

Sometimes you want to be wrong.

Opponents of the Iraq conflict, myself among them, feared Blair was being led by the nose into a war that was illegal, unwarranted and likely to prove disastrous. All of which have proved to be correct.

The UN Secretary-General has declared that the UK and USA were acting illegally in invading Iraq. No weapons of mass destruction have found and some 12,000 ordinary Iraqi men, women and children have died since the conflict began. I doubt Saddam killed more people in same timescale. We have failed to bring freedom, only anarchy. Leaked letters published in Saturday's Daily Telegraph show a British government and its staff discussing how to create phoney justifications for launching the war because they knew there was no link between Saddam and Al Qaida and that intelligence about weapons programmes was patchy. Ultimately, it was prove to be worse than patchy.

The letters show that Blair was determined to keep in with Bush yet I can't see that we get anything out of this "special relationship", but a massaging of Blair's ego. If he was trying to rein in Bush, he failed and now Iran is in Bush's sights.

The Bush administration is convinced that the Iranian government has a nuclear weapons programme. The International Atomic Energy Agency, the world's nuclear police, is not. Its head, Mohammed El Baradei said that he deals in facts, not spin. He wants more time, but the USA is in John Wayne mode: "Shoot first, ask questions later."

September 11th seems to have pushed the administration and a large part of the country into paranoia. "You are either with us or against us," said Bush, but life isn't like the comic books drawn in black and white.

This is a dangerous, backs-to-the-wall mentality that will not only fail to protect the US, but will lead to more innocent lives being lost.

The scary thing is that there is nothing we can do to stop the USA. It is a country out of the control of international law and institutions. It is down to the US electorate to choose a new president who sees life in its true colours and is not scared out of his wits.

It is ironic that Bush actually has more in common with the radical Muslim clerics of his nightmares than me and many other cheese-eating surrender monkeys. If Sharia law was practised in the UK, I fear that I would be buried under a pile of stones for committing "unnatural acts". Meanwhile Bush would probably find a lot in common between his fundamentalist Christian beliefs and those of the local iman.

Another irony that bears mentioning concerns the Countryside Alliance march. Those from Middle England who shook their heads disbelieving when marchers against globalisation, etc have complained alternately of police brutality and media hype of violence have now experienced the reality of demos for themselves. It is a pity we can't extend this role-reversal further and give them a taste of life as fox.