

September 16, 2007

Mr. Richard C. Levin
President Yale University
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I am writing to commend you and Yale University on its return of Peruvian artifacts taken by Yale scholar Hiram Bingham. When my wife and I visited Machu Picchu last year we were informed Machu Picchu's artifacts were being held by Yale despite Peru's long-standing request they be returned.

Few such instances are resolved as justly as Yale has done in this instance. Yale's actions did much to restore the integrity of Yale's reputation. Like a fine restaurant, one bad review can damage an otherwise unblemished record

Perhaps Yale may now consider revoking President George W. Bush's diploma. That he received a diploma from Yale can only cast doubt on the diplomas Yale has granted to other political luminaries such as Senator Joseph Lieberman, President Gerald Ford, and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

The reputation of American politicians has never been lower and the fact that many graduated from Yale cannot reflect well on your institution. As Yale's current president, you are in a singular position to return perhaps not only Yale but America to its once high standing.

Lux et veritas, i.e. light and truth, is Yale's motto. Others are beginning to wonder if it is instead: *Cigar smoke quod speculum*, i.e. cigar smoke and mirrors.

Integrity was the key to your commendable action regarding the returning of artifacts to Machu Picchu. It is no less so in this instance.

In optimism and hope,

Darryl Robert Schoon
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