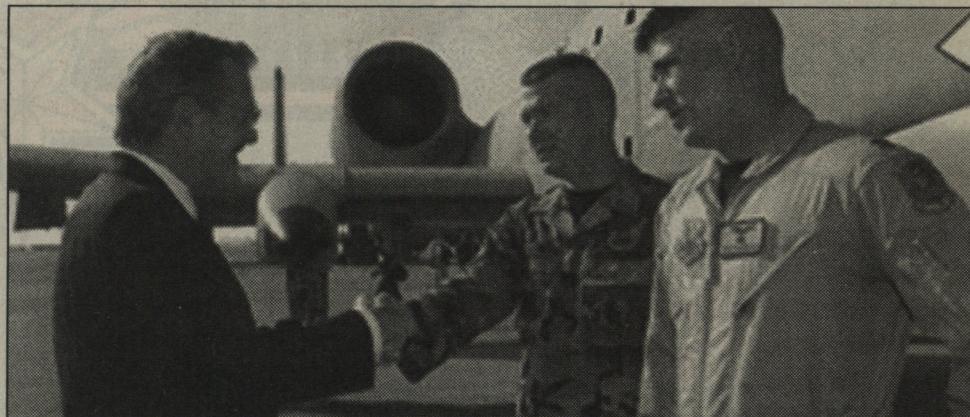
share with his constituents.

When asked if Canadians had taken more prisoners Afghanistan, Chrétien answered (!) that no more had been taken, so far as he knew, then amended this statement, saying he wasn't sure exactly since he doesn't really feel the need to keep up with all the details relating to Canadian troops in Afghanistan. Apparently, being at war is not a large concern for the leader of our country.

One wonders, exactly what Chrétien does with all the time he appears not to be spending on developing plans, opinions, or even mildly convincing answers. We must be able to find a better figurehead for our country than this unappetizing, amorphous, and apparently un-opinionated man. There is something to be said for simplicity of vision, and then there are other, less flattering things to be said about someone who appears to have none at all.

3. Remember when US Defense Secretary Rumsfeld claimed that most of the thousand enemy fighters that regrouped in eastern Afghanistan had been killed by American forces? Remember when Major General Frank Hagenback ammended that count, saying that the Americans had fought between six and seven hundred enemy forces, killing an estimated 300? The current count, which the Americans suddenly don't want to talk about anymore, stands somewhere around thirty. That's some nice counting, boys.

Matthew Dorrell,
Editor-in-Chief



Rumsfeld meets with approximately 100 US soldiers.