

The Third Saturday Seminar

Session Nine

"The Midas Touch" or "If I am living in the (at the moment) greatest Nation on Earth, Why Am I Not Happy?"

15 May 2004

Room B-102

Sponsored by: The Academy for Lifelong Learning
(ALL) program of Montgomery College, Conroe, Texas

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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>

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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.

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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.

Current Events

Denmark has a new Crown Princess



From left: Prince Henrik, Crown Princess Mary, Prince Frederick and Queen Margrethe wave to the crowd.

Electoral votes tied, polls show

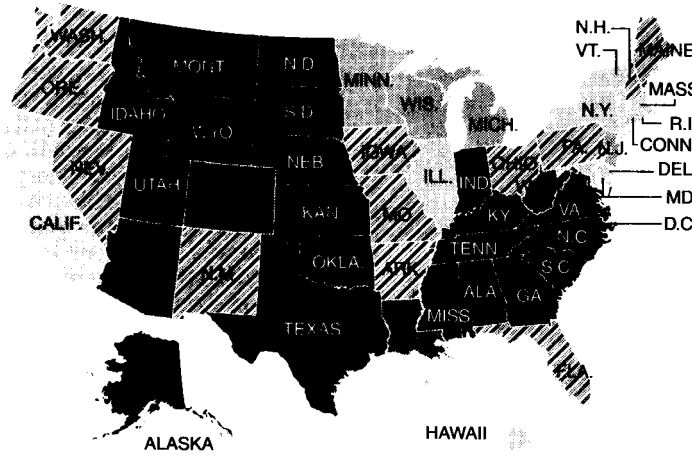
BATTLEGROUND STATES KEY TO ELECTION

A dozen states will be key to the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency for either President Bush and Sen. John Kerry:

Current trend of electoral votes

Kerry	Battleground states	Bush
14 states and D.C., 205 votes	12 states, 128 votes	24 states, 205 votes

Solid
 Leaning
 Tossup
 Leaning
 Solid

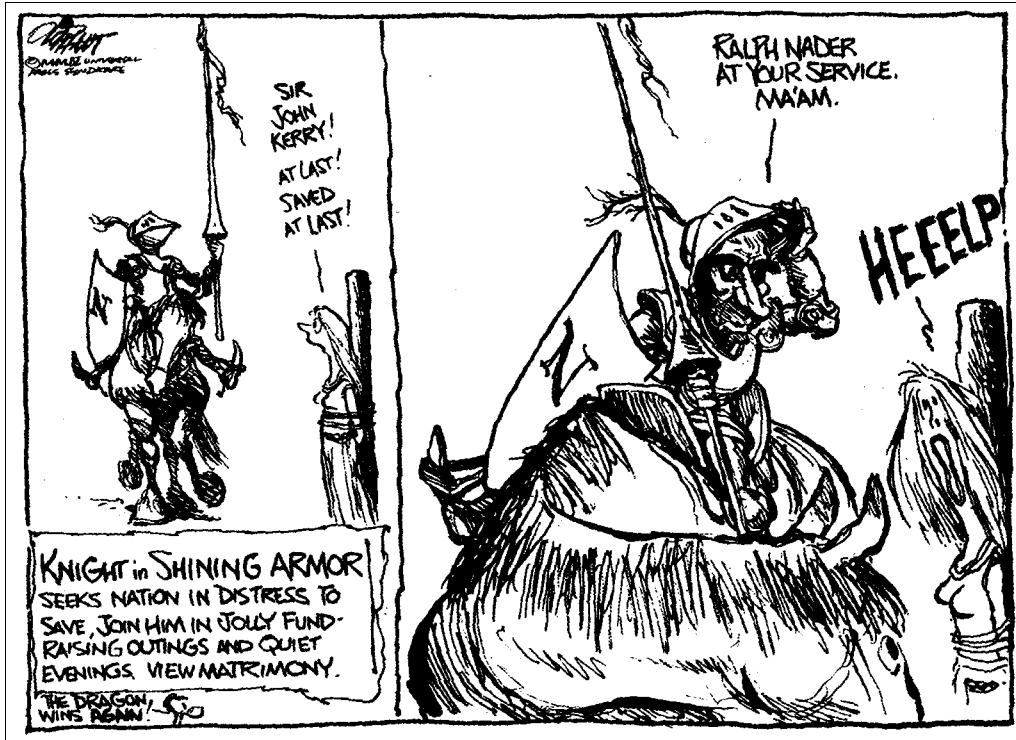


Associated Press

-Is it just me or does anyone else find it amazing that our government can track a cow born in Canada, almost three years ago, right to the stall where she was in the state of Washington? Also they tracked her calves to their stalls.

But they are unable to locate 11 million illegal aliens wandering around our country.

I think the solution is to give every illegal alien a cow.



Matt Groening
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SIR JOHN
KERRY!
AT LAST!
SAVED
AT LAST!

KNIGHT in SHINING ARMOR
SEEKS NATION IN DISTRESS TO
SAVE. JOIN HIM IN JOYLY FUND-
RAISING OUTINGS AND QUIET
EVENINGS VIEW MATRIMONY.

THE DRAGON
WINS AGAIN! *SG*

RALPH NADER
AT YOUR SERVICE,
MA'AM.

HEEELP!

FDA move on Plan B stirs furor

By **MARC KAUFMAN**

Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration acknowledged Friday that it rejected over-the-counter sale of the emergency contraceptive Plan B after its own staff — as well as two expert advisory panels — recommended that it be approved.

But officials denied charges Friday that the decision had been made to satisfy the political wishes of social conservatives, who lobbied President Bush by saying that increased accessibility to emergency contraception would lead to greater teen promiscuity.

Speaking in a teleconference Friday morning, Steven Galson, acting director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, said that he made the decision in consultation with the FDA commissioner's office, but without any other outside input.

"The decision I made had to do with looking at all the data and reading all the transcripts," Galson. He said he was especially concerned about the lack

NOT AN ABORTION PILL

Plan B consists of two high doses of a hormone used for birth control called levonorgestrel, which has been shown to prevent pregnancy if taken within 72 hours after having sex. It is not considered by the medical profession to be an abortion pill, because it prevents a pregnancy from starting.

of information in the application about "the younger age group between 11 and 14, where we know there is a substantial amount of sexual activity."

The decision was an unusual repudiation of the lopsided recommendation of the agency's own expert advisory panel, which voted 23-4 late last year that the drug should be sold over the counter and then, that same day, 27-0 that the drug could be safely sold as an over-the-counter medication. FDA observers said it was extremely uncommon, if not unprec-

edented, for the agency to overrule both its own reviewers and an expert panel in making a decision.

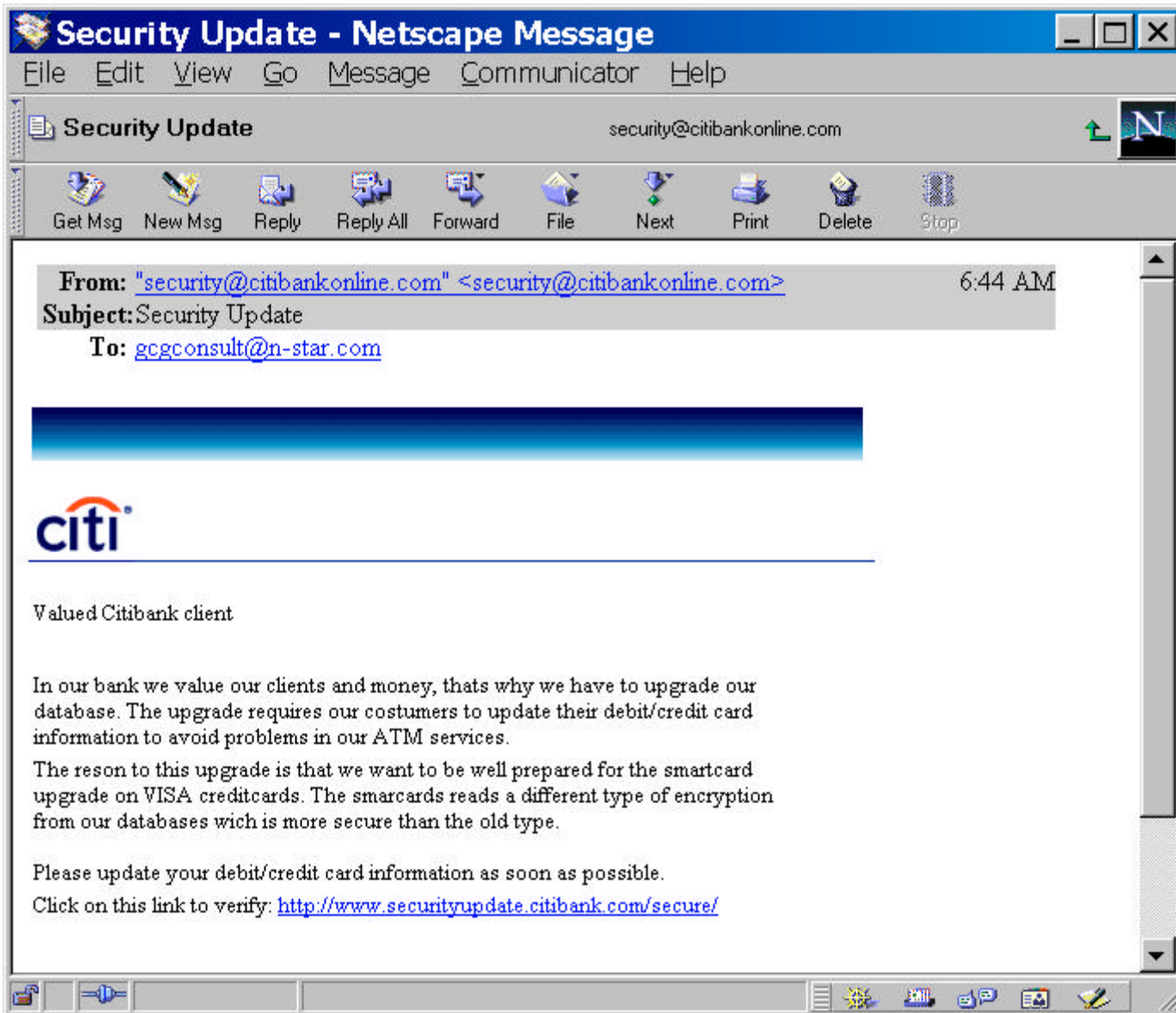
The campaign of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, D-Mass., quickly attacked the decision.

"The White House is once again choosing ideology over science," Kerry said in a statement.

In a letter to Barr Laboratories, the agency said Thursday that the application was denied because only 29 of the 585 women studied by the company were younger than 16 — a sample that was too small to assess safety.

The agency held out the possibility of a future approval if the company could prove the drug is safe for young girls or devise a plan that would keep Plan B on by-prescription-only status for girls younger than 16. In its letter, the FDA said keeping the drug prescription-only for adolescents had been discussed with the company.

"Clearly we're disappointed," said Barr CEO Bruce Downey, who had told investors last week that he expected an "approvable" letter from the FDA.



Citibank - Mozilla

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When such e-mails are sent in our name, Citibank works aggressively with law enforcement agencies to investigate them. Below is a list of several e-mails currently under investigation. If you've received any of them, please notify us by selecting the link of the e-mail you received. If you suspect you've gotten a fraudulent e-mail that's not on this list, please [report it now](#).


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- [Date: 05/11/04 Credit/Debit card update \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 05/10/04 Welcome citibank online account \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 05/06/04 Citibank Alert for: John Q Public \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 05/06/04 ! To aII Citibank users \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 05/06/04 Security Update \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/30/04 Citibank Emergency Notice \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/29/04 Citibank Security Update \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/28/04 Your request for Express Transfer -Citi E-mail Alerts \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/24/04 Citibank Account Update \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/22/04 Your Checking Account Report \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/19/04 Attention all Citibank users \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/19/04 Banking Alert Confirmation \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/19/04 Required \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/16/04 Important Information About Your Account \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/16/04 Welcome to My Citi Customer Support Center \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/13/04 Protect your citibank account \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/12/04 Verify your balnce with CitiBank \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/12/04 Your citibank account was temporarily suspended \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/11/04 Official notice for all Citibank Customers \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/08/04 Subject: Account Information \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/08/04 Subject: Citibank E-mail Verification \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/07/04 Subject: Citibank Member Account Update \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/06/04 Subject: Protect your citibank account \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 04/04/04 Subject: Active Your CitiBank \(report it\)](#)
- [Date: 03/29/04 Subject: Citibank For Your Information! \(report it\)](#)

commonquestions

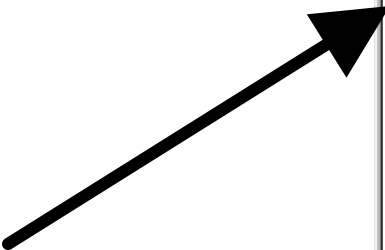
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UM.....
IT'S THE TRYOUTS FOR
THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION
CHEERLEADING SQUAD?

IRAQI PRISONER
DETENTION
FACILITY

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THREE CHEERS FOR
THE AMERICAN WAY?

Opinion (From Army Times 10 May 04)

Editorial

Around the halls of the Pentagon, a term of caustic derision has emerged for the enlisted soldiers at the heart of the furor over the Abu Ghraib prison scandal: the six morons who lost the war.

From: FM 34-52, Intelligence Operations, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
Washington, DC, 8 May 1987, Chapter 1

PROHIBITION AGAINST USE OF FORCE

The use of force, mental torture, threats, insults, or exposure to unpleasant and inhumane treatment of any kind is prohibited by law and is neither authorized nor condoned by the US Government. Experience indicates that the use of force is not necessary to gain the cooperation of sources for interrogation. Therefore, the use of force is a poor technique, as it yields unreliable results, may damage subsequent collection efforts, and can induce the source to say whatever he thinks the interrogator wants to hear. However, the use of force is not to be confused with psychological ploys, verbal trickery, or other nonviolent and noncoercive ruses used by the interrogator in questioning hesitant or uncooperative sources.

From:FM 34-52, Intelligence Operations, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
Washington, DC, 8 May 1987, Chapter 1

PROHIBITION AGAINST USE OF FORCE (Cont)

The psychological techniques and principles outlined should neither be confused with, nor construed to be synonymous with, unauthorized techniques such as brainwashing, mental torture, or any other form of mental coercion to include drugs. These techniques and principles are intended to serve as guides in obtaining the willing cooperation of a source. The absence of threats in interrogation is intentional, as their enforcement and use normally constitute violations of international law and may result in prosecution under the UCMJ.

Additionally, the inability to carry out a threat of violence or force renders an interrogator ineffective should the source challenge the threat. Consequently, from both legal and moral viewpoints, the restrictions established by international law, agreements, and customs render threats of force, violence, and deprivation useless as interrogation techniques.

Who is capable of torture? ...

In 1971, researchers at Stanford University created a simulated prison in the basement of the campus psychology building. They randomly assigned 24 students to be either prison guards or prisoners for two weeks. Within days, the “guards” had become swaggering and sadistic, to the point of placing bags over the prisoners’ heads, forcing them to strip naked and encouraging them to perform sexual acts.

...

Dr Philip G Zimbardo, a leader of the Stanford prison study, said that while the rest of the world was shocked by the images from Iraq, “I was not surprised that it happened. I have exact, parallel pictures of prisoners with bags over their heads” from the 1971 study, he said.

http://www.indianexpress.com:8080/full_story.php?content_id=46589

Prison Torture Begins at Home

...

Even the dissemination of the torture photos on CD is a modern twist on a deep American tradition. In the 19th and 20th centuries, Americans used to mail postcards of lynchings to family and friends, with remarks scribbled on the back like, "Look what we did last Sunday afternoon. We got things under control down here." In the picture you'd see a mob surrounding the body of a beaten black man hanging from a tree, his pants pulled down to his ankles as a final indignity.

You might wonder, who were those people? I submit they were everyday Americans.

The other day I waited with my banker while a machine took a long time to spit out a new ATM PIN number. We started talking. After a few minutes he mentioned that his son-in-law, who works at a prison, told him, "**Thank god for steel toe boots, because they really make the prisoners jump.**" My banker morbidly chuckled. He didn't know that **I have been kicked by guards with their steel toe boots, and that I didn't jump so much as wince and curl up into a ball on the floor.**

... Joe Loya, Pacific News Service, 13/5/04

Torture rarely produces the truth or anything of value. A tortured person will either confess to anything to make the pain stop or he will pass out or die.

On the other hand torture can produce politically useful confessions where truth is not a criteria.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service estimates that not only do 400,000 torture victims live in the United States, but between 800 to 1000 of their torturers do, as well.

The History Channel -- Torture Devices

<http://www.armytimes.com/static.php?f=view.php>

This week's Poll Results:

Do you think Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Gen. Richard Myers should keep their jobs, in light of allegations of prisoner abuse at Al Ghraib Prison in Iraq?

Rumsfeld should go, Myers should stay	=	8.55 % (271)
Myers should go, Rumsfeld should stay	:	3.06 % (97)
Both should go	====	49.78 % (1,577)
Both should stay	====	35.83 % (1,135)
Don't know	:	2.78 % (88)
Total votes: 3168		

The thing that separates us from our enemy is the way
we treat the enemy

John McCain, Jr.



Prince Frederick steals a kiss as the newlyweds overlook a cheering crowd from a balcony.

Question: (The Bias and Importance of the Media)

It seems that regardless of the political position one takes on an issue, the easiest way to defend an unpopular or, really, an indefensible position is to blame the media. Left-wingers say the media serve the right. Right-wingers say they serve the left. Media blame media, as in one of the Chronicle editorials yesterday.

I'm wondering how the media can be all those things to all those people.

Yes, I realize that the blame is generalized and the target is amorphous. It's a soft and easy target, but clearly an illogical target.

Secondly, I'd appreciate hearing how people feel about how much the media really do affect public opinion. Do the Tom Friedmans and the Robert Novaks actually have any overall influence on public opinion? Is what they do a public service which helps us clarify our thinking?

BUSH PROPOSES TO OUTSOURCE US MILITARY

WASHINGTON: Frustrated by the lack of progress in Iraq, US President George W. Bush proposed today to outsource the US military presence in Iraq.

"Outsourcing is ultimately very good for our economy," Bush said in a press conference in front of the Indian Embassy.

"If other people can do the job cheaper and better than we can, then we can sit back in the lap of luxury and let the others sweat," Bush said.

The US military outsourcing plan vaguely resembles original proposals to install a UN peace-keeping force in Iraq.

"We are not suggesting there is any role for international organizations like the United Nations," Bush said. "Instead, we are going to deploy forces from other countries on a business-like basis."

The outsourcing plan, developed by Halliburton, involves hiring the militaries of several Middle Eastern and South Asian countries. Troops from India, Pakistan, Turkey and Egypt will be hired and stationed in Iraq.

US troops would be removed from Iraq no later than July 4th to allow for large homecoming parades and Bush For President campaign events.

Chris Rock's Quote of the Day:

"You know the world is going crazy when the best rapper is a white guy, the best golfer is a black guy, the tallest guy in the NBA is Chinese, the Swiss hold the America's Cup, France is accusing the U.S. of arrogance, Germany doesn't want to go to war, and the three most powerful men in America are named 'Bush', 'Dick', and 'Colon'. Need I say more

"The Midas Touch"

or

**"If I am living in the (at the moment) Greatest Nation on
Earth, Why am I not happy?"**

The Midas Touch (From <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midas>) With Interpretive Annotations

Midas was a character in Greek mythology, who is most recognized for his ability to turn anything he touched into gold. He was King of Phrygia in Asia Minor in the 8th century BC. As a child, he was adopted by Gordias and Cybele. He was known for being a hedonist, and an excellent rose gardener. [*Unusual origin*]

Midas was taken by the people and made king, in obedience to the command of the oracle, which had said that their future king should come in a wagon. While the people were deliberating, Gordius with his wife and son came driving his wagon into the public square. [*The comission by the mystic*]

Dionysus (Greek god of fertility, ritual dance, and mysticism) found his old school master and foster father, Silenus, missing. The old man had wandered away drunk, and passed out in Midas' rose garden. Midas recognized him, and treated him hospitably. Dionysus offered Midas his choice of whatever reward he wanted. Midas asked that whatever he might touch should be changed into gold. Dionysus consented, though was sorry that he had not made a better choice. [*A special boon is granted*]

Midas rejoiced in his new power, which he hastened to put to the test. He touched and turned to gold an oak twig and a stone. Overjoyed, as soon as he got home, he ordered the servants to set a feast on the table. Then he found that his bread, meat, daughter and wine turned to gold and became inedible. [*Midas trys out his new powers*]

Midas now hated the gift he had coveted. He prayed to Dionysus, Dionysus heard and consented; he told Midas to wash in the river Pactolus. He did so, and when he touched the waters the power passed into them, and the river sands became changed into gold. [*Midas has a Conversion Experience*]

Midas, hating wealth and splendor, moved to the country, and became a **worshipper of Pan**, the god of the fields. Once Pan had the audacity to challenge Apollo, the god of the lyre, to a trial of skill in the music. Tmolus, the mountain-god, was chosen to umpire. Pan blew on his pipes, and with his rustic melody gave great satisfaction to himself and his faithful follower, Midas. Then Apollo struck the strings of his lyre. Tmolus at once awarded the victory to Apollo. Midas disagreed with the judgment and questioned the justice of the award. Apollo would not suffer such a depraved pair of ears any longer, and caused them to become the ears of a donkey. [*You don't call the witch doctor a "quack", even if you have had a conversion experience*]

King Midas was mortified. He attempted to hide his ears with an ample turban or headdress. But his hairdresser of course knew the secret. He was told not to mention it. He could not keep the secret; so he went out into the meadow, dug a hole in the ground, whispered the story into it, and covered the hole up. A thick bed of reeds sprang up in the meadow, and began whispering the story and saying "King Midas has an ass' ears." [*The truth will out eventually*]

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

.....

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the **pursuit of Happiness**.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government,

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

Preamble to the Constituion

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America

Now we are all in the soup.

Hate is breeding Hate.

Outrage and "Outrage at Outrage" is a cause célèbre.

Vengeance now threatens all of us, American, Iraqi, terrorist, soldier and businessman alike. The players are all going into a feeding frenzy, and there is already blood in the water. This is the Zimbardo experiment at Stanford being repeated on a World Scale, only we don't have a concerned professor to call the whole thing off when it gets out of hand.

Living in the world's only remaining (at the moment) superpower, really ought to be a lot of fun and a rewarding experience for all of us, when you think of all the truly good things that we could cause or help to happen around the world and in our own backyard. Why do we waste the opportunity by being bullies and making enemies. (But we were only were trying to help!) What are your thoughts?

I will try to share my own frustration and perhaps yours about how our own leaders use 9-11 and Al Qaida as whips to keep us in line afraid and distracted so we won't miss the loss of individual freedom and initiative and in fact are weakening the cultural and economic strength inherent in a free society. There is more actual, real potential threat to us Americans from spam, spyware, privacy invasion and identity theft, and corporate crime let alone the traditional forms of organized crime than the so called terrorist organizations.

The Current Agenda

- The Economy - Jobs - Inflation - Oil Prices - National Debt
- The War against Terror - Al Qaida & friends
- The Occupation of Iraq - No WMD - Insurgents - Tiger by the tail
- Education - No child left behind?
- Foreign Policy - Palestine/Israel - Afganistan - Friends
- Drugs - Immigration - Organized Crime - Internet
- Making World Safe for business WTO - NAFTA etc.
- National Image - Are we who we think we are.
- The Environment - Dismantling regulations
- Africa, China, India
- Getting reelected
- Internal Security - Regulating peoples lives - Faith based governace and services

Do Governments Make Mistakes in Judgement?

- The Kaiser thought he could have Europe.
- Hitler thought he could take Europe and Russia
- The Japanese thought they could defeat the USA
- The French thought that could keep Vietnam
- North Korea, Russia and China thought they could take South Korea
- We thought we could make South Vietnam into an American Style Democracy.
- We thought Iraq could punish Iran for us.
- We thought we could make things right in Haiti
- We did chase Iraq out of Kuwait in 1991. Kept us busy until 2001.

* “If you get the objectives right, a lieutenant can write the strategy.” --
Gen. George Marshall

From: Rumsfeld's Rules
Advice on government, business and life.
By Donald Rumsfeld

The Wall Street Journal, Monday, January 29, 2001
<http://www.analects-ink.com/weekend/020308.html>

McNamara's 11 lessons

*In 1995, former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara published *In Retrospect*, the first of his three books dissecting the errors, myths and miscalculations that led to the Vietnam War, which he now believes was a serious mistake. Nine years later, most of these lessons seem uncannily relevant to the Iraq war in its current nation-building, guerrilla-warfare phase.*

?We misjudged then -- and we have since -- the geopolitical intentions of our adversaries . . . and we exaggerated the dangers to the United States of their actions.

?We viewed the people and leaders of South Vietnam in terms of our own experience. . . . We totally misjudged the political forces within the country.

?We underestimated the power of nationalism to motivate a people to fight and die for their beliefs and values.

?Our judgments of friend and foe alike reflected our profound ignorance of the history, culture, and politics of the people in the area, and the personalities and habits of their leaders.

?We failed then -- and have since -- to recognize the limitations of modern, high-technology military equipment, forces and doctrine. . . . We failed as well to adapt our military tactics to the task of winning the hearts and minds of people from a totally different culture.

?We failed to draw Congress and the American people into a full and frank discussion and debate of the pros and cons of a large-scale military involvement . . . before we initiated the action.

?After the action got under way and unanticipated events forced us off our planned course . . . we did not fully explain what was happening and why we were doing what we did.

?We did not recognize that neither our people nor our leaders are omniscient. Our judgment of what is in another people's or country's best interest should be put to the test of open discussion in international forums. We do not have the God-given right to shape every nation in our image or as we choose.

?We did not hold to the principle that U.S. military action . . . should be carried out only in conjunction with multinational forces supported fully (and not merely cosmetically) by the international community.

?We failed to recognize that in international affairs, as in other aspects of life, there may be problems for which there are no immediate solutions. . . . At times, we may have to live with an imperfect, untidy world.

?Underlying many of these errors lay our failure to organize the top echelons of the executive branch to deal effectively with the extraordinarily complex range of political and military issues.

Noam Chomsky quotes **Robert McNamara**

Excerpted from [Class Warfare](#), 1995

QUESTION: ... [In Robert McNamara's #1 bestseller *In Retrospect*, he] writes, "We of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations who participated in the decisions on Vietnam acted according to what we thought were the principles and traditions of this nation. We made our decisions in light of those values. Yet **we were wrong, terribly wrong**. We owe it to future generations to explain why. I truly believe that we made an error not of values and intentions, but of judgment and capabilities."

<http://www.chomsky.info/books/warfare01.htm>

What is it that keeps us from learning from history?

There is certainly plenty to learn from.

Are we destined or doomed to a new war every 20
- 25 years because that's how humans are?

Perhaps winning is not really that important,
perhaps it is the action that we crave.

Schwarzkopf, who says he's had no official dialogue with U.S. government or military officials since the war started in Afghanistan, cautions against hawks calling for the United States to take the war on terrorism to Iraq.

"These Arab countries are supporting us and they're part of the coalition. We don't want to lose them by capriciously attacking Iraq," he said. "But if I was Saddam, I'd be very careful about leaving a smoking gun around."

Schwarzkopf also criticized arm-chair generals and hard-liners who are screaming about expanding the war beyond Afghanistan.

"That totally disregards the sensitivities of that part of the world. It's a very, very complicated part of the world. It's not that simple.

"The interesting thing is that the ones that are saying we should go after Saddam are not the ones who would have to get shot at. They're not the ones that are going to be killed and they're not the ones that are going to be leaving behind their families."

<http://www.csindy.com/csindy/2002-01-17/news2.html>

Schwarzkopf in article published 28 Jan 03

...

He's had time to think. He likes the performance of Colin Powell -- chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Gulf War, now secretary of state. "He's doing a wonderful job, I think," he says. But he is less impressed by Rumsfeld, whose briefings he has watched on television.

"Candidly, I have gotten somewhat nervous at some of the pronouncements Rumsfeld has made," says Schwarzkopf.

He contrasts Cheney's low profile as defense secretary during the Gulf War with Rumsfeld's frequent television appearances since Sept. 11, 2001. "He almost sometimes seems to be enjoying it." That, Schwarzkopf admonishes, is a sensation to be avoided when engaged in war.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A52450-2003Jan27?language=printer>

<http://www.deanesmay.com/archives/000726.html>

If we weren't at war what are some of the things we might be doing for ourselves? For the world?

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)

Malthus argued that the standard of living of the masses cannot be improved because **"The power of population is indefinitely greater than the power of the earth to produce subsistence for man."** Population, he asserted, when **unchecked by war, famine, or disease, would increase by a geometric ratio but subsistence only by an arithmetic one.** Malthus's identification of population growth as an obstacle to human progress was bitterly resisted in the Enlightenment climate of the day, and his theories--which greatly influenced classical economists like his friend David Ricardo--were interpreted as opposing social reform. **In 1803, Malthus published a revised edition of his work, in which he added "moral restraint"--late marriage and abstinence--as a factor that might limit population growth, and he provided empirical evidence to back up his theories**

Big Business is in charge

Getting elected is no longer just an opportunity to serve. It is a chance to become a cog in the mechanism of power.

Big business and other special money interests are glad to invest in the elections of various officeholders, in fact almost all candidates, so they always have a friend, no matter who is in power. (Who did not have Enron Money?)

It is a small price to pay for creating a world safe for big business and a compliant and generous government for price, subsidies and cheap access to our natural resources.

The problem is that most businesses are as far-sighted as the fellow that killed the goose that laid the golden eggs and in the end can put themselves out of business by exhausting a market as we are exhausting our fisheries.

Keeping the riff raff under control

- Keep their minds occupied with dire threats from the outside.
- Discourage them from exercising their own judgement, educations and knowledge. Especially when promises and programs fail. Remind them that they must trust the leaders.
- Never answer a question directly. Ignore it if you have to.
- Ethics and Morals apply only to the common people.
- Keep the press under control by controlling access to newsmakers. Even if journalists and academics criticize the actions and policies or the leaders, the Leaders have found they can just ignore them because they have tried it and it works. But look out for tipping points. (Abu Ghraib is a tipping point)
- The more obvious something is, the easier it is to get away with it. E.g. The Ex CEO of Haliburton is the Vice President. Haliburton is the prime contractor for military support in Iraq and around the world. Conflict of interest? Nah. The people are docile.

Big Brother wants to watch you more

The FBI's petition, filed March 10, 2004, asked the FCC to declare that providers of broadband access and "Voice over IP" (or Voice on the Net) services are covered by the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA). The FBI also asked the FCC to create a regulatory process under which new communications protocols, applications, or services must be reviewed and approved by the FBI and FCC before they can be deployed.

The Center for Democracy and Technology
CDT POLICY POST Volume 10, Number 8, April 28, 2004

You are not alone

Echelon - Monitors electronic transmissions in
Northern USA & Europe

Carnivore - Internet Monitoring

Magic Lantern - FBI wants to insert a virus to
record and report the keystrokes on your computer

Friday night massacres and other games.

www.nrdc.org/bushrecord

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 natural predators (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.

Why do the rest of us buy the b.s. from the elitesernment?

We've been conditioned

fear

dependence on "benefits"

fear of retribution.

Fear of the government.

Lack of education - we think.

Laziness.

Corruptissima republica plurimae leges.

[The more corrupt a republic, the more laws.]

- - Tacitus, *Annals* III 27

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

--John F. Kennedy Inaugural Address Washington, D.C.
January 20, 1961

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

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

Jim Highttower in Thieves in High Places

Next Time - 19 June 04 - "Selling Free Trade." - James Pyland

The premise is that culturally and economically, America is regressing to a new age similar to the Gilded Age of the late 1800's. He briefly describes what this period was like economically for the vast majority of the population and highlight the trends of stagnant or falling wages and salaries as corporate profits and incomes on capital are being removed from the tax base and shifted onto the bottom 90% of the population. Commonly available economic statistics and quotations from business publications are used.

The development and use of public relations as a method of securing public opinion favorable to commercial interests is discussed. Numerous quotations of business leaders and public intellectuals from around the turn of the century up to modern times that conclusively demonstrate big business's obsession with creating a favorable atmosphere of public opinion are provided.

It will be shown that commercial interests have also consciously promoted latent ideas of racial, sexual, and cultural discord through lobbying and the use of third party advocacy groups. Such groups are commonly known as front groups in that they are not the community, grass roots organizations that they appear to be. Their use is part of a larger "war of ideas," which is sometimes referred to as the "culture wars."

Reference, "PR! The Social History of Spin."