

Third Saturday Seminar 2004-2005

We Dig Deeper Into The Future Challenges of Being Human

First Session

“Hiring a New Chief Executive”

Curt Gibby

**Montgomery College
Conroe, Texas**

18 September 2004

Program for the First Session

- Introduction
- Current Events
- War of 1812 - History to learn from
- Hiring a new President - Opening Comments
- Discussion
- Break - 10 minutes
- Discussion Continues
- Summary - Conclusion
- Closure - Feedback

Disclaimer

The following presentation consists of material from many sources in addition to my own work and experience. I have tried to always give appropriate attribution for this material, but may have overlooked some. Also in many cases an Internet link to the source material is provided in order to allow you to better put these excerpts in context.

The inclusion of materials and the facts, opinions and ideas contained within them, does not in any way mean that I personally endorse or disavow any of them in whole or in part but that it is of importance to the discussion.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Curt Gibby <gcgconsult@n-star.com>

To members of Law Enforcement

If there are any members of law enforcement here in any sort of official capacity and not in a uniform recognizable as one of law enforcement we ask that you identify yourself or selves, your agency, department or organization and your official reason for being here.

Rest assured that we are engaged in no illegal activity, but we are aware of, value and have faith in our Constitutional rights.

In any case you are welcome to stay and participate as a member or guest of the Third Saturday Seminar. But, if at any time you consider anything you see or hear happening or about to happen is or will be putting any one or all of us in jeopardy of breaking the law as you understand it, we request that you advise us of that situation .

This is consistent with your obligation as a peace officer or agent to protect and serve the people. Anything else will be a betrayal and you will be derelict in your duty. It will result in harm to those you are obligated to protect.

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Current Events

Charlie, Frances, Ivan, Karl?



Charley's Storm History Image

2:15PM EDT 16-AUG-2004



©2004 AccuWeather, Inc.

accuweather.com

Frances's Storm History Image

11:41AM EDT 7-SEP-2004



©2004 AccuWeather, Inc.

accuweather.com

Ivan's Storm History Image

11:24AM EDT 17-SEP-2004



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accuweather.com

Jeanne's Forecast Eye Path

11:36PM EDT 17-SEP-2004



©2004 AccuWeather, Inc.

accuweather.com



Associated Press

Edward Ross stands in what used to be his second-story bedroom today in Pensacola, Fla., which was lifted by a huge tidal surge from Hurricane Ivan and set down about 350 feet away. He is looking at boats that were moved about 800 feet by the surge. **Full story.**

• **[Photo galleries: Hurricane Ivan's path of destruction](#)**

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WORLD

THE STRUGGLE FOR IRAQ SPECIAL REPORT

Grim milestone more than a number

Immigrants, grandfathers, newlyweds make ultimate sacrifice

Wednesday, September 8, 2004 Posted: 9:59 AM EDT (1359 GMT)

(AP) -- Their faces, smiling or solemn, have become all too familiar in newspapers and on television. The roster, a somber roll call -- Smith, Falaniko, Ramos, Lee -- seems to grow daily.

Now, over 1,000 American military personnel have died in the Iraq war.

They are teens who went from senior proms to boot camp and battle and middle-aged men who put aside retirement and grandchildren for a war zone.

What does the number mean?

On D-Day, more Americans lost their lives. At the peak of Vietnam, hundreds of U.S. troops died each week. And in one September morning, 2,792 died in crumbling New York towers.

Still, 1,000 is a grim milestone.

In addition to the American deaths, more than 120 foreign troops of the U.S.-led coalition are dead. Half were British forces. Nearly 100 Americans have died in operations in Afghanistan and about 35 others in related action in Pakistan and other countries.



Pam Oder holds a U.S. Marines recruiting poster showing her late son, Staff Sgt. Trevor L. Spink Jr.

advertiser links [what's this?](#)

Refinance Rates Just Got Lower

Lock in the lowest rates of the summer. Get up to 4 free refinance quotes. www.lowermybills.com

Hundreds of Online Degree Programs

Search our directory of online degree programs. Associate, Bachelor, Master and... www.direct-edu.com

Home Equity Loans-4.25% APR

Receive up to 4 free loan quotes from trusted lenders. Get the cash you... www.lowermybills.com

Who needs enemies when you have Microsoft? (I have no idea whether this is true, but I can believe it without making a leap of faith)

A Journal du Net article reports that about 8% of Windows sessions require a machine reboot.

The relevant quote (translated from french) is: "The average rate of failures requiring a system reboot has been measured at around 8% per session."

**This number varies widely depending on the version of Windows.
The failure rate is:**

3% for NT4

4% for Windows 2000

12% for Windows XP

The study was originally made by Acadys and Microcost. They gathered data from 1.2 million machines belonging to about one thousand companies in seven different countries over a period of one month.

Madonna's bodyguards held after brawl

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel -- Police detained two bodyguards of pop star Madonna today after a brawl with photographers waiting for the singer outside her Tel Aviv hotel.

ADVERTISEMENT

Two of the photographers and a policeman who tried to break up the fight were injured, said police spokesman Liat Pearl.

"Two security guards were detained for questioning by the Tel Aviv police department," Pearl said.

The pop diva has been in Israel since Wednesday, along with 2,000 other students of Kabbalah, or Jewish mysticism.

Madonna's visit to the country has sparked a media frenzy with the local newspapers devoting pages detailing her luxury hotel suite and even her menu for the Jewish New Year celebrations, but journalists have been kept at a distance during the visit.

The scuffle broke out this evening as the photographers trailed Madonna from a restaurant to her hotel.

The Israeli bodyguards knocked one of the photographers to the ground and kicked him in the face before attacking a second one who tried to intervene, according to a cameraman on assignment for Associated Press Television News.

Madonna had already entered her hotel when the fight broke out.

Madonna was raised a Roman Catholic, but she has taken an interest in Jewish mysticism in recent years.

She has adopted the Hebrew name Esther, wears a red thread on her wrist to ward off the evil eye, and reportedly refuses to perform on the Jewish Sabbath.

Designer Donna Karan and Marla Maples, an ex-wife of Donald Trump, were among those traveling with 12 Madonna, according to the Los Angeles-based Kabbalah Center, sponsor of the trip.

Sept. 16, 2004, 11:40PM

Saddam had a weapons plan, report concludes
Stockpiles likely never existed, but plan to rebuild did
By KATHERINE PFLEGER SHRADER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Drafts of a report from the top U.S. inspector in Iraq conclude the country had no weapons stockpiles, but say there are signs Saddam Hussein had dormant programs he hoped to revive at a later time, people familiar with the findings said.

In a 1,500-page report, the head of the Iraq Survey Group, Charles Duelfer, will contend Saddam was importing banned materials, working on unmanned aerial vehicles in violation of U.N. agreements and maintaining a dual-use industrial sector that could produce weapons.

Duelfer also says Iraq only had small research and development programs for chemical and biological weapons.

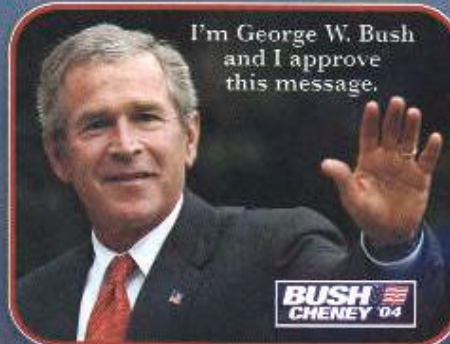
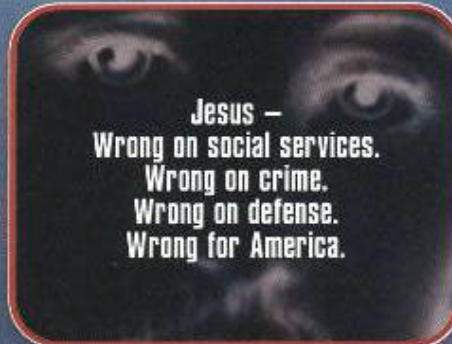
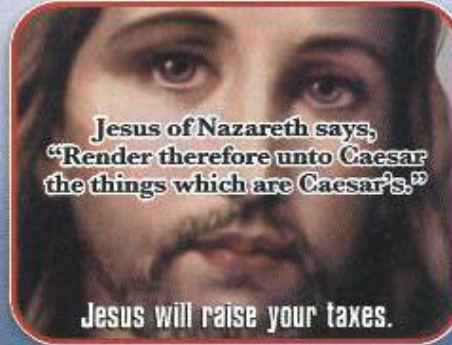
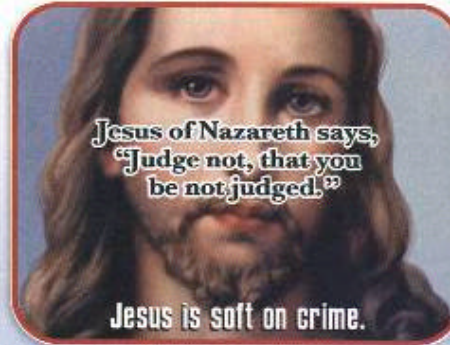
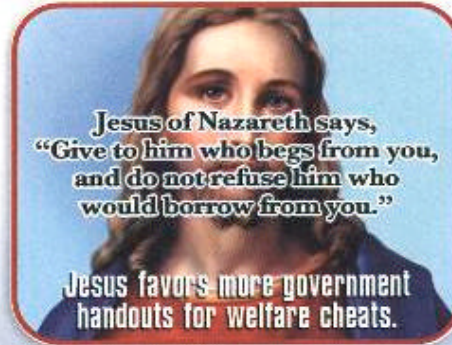
The report concludes Saddam had intentions of restarting weapons programs at some point, after suspicion and inspections from the international community waned.

After a year and a half in Iraq, however, the United States has found no weapons of mass destruction — its chief argument for overthrowing the regime.

THE BASHIN' OF THE CHRIST DEPT.

THE **BUSH** CAMPAIGN'S TV COMMERCIAL IF HE WAS RUNNING AGAINST **JESUS**

I get stuff on
email ...



The War of 1812

These lands are ours, and no one has the right to remove us, because we were the first land owners; the Great Spirit above has appointed this place for us on which to light fires, and here we will remain. As to the boundaries, the Great Spirit above knows no boundaries, nor will his red people know any ... Tecumseh ~1810

<http://members.tripod.com/~war1812/intro.html>

The War Hawks gained such power in the Congress of the United States that their words were listened to with growing attention. It became increasingly obvious that these aggressive men were bent on war with Great Britain. By Autumn of 1811, they were openly demanding an immediate invasion of British North America.

By February of 1812, Congress had ordered the creation of a volunteer army of 50,000 men. On June 18th 1812 came a declaration of war against Great Britain. Oddly enough on June 23rd 1812 Great Britain had revoked the restrictions on American commerce, thus eliminating one of the chief reasons for going to war.

However the War Hawks had displayed much more energy in talking about war than in planning and preparing for war. At the beginning of hostilities there were about 7,000 men in the regular forces and these were commanded by senior officers who were old, incompetent or lacking in experience.

Congress had voted for war, but seemed reluctant to spend the necessary funds upon equipment and supplies. A bill introduced into Congress with the purpose of increasing the size of the American Navy was turned down by the members.

Volunteer soldiers were badly fed and disgracefully clothed. In winter, the unfortunate sentries who patrolled the Canadian-American border shivered and shook on duty because they lacked overcoats.

<http://members.tripod.com/~war1812/intro.html>

It soon became clear that great numbers of Americans were not at all united in approving the conflict with Great Britain. **Many felt that it was a contest fought for purposes other than those which had been declared by the War Hawks.** These feeling were put into eloquent words by the famous American orator and statesman, **Daniel Webster**, when he spoke in Congress:

Whoever would discover the causes which have produced the present state of things, must look for them, not in the efforts of the opposition, but in the nature of the war in which we are engaged ... Quite too small a portion of public opinion was in favor of war to justify it originally. A much smaller portion is in favor of the mode in which it has been conducted ... **Public opinion, strong and united, is not with you in your Canada project ... The acquisition of the country is not an object generally desired by the people ... You are you say, at war for maritime rights, and free trade.** But they see you lock up your commerce and abandon the ocean. They see **you invade an interior province of the enemy.** They see you involve yourselves in a **bloody war with native savages;** and they ask you if you have, in truth, a maritime controversy with the Western Indians, and are really contending for sailors' rights with the tribes of the Prophet.

In the late summer of 1814 a **British fleet was sent into Chesapeake Bay to make a diversionary attack against Washington and Baltimore.**

When the lead British ships appeared in Chesapeake Bay in August 1814 the Americans had no idea where they were headed or what their intentions were. The British sailed up the Patuxent River and moved ashore a force of nearly five thousand crack troops fresh from the battle fields of Europe.

In the American capitol there was a curious lack of alarm when word arrived that the British invasion force had come ashore. At the new Congress building there was no serious worry that the capitol of the United States might be attacked. **At the White house or President's Palace there was little concern, the leaders of the United States had been assured by the Secretary of War that there was no danger.**

John Armstrong assured the president that the British might attack Baltimore but the young capitol was in no danger.

Mr. Madison rode to the front to watch the up coming battle, he sent a note to his wife:

"My dearest I have passed among the troops who are in high spirits and make a good appearance. The reports as to the enemy has varied from hour to hour, the last and probally best information is that they are not very strong and are without cavarly and artillery and of coarse they are not in a condition to strike at Washington."

<http://members.tripod.com/~war1812/batwash.html>

Dolly Madison the presidents wife was now hearing differently. Mrs. Madison knew what was a foot better than her husband **the British moved relentlessly on Washington knowing the effect it would have on the people of the United States to have their nations capitol attacked.**

The British soon got word that the only troops standing between them and Washington were militia units. The main British force moved into a Washington suburb and after a brief battle the militia units broke and ran, in the words of one American observer:

"They ran like sheep being chased by dogs".

Several hunderd U.S. sailors came ashore to fight but they could not stop the British advance for very long.

The military problems of Mr. Madison and his cabinet faced on the Canadian frontier were now being repeated at the door of the nations capitol.

Once the battle had commenced Mr. Madison and the Secretaries of War and State decided it would be better to withdraw to a position in the rear.

Ahead of the President word shot back to Washington that all was not well. The British invasion force was now clearly in on the capitol, the presidents wife Dolly Madison dashes of a note to her sister:

"Will you believe it my sister, we have a battle or skirmish near the city. I am still within sounds of the cannons, Mr. Madison comes not. May God protect us. Two messengers come in and asked me to leave the capitol, I must stay here and wait for my husband."

While Mrs. Madison showed great courage at the White House . Mr. Madison was tracking down the Secretary of War to find out what steps were in the works to meet the final British assault, he was shocked and disheartened to find out there was no plan.

The 25th of August 1814, the British approached the heart of Washington, march down Constitution Avenue bearing a flag of truce and demand a surrender. Suddenly from a house window the flag of truce is fired upon.

The British troops rushed into the house where the shots had been fired from, and put all who were found in the house to the sword and then reduced the house to ashes. They went onto burn and destroy every building connected to the government.

While Washington burned, the president and his cabinet became fugitives fleeing westward deep into the hills of Virginia. At the White House Mrs. Madison was persuaded to leave also, and soon after the British troops arrived.

When these British soldiers who had been sent to destroy the President's house entered they found a dinner that had been made for about forty people. They ate every bit of food and drank every bottle of wine, then started to destroy the White House.

Washington D.C. the capitol of the United States was a city on fire, what had started two years earlier as the invasion and conquest of Canada had now turned into a defensive war.

<http://members.tripod.com/~war1812/batwash.html>

“Hiring a New Chief Executive”

Don't Panic

Douglass Adams, Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy

Before We Get Started

1. As tempting as it is, this is not a political rally for one side or another. It is a discussion of some very important real issues and questions which many, if not most of us share. Voting is your duty as a citizen. How you vote will be strictly up to you. But, don't let political differences if you know about them, affect your friendships. History will tell who was right (maybe). In the meantime we need good friends, especially those who can be candid and friends at the same time.

2. By participating, we will help ourselves as well as the the other seminarians deal with these important issues as we approach the election. Nobody has the "right answer" except for themselves. We all owe it to each other to respect and support each other. We are all Americans or guests. We will all benefit or have to live with the outcome.

3. Please keep your remarks brief and to the point.

4. Have faith -- in each other and yourselves. **Our republic has lasted over 200 years.** We are the oldest living Constitutional democracy. Our **Constitution** limits the power of the leaders and **guarantees the rights of its citizens.** That 200 years has not all been smooth sailing. From time to time, generally in "times of war", **leaders have** usurped the authority of the Congress, **violated the Constitution and the rights of the people** who rightly or wrongly have acquiesced, being promised security. Something has always brought us back from the brink, but I don't think we ever make a full recovery. Best we keep our rights and respect for each other intact in the first place. Let's not let anything we say or do be harmful to each other.

5. Have fun - We always do.

Now lets pretend, that it's another statistical dead heat and the electors can't make up their minds, and they have come to the Third Saturday Seminar for our "advice and consent".

Process?

How would we go about that?

What are the really important issues?

And, how does it appear the candidates will deal with them?

What is in the best interests of you, your community, and the country.

What are the characteristics that you would look for if you were hiring a chief executive for a company in which you were a major stockholder? In essence you would be putting a major part of your and your family's future in the hands of this chief executive.

Oops!

What if it turns out that not one of the candidates is perfect? In fact, not only not perfect, but really has a "checkered" history.

Has the incumbent accomplished anything he has set out to do? Has what he has accomplished made your world better?

What about the challengers? Anybody with enough stroke to run for president, will have got there with help from a lot of friends. What kind of friends?

What are the work histories of the candidates? What if one is a liar? What if they are both liars?

But you need to vote for one (Do you?)

It just goes on and on, doesn't it? But on November 2nd the country will make a decision, and even though the job description is limited: the office of **President of the USA is the most powerful in the world**, both as a matter of prestige and the willingness of the legislative branch to abdicate the authority they hold in trust for the people to the executive who willingly accepts it and puts it right to work.

September 30, 2002

The Paradox of Corrupt Yet Effective Leadership

By ALAN EHRENHALT

WASHINGTON

Every so often in American politics, we come upon an ethical problem more delicate and more depressing than the existence of outright evil. It is the problem of mackerels in the moonlight.

John Randolph, the eccentric Virginia aristocrat, invented this phrase in the 1820's and used it against at least two of his Congressional colleagues. **Henry Clay, he complained, was so brilliant, so capable and yet so corrupt that, "like a rotten mackerel in the moonlight, he both shines and stinks."**

The phrase has lived on not only because of its cleverness, but because it defines a moral ambiguity most of us find very hard to understand. We look for heroes to represent us, although we rarely find them. We take a certain perverse pleasure in unmasking hypocrites and dispatching blowhards who fail to deliver on their promises. The leaders we have trouble dealing with are those of obvious talent and genuine achievement who turn out to have displayed appalling ethical insensitivity — or worse.

At a deeper level, though, today's moonlight mackerels are political leaders who convince themselves they can compartmentalize their lives and careers, setting the embarrassing parts aside in private containers where they need not contaminate acts of genuine idealism and tangible achievement. This may have been possible once; it was, despite occasional insults, for Henry Clay, and it was still possible in the time of John F. Kennedy. But it is a dangerous trick to attempt in the 21st century. Eventually it will come out. Too many reporters, prosecutors and bureaucratic whistleblowers are working overtime to uncover it. There are very few airtight compartments left in American public life.

This is a good thing in that it will discourage quite a few elected officials in the next generation from mischief they might otherwise have been tempted to risk. It is a bad thing in that it destroys or fatally weakens political leaders whose downfall ultimately benefits no one. Buddy Cianci, Paul Patton and George Ryan are among those leaders.

Alan Ehrenhalt, executive editor of *Governing* magazine, is author of "The Lost City."

Places to go to find stuff out

League of Women Voters homepage: <http://www.lwv.org/>

Find your candidates:

<http://capwiz.com/congressorg/e4/rlist/?state=TX>

Check the presidential candidates on the issues (Nader has no comments, I'm not even sure he is on all the ballots in Tx)

<http://capwiz.com/congressorg/e4/dnet/?gridid=57361>

But if you like to dig deeper, getting ready for the class, or leading up to the election, or afterwards, try:

More good useful stuff - Work histories of candidates

Project Vote Smart <http://www.vote-smart.org>

More Places to go to find stuff out

Follow the money in national politics

Opensecrets.org **<http://www.opensecrets.org/>** (formerly the Committee for Responsive Politics, CRP)

Follow the Money -- most complete resource for information of money in state politics

<http://www.followthemoney.org/>

All candidates and their surrogates twist the truth till it's a lie; but you have factcheck.org:

<http://www.factcheck.org/> to help you separate the wheat from the chaff.

More Places to go to find stuff out

The Center for Public Integrity : Investigative Journalism in the Public Interest: **<http://www.publicintegrity.org/default.aspx>**

DemocracyNow.org Amy Goodman. A national asset. I may not always agree with her, but I have tremendous respect for her as a persistent seeker of the truth and a tremendously able, courageous and energetic journalist. Listen to her daily at 9:00 on KPFT FM 90.1 and catch streaming video and listen to archives or read transcripts at **<http://www.democracynow.org>**

For some of the best, timely, pertinent information for today's world, watch Bill Moyer's NOW on PBS at 8:00 pm on Fridays and if you miss it go to: **<http://www.pbs.org/now/>** for discussion topics, transcripts, enrichment materials. Bill Moyers will leave the show after the election.



Choosing your leaders qualities

•Pol Pot

•Herod

•Hitler

•Mussolini

•Pablo Escobar

•Saddam Hussein

•Idi Amin

•Pontius Pilate

•Decisive

•Kind

• _____

• _____

• _____

• _____

• _____

• _____

Presidency 2004

REPUBLICAN PARTY:



President George W. Bush (Texas) *
Presidential Nominee



Vice President Dick Cheney (Wyoming) *
Vice Presidential Nominee

FORMER REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES

DEMOCRATIC PARTY:



US Senator John Kerry (Massachusetts)
Presidential Nominee

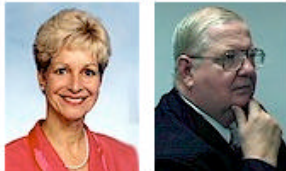


US Senator John Edwards (North Carolina)
Vice Presidential Nominee

FORMER DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES

THIRD PARTY CANDIDATES:

AMERICAN PARTY:



[Diane Templin \(California\)](#)
Presidential Nominee

[Al Moore \(Virginia\)](#)
Vice Presidential Nominee

LIBERTARIAN PARTY:



[Michael Badnarik \(Texas\)](#)
Presidential Nominee

[Richard Campagna \(Iowa\)](#)
Vice Presidential Nominee

[FORMER LP CANDIDATES](#)

CONCERNS OF PEOPLE (PROHIBITION) PARTY:



[Gene Amondson \(Alaska\)](#)
Presidential Nominee

[Leroy Pletten \(Michigan\)](#)
Vice Presidential Nominee

PEACE & FREEDOM PARTY:



[Leonard Peltier \(Kansas\)](#)
Presidential Nominee

[Janice Jordan \(California\)](#)
Vice Presidential Nominee

[FORMER PFP CANDIDATES](#)

CONSTITUTION PARTY:



[Michael Peroutka \(Maryland\)](#)
Presidential Nominee

[Chuck Baldwin \(Florida\)](#)
Vice Presidential Nominee

[FORMER CP CANDIDATES](#)

PERSONAL CHOICE PARTY:



[Charles Jay \(Indiana\)](#)
Presidential Nominee

[Marilyn Chambers Taylor \(California\)](#)
Vice Presidential Nominee

GREEN PARTY:



[David Cobb \(California\)](#)
Presidential Nominee

[Pat LaMarche \(Maine\)](#)
Vice Presidential Nominee

[FORMER GREEN PARTY CANDIDATES](#)

PROHIBITION PARTY:



[Earl F. Dodge \(Colorado\)](#)
Presidential Nominee

[Howard Lydick \(Texas\)](#)
Vice Presidential Nominee

REFORM PARTY / INDEPENDENT:

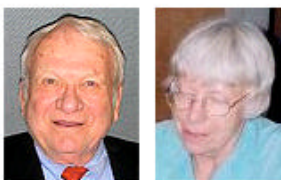


[Ralph Nader \(I-Connecticut\)](#)
Presidential Nominee

[Peter M. Camejo \(Green-Calif\)](#)
Vice Presidential Nominee

[FORMER REFORM PARTY CANDIDATES](#)

SOCIALIST PARTY USA:



[Walt Brown \(Oregon\)](#)
Presidential Nominee

[Mary Alice Herbert \(Vermont\)](#)
Vice Presidential Nominee

[FORMER SP-USA CANDIDATES](#)

SOCIALIST EQUALITY PARTY:



[Bill Van Auken \(New York\)](#)
Presidential Nominee

[Jim Lawrence \(Ohio\)](#)
Vice Presidential Nominee

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY:



[Róger Calero \(New York\)](#)
Presidential Nominee

[Arrin Hawkins \(New York\)](#)
Vice Presidential Nominee

WORKERS WORLD PARTY:



[John Parker \(California\)](#)
Presidential Nominee

[Teresa Gutierrez \(New York\)](#)
Vice Presidential Nominee

INDEPENDENTS & WRITE-INS:

[A.J. Albritton \(American Republican Party-Mississippi\)](#) *

[Sterling Allan \(Providential Party-Utah\)](#) *

[Stanford "Andy" Andress \(I-Colorado\)](#) *

[Joe Bellis \(America's Party-Kansas\)](#) *

[Kenneth M. Bonnell \(I-Mississippi\)](#) *

[Harry Braun \(I-Arizona\)](#) *

[Fred Cook \(I-Georgia\)](#) *

[Eric J. Davis \(Michigan\)](#) *

[Robert DiGiulio \(Children's Party-Vermont\)](#) *

[Bob Dorn \(Washington\)](#) *

[Lonnie D. Frank \(I-California\)](#) *

[John Galt Jr. \(I-Pensylvania\)](#) *

[Jack Grimes \(United Fascist Union-Pennsylvania\)](#) *

[Michael Halpin \(I-New York\)](#) *

[Larry D. Hines \(I-Texas\)](#) *

[Georgia Hough \(I-Georgia\)](#) *

[Keith Judd \(I-Massachusetts\)](#) *

[Darren E. Karr \(Party X-Oregon\)](#) *

[Samuel Keeqan \(I-Rhode Island\)](#) *

[Joseph Martyniuk Jr. \(I-Illinois\)](#) *

[David Mevis \(I-Mississippi\)](#) *

[Muadin \(E-Democratic Party-Massachusetts\)](#) *

[Jeffrey Peters \(We The People Party-New Hampshire\)](#)

[Andrew M. Rotramel \(I-Texas\)](#) *

[Joseph "Average Joe" Schriener \(I-Ohio\)](#) *

[Dennis P. Slatton \(United America Party-North Carolina\)](#) *

[Dan Snow \(I-Texas\)](#) *

[Brian B. Springfield \(I-Virginia\)](#) *

[Lawrence Rey Topham \(I-Utah\)](#) *

[Lemuel Tucker \(I-Michigan\)](#) *

[Da Vid \(Light Party-California\)](#) *

[Tom Wells \(Family Values Party-Florida\)](#) *

[A.J. Wildman \(I-Virginia\)](#) *

Things that matter?

Family Connections

Education?

Vietnam experience?

Recent Performance?

**Stated Programs? Credible? Affordable? Makes Sense?
Needed?**

Credibility?

Intelligence?

Judgement?

Management Ability?

Charisma?

Kerry Confusion

- George Elliott, who came to Kerry's defense during his 1996 Senate campaign when questions were raised about his Silver Star. Kerry received the award after beaching his boat to chase a Viet Cong guerrilla who was firing from shore. Kerry jumped ashore and killed the guerrilla. As Kerry's commander, Elliott approved the award and gave him glowing marks in fitness reports. But in an affidavit last month, Elliott said he "was never informed that (Kerry) had simply shot a wounded, fleeing Viet Cong in the back." Last week, Elliott recanted that affidavit in a statement to The Boston Globe, saying he had made "a terrible mistake." But the Swift Boat Veterans group has since issued a statement reaffirming Elliott's affidavit.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/politicselections/nation/president/2004-08-08-kerry-vets_x.htm

Bush Banter (not Bashing)

Does any of this matter? What troubles me is less Mr. Bush's advantage three decades ago and more his denial today. Mr. Bush's own route to avoid the draft underscores the disparities in America, yet his policies seem based on a kind of social Darwinism in which the successful make their own opportunities. **His tax cuts and entire outlook seem rooted in ideas not of noblesse oblige, but of noblesse entitlement.**

One fall day in 1973, when Mr. Bush was a new student at Harvard Business School, he was wearing a Guard jacket when he ran into one of his professors. The professor, Yoshi Tsurumi, says he asked Mr. Bush how he **wangled a spot in the Guard.**

"He said his daddy had good friends who got him in despite the long waiting list," recalls Professor Tsurumi, who is now at Baruch College, part of the City University of New York. Professor Tsurumi says he next asked Mr. Bush how he could have already finished his National Guard commitment. "He said he'd gotten an **early honorable discharge,**" Professor Tsurumi recalls. "I said, 'How did you manage that?' "

"He said, oh, his daddy had a good friend," Mr. Tsurumi said. "Then we started talking about the Vietnam War. He was all for fighting it."

Professor Tsurumi says he remembers Mr. Bush so vividly because he was always making outrageous statements: denouncing the New Deal as socialist, calling the S.E.C. an impediment to business, referring to the civil rights movement as "socialist/communist" and declaring that "people are poor because they're lazy." (Dan Bartlett, an aide to Mr. Bush, denies that the president ever made these statements.)

OK, How do I deal with this information. ?

PBS Newshour - 16 September 04 - "Killian Memos"

Last night 60 Minutes aired a follow up report, this time interviewing Lt. Colonel Killian's longtime secretary, Marian Knox. She says that while she believes the memos are not authentic, the thoughts expressed in them are.

DAN RATHER, 60 Minutes (9/15): So with these memos, you know that you didn't type them.

MARIAN KNOX, 60 Minutes: I know that I didn't type them; however, the information in those is correct.

Rather DAN RATHER, 60 Minutes: Few, if any, things that I ask you about will be more important than this point: you say you didn't type these memos, definitely you didn't type these memos.

MARIAN KNOX, 60 Minutes: Not these particular ones.

DAN RATHER, 60 Minutes: Did you type ones like this?

MARIAN KNOX, 60 Minutes: Yes.

DAN RATHER, 60 Minutes: Containing the same or identical information?

MARIAN KNOX, 60 Minutes: The same information, yes.

Torture as Due Process

by James Bovard, Posted July 7, 2004

After 9/11, the word of the president was supposedly the only protection that the rights and liberties of the American people needed. After 9/11, President Bush granted himself unlimited, unchecked power over anyone in the world suspected of being a terrorist. The Supreme Court, in a series of rulings on June 28, 2004, trimmed that power by recognizing that in some cases enemy combatants may challenge in federal courts the label the Bush administration imposes upon them. But the president continues to hold far more arbitrary power than he did prior to 9/11.

This article was originally published in the July 2004 edition of Freedom Daily.

Future war

Drone Surveillance and
Attack (UAV)

Force Multipliers

Littoral Combat Ships

Reduced Friendly Casualties
(no American body bags)

There is a decided trend to use technology to produce super soldiers and remotely operated vehicles so that in future conflicts we don't use so many body bags.

excerpted from "Thieves In High Places" by Jim Hightower, www.jimhightower.com

NEVER HAVE SO FEW DONE SO MUCH FOR SO FEW

There are three things you never want to see:

- * Water coming out of your electrical sockets.
- * Flames shooting out of your sock drawer.
- * A press release coming out of the White House that begins: "The Bush Administration today announced revised standards for . . ."

It doesn't matter "for what." When you see that eight-word lead you just know it's going to be yet another piece of awful news, yet another revision of the rules that'll let yet another industry or specific corporation have a free hand to clobber us regular folks. From inaugural day forward, the Bush White House has spewed out a torrent of "revised standards," altering the rules to allow the Powers That Be more leeway to pollute our air and water, restrict our access to health care, invade our privacy, take away our rights on the job, raid our pensions, muffle our freedom of speech, privatize our public resources . . . you name it.

FRIDAY NIGHT MASSACRES AND OTHER GAMES

Occasionally there are stories about this tax twist or that regulatory revision, but the media establishment has given us no sense of the constancy, of the scale, or of the big picture. Why? Glad you asked:

1. Gobbledygook: The White House doesn't want these actions covered, so giggling lawyers write the legally-required public announcements in Chinese Pig Latin, eliminating all useful and descriptive words, such as verbs. You can hear them cackle as they hit "print": Ha! Let 'em try to decipher this one!

2. Friday Night Massacres: The White House releases many of its biggest nasties on Friday evenings, well after the diligent press corps has departed for various bars, beaches, and other amusements. So the press doesn't learn about the regulatory massacre until Monday morn, and by then it's "old news" and is either tossed or gets a one-paragraph slug buried in Tuesday's paper. Likewise, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays are favorite times to drop an ugly release – again, no reporters, no news. **The final arsenic-in-your-water reg, for example, was dropped on Halloween** (what a bunch of tricksters! Surely someone got a raise for that). Also, **the EPA snuck out a package of rules to exempt some 17,000 dirty power plants from Clean Air restrictions on the afternoon before Thanksgiving and on New Year's Eve.**

3. Newspeak: The actions are never couched in straight-forward language like: "In another move to shaft the little guy, Bush today..." No, no. Instead, every change in the game is expressed in such positive, even soothing phrases as:

- * To streamline the process...
- * To replace an archaic... (they often substitute Depression-era for archaic)
- * To provide greater flexibility...

excerpted from "Thieves In High Places" by Jim Hightower, www.jimhightower.com 4

Need an Authority?

What would Hillel the Elder say? What would Jesus say?
What would Mohammed say? What would the Buddha say?
What do you say? Will the beserkers prevail anyway?

For starters, Hillel's best known sayings are:

*** "If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?" (Pirkei Avot)**

and

*** "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. That is the whole Torah; the rest is commentary. Go and study it." (Rabbi Shammai)**

Eight Times In Bible

LEVITICUS 19:18 NKJ

18 `You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall **love your neighbor** as yourself: I am the Lord.

MATTHEW 19:19 NKJ

19 `Honor your father and your mother,' and, `**You shall love your neighbor** as yourself.' "

MATTHEW 22:39 NKJ

39 "And the second is like it: `**You shall love your neighbor** as yourself.'

MARK 12:31 NKJ

31 "And the second, like it, is this: `**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**' There is no other commandment greater than these."

LUKE 10:27 NKJ

27 So he answered and said, " `**You shall love** the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and `**your neighbor as yourself.**' "

ROMANS 13:9 NKJ

9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**"

GALATIANS 5:14 NKJ

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**"

JAMES 2:8 NKJ

8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "**You shall love your neighbor as yourself,**" ⁴⁶ you do well;

Governments Lie!

If this is true, why do we place so much trust and authority in ours?

Note: the founding fathers did not trust governments

TIM RUSSERT: Are you suggesting that our alliance with Israel is one of the reasons that we were attacked on September 11?

MR. BUCHANAN: Sure. That's one of the reasons given by Osama bin Laden. In his fatwa of 1998, he wrote that there are three causes of the problems and three causes for a declaration of war by all Arabs and good Muslims against the United States. One, America's imperial presence on the sacred soil of Saudi Arabia. Secondly, the sanctions policy against Iraq which was persecuting and basically starving, he said, the Iraqi people, and we were planning another invasion. Third is the United States' uncritical support of the Ariel Sharon regime in Israel, which he argued is persecuting the Palestinian people.

In my judgment, Chris, this one-sided support for Sharon, the refusal to condemn that wall snaking through the West Bank, the agreement to support Sharon's claim to virtually half of the West Bank, this has caused enormous hostility and animosity and hatred for this country in that part of the world, not just among the Palestinians. And if we want to drain off some of this hatred, this venom against us, we have got to adopt a more evenhanded policy here. We have got to stand up for the same rights for the Palestinian people, a homeland, a nation, a state of their own, a viable one, on the land their forefathers farmed for a thousand years, because those are first our principles and secondly, that is in the national interest of the United States of America. I don't care what Ariel Sharon believes.

Really, what are your plans for the future?

Polite society's bombers may not have to wait long for round two. The US vice-president, Dick Cheney, warned last week that America could take action against "40 to 50 countries". Somalia, allegedly a "haven" for al-Qaeda, joins Iraq at the top of a list of potential targets. Cheered by having replaced Afghanistan's bad terrorists with America's good terrorists, the US defence secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, has asked the Pentagon to "think the unthinkable", having rejected its "post-Afghanistan options" as "not radical enough".

New Statesman, Nov 26, 2001 by John Pilger

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0FQP/is_4565_130/ai_80803569

Preemptive war has been defined as a "military action undertaken absent an imminent threat or ongoing attack by an aggressor ... a decision to go to war without clear and convincing evidence of the need for us to defend ourselves against an imminent attack." [1]

According to O'Neill, from the moment of the "very first National Security Council (NSC) meeting, ... 'From the very beginning, there was a conviction, that Saddam Hussein was a bad person and that he needed to go,' says O'Neill, who adds that going after Saddam was topic A 10 days after the inauguration - eight months" prior to September 11, 2001. "From the very first instance, it was about Iraq." The focus was on what could be done to affect regime change, says Suskind, "Day one, these things were laid and sealed."

1/30/2002

Fiscal Priorities

Filed under: Politics — chris @ 11:40 pm

While Bush cuts the budget of programs for job training the defense budget swells like a fly-bloated corpse. The pentagon has admitted that they can't account for \$2.3 TRILLION dollars. Trillion! Trillion! No, this money doesn't just vanish. It's not eaten by rodents in the walls. It is pilfered by rats of a different sort. These public funds, which amount to \$8000 for every single person, could have been used in a constructive manner. Hell, even giving people an \$8000 bonus would be more worthwhile than allowing it to be stolen by government contractors and private business. War is a racket, plain and simple, and this 'war' is no different. It is sick with the stench of profiteering. While the parasites syphon off more and more money a large percentage of Americans eat up the bullshit with a spoon. America wave more flags, put the plastic bag over your head and go back to sleep.

<http://www.letterneversent.com/index.php/archives/2002/01/30/>

In today's world there are no non-combatants

Every body will be ultimately, collectively be held responsible for the actions of it's government. Good or Bad.

Might can prevail if it is competent. However, might breeds contempt which is the precursor of incompetence and failure.

Best, if your government acts with responsibility, respect, intelligence, compassion, determination and humility.

When you pay an army you are responsible for their actions.

What our government has given us is “Chicken Little” on steroids.

The greater evil is the one that will hurt you and yours the most.

Do the numbers.

Evil will always be here, there, everywhere. We have to discourage it and manage it, like we do the trash; but not let it run our lives. Else we live to serve evil. Evil becomes our master, our humanity the victim.

Since the end of cold war, where the Soviet Union and the The West held each other in check with a creditable threat of nuclear and conventional military force. (At great cost to our respective societies) It was called **MAD** for Mutually Assured Destruction.

Within that context we were still able to conduct “limited” military actions or adventures, which have been sufficient to justify the natural desires for military adventure of our government.

For Instance: Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Nicaragua, Grenada, Somalia, with real enemies (well mostly).

Now we have a war against terrorism.

My opponent doesn't even BELIEVE in the BOGEYMAN! How is he going to protect you from him!?



This would appear to have many of the same characteristics as the Wars against:

- Crime

- Drugs

- Poverty

- Ignorance

- Hate

- Intolerance

- They never end

- They seem to produce more “enemies” than they remove.

There is often collateral damage

- War implies that the rules of a civilized society just don’t apply and civil rights may be sacrificed for safety.

- They are fueled by fear. Is the elephant really afraid of a mouse?

If we are dissatisfied with the current culture in our government and its agencies, we can hope for good leadership and management to bring it around to a better sense of duty to country....

But in reality, the reason the culture is the way it is, is because we are the way we are, and we continue to accept it and are not willing to change it.

The leaders have all had ample opportunity to change it. It is now time to start changing the leaders that are not acting in the best interest in this country.

I know that there is nothing
better for men than to be happy
and do good while they live.
That everyone may eat and
drink, and find satisfaction in all
his toil -- this is the gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 3:12,13, NIV

THE OPPOSITE OF COURAGE IS NOT
COWARDICE, IT'S CONFORMITY

Our democracy is being dismantled right in front of our eyes -- not by crazed foreign terrorists, but by our own ruling elites.

Jim Hightower in *Thieves in High Places*

Why the elites need the rest of us but most of them don't know it?

The elites are as much lucky as smart. They may have been born with the silver spoon.

They may have been born with smarts.

Some are predatorial tendencies (but, when the prey goes extinct so does the predator that fed on it.)

They don't waste a lot of time worrying about you.

The rich and superrich must have the labor and even the brains of hundreds or thousands of people to produce the product or service that produces wealth.

Without these people, the rich guys would/could not make more money.

The goose laying the golden egg.

Why?

Why do we accept politicians that serve primarily their contributors and themselves? What has happened to a real sense of duty to constituents and country?

We've been conditioned?

Fear?

Loss of "benefits"

Fear of retribution.

Fear of the government.

Lack of education - we think.

Laziness.

The Whole Answer?

Not one of us has the whole answer to anything.

But we each, all of us, have a part of it.

The only way to find the answer is for us all to cooperate.

We are each one, the teacher and the student.

And the answer is never complete until it is everyone's.

What Can I do to save the world?

First, check out yourself: Do you? Can You?

- Respect yourself, your experience and your knowledge
- Respect your instincts, evaluate what you see and hear.
- Acknowledge that your abilities, time and energy have limits, but that does not make you ignorant. Use what you have and add to it as you go.
- Choose your friends and associates carefully.
- Trust only those who are worthy. Don't be in a hurry.
- Choose your teachers and advisors wisely: social, educational, medical, financial, spiritual, etc.
- Be honest with and supportive of (love) yourself. When you make a mistake, try to figure out why. Learn from the experience. Make amends if possible and appropriate. Then, move on.

What Can I do to save the world (Continued)?

Next, choosing your mission:

- What concerns you?
- What are you passionate about?
- How much time, resources, energy do you have available?
- What other obligations do you have? Set realistic priorities.
- What are your natural and acquired abilities?
- How can they be applied to the need?
- Will your family, friends and groups that you are a member of support you to whatever level you might want from them.
- Decide how you will go about it. Make yourself a plan and a schedule. These can always be adjusted as time goes on, but if you have not identified goals and how and when you intend to achieve them it will be difficult to stay on track.
- Be realistic, kind and supportive to yourself and your friends as you work towards whatever goals or missions you have set for yourselves.

Testing the “Untestable”

When you hear, see or read something that for some reason you think is important ... Test it with a check list like this:

- Do I know this thing to be true from my own experience or observation?
- Do I know that the teller knows what he is talking about?
- Do I know where I can check it out, and
- How can I double check it.

Please note the use of the words “important” and “know” If it’s not important to you, you probably don’t want to waste the time and effort. The necessary degree of “knowing” is set by the importance you place on the issue.

The problem is that we have too much righteousness arrogance in the world and not enough true humility

Our Foreign Policy has become Buy em out or beatem up

In Closing: Please Remember Hillel's sayings:

*** "If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?" (Pirkei Avot)**

and

*** "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. That is the whole Torah; the rest is commentary. Go and study it." (Rabbi Shammai)**

This Concludes the First Session
of the 04-05 Third Saturday Seminar

Drive Safely

Surf the Internet Safely - never give
out personal information in response
to an email request, no matter how
official it looks.

No matter how cynical you get, it's
almost impossible to catch up. -- Lily
Tomlin