



THE INDEPENDENT

Plus the award-winning *Newsfather*

www.independent.co.uk

TUESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2010
Number 7,512
£1



9 771741 974622

Regrets? Too few to mention

The first review of
George Bush's memoirs

BY MICHIKO KAKUTANI

GEORGE W BUSH'S memoir *Decision Points* could well have been titled "The Decider Decides": it's an autobiography focused around "the most consequential decisions" of his presidency and his personal life, from his decision to give up drinking in 1986 to his decision to invade Iraq in 2003 to his decisions regarding the financial crisis of 2008. It is a book that is part spin, part mea culpa, part family scrapbook, part self-conscious effort to (re)shape his political legacy.

A dogged work of reminiscence by an author not naturally given to introspection, *Decision Points* lacks the emotional precision and evocative power of his wife Laura's book, *Spoken From the Heart*, published earlier this year, although it's a considerably more substantial effort than his perfunctory 1999 campaign memoir, *A Charge to Keep*.

Certainly it's the most casual of presidential memoirs – how many works in the genre start as a sort of evangelical, 12-step confession ("Could I continue to grow closer to the Almighty or was alcohol becoming my god?"), include some off-colour jokes and conclude with an aside about dog poop?

The prose in *Decision Points* is utilitarian, the language staccato and blunt. Bush's default mode is regular-guy-politico, and his moods vacillate mainly among the defensive and the diligent – frat boy irreverence, religious certainty and almost-wifely obliviousness. The Bush who emerges from these

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Steve Richards

'Who says the people want more power?'

VIEWS PAPER, PAGE 5



Deborah Ross

'If you want to marry my son, bring your gun'

VIEWS PAPER, PAGE 5

Mary Dejevsky

'I decided to change my ISP. Big mistake'

VIEWS PAPER, PAGE 24



Visit Calabria

www.regione.calabria.it

Produced by Vox Media Partner - See report inside

