

**Third Saturday Seminar 2005-2006**

**Session 2**

**15 October 2005**

**The Politics of Fear  
Rushing to Judgment  
Are you keeping Score?**

**(Iraq, Katrina, Rita, What's Next, Can you stop it?)**

**Curt Gibby**

**ALL Program, Montgomery College, Conroe, Texas**

## **Curt Gibby**

US Naval Academy 1961

US Navy 1961 – 1971

Marine And Offshore Consultant

Born - Massachusetts

Vermont, Virginia, Vietnam,

California, Vietnam, Virginia, Maine,

Upper Michigan, Texas (1977->)

## **Program for the Second Meeting of 05-06**

- 9:30 am Introduction
- Current Events (15 Minutes +/-)
- 9:50 am **Politics of Fear**
- 10:40 Break 10 Minutes
- 10:50 **Resume discussion Politics of Fear, etc.**
- 11:50 am- Closure – Feedback – Next Time (November 19)
- 12:00 noon Session ends.

***Next time (19 Nov 05) ->Venue Change -> F-103***

# **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. 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](mailto:gcgconsult@n-star.com)>**

## To Any 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.

**The donuts are free to law enforcement.**

# Before We Get Started

1. As tempting as it might be to think so, 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. Please, 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 other seminarians deal with these important issues. 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 from 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.

Human purpose ...

**"That everyone should eat and  
drink, and enjoy the good of all  
their labor, it is the gift of God"**

(Ecclesiastes 3:13)

# Current Events

October 2005

*New York Times*; April 26

**Florida Expands Right to Use Deadly Force in Self-Defense**  
**By Abby Goodnough**

MIAMI, April 26 - Gov. Jeb Bush signed a bill on Tuesday giving Florida citizens more leeway to use deadly force in their homes and in public, a move that gun-control groups and several urban police chiefs warned would give rise to needless deaths.

The measure, known as the "stand your ground" bill, lets people use guns or other deadly force to defend themselves in public places without first trying to escape.

Floridians already had the right to defend themselves against home intruders under what is known as the castle doctrine, but until now, they could not do so in public.

## American Pink Collar

Social commentary from a pink-collar worker who is an obnoxious liberal and lives the corporate life from the bottoms up.

Tuesday, October 04, 2005

### I wanna nominate my attorney to the Supreme Court



The President wants his Supreme Court nominee to be confirmed by Thanksgiving. He has nominated a friend. There is something weak and endearing about the selection. One thing about George is clear, he needs to surround himself with insiders. He is also loyal to his friends. No matter that Brownie proved to be a huge embarrassment as well as criminally incompetent and that Tommy DeLay is a crook, he is not deterred from appointing his friends to various positions that are crucial to the country's security and legal system.

The Democratic Party acts as if it is willing to accommodate him. I am not surprised at Bush's proposal of appointing a friend to the Supreme Court. She was his personal attorney and knows where all the bodies are buried. I am not dismissing Harriet Miers's resume. She has accomplished far more than her boss on her own volition. She did not get an open pass to Yale and never had the financial and influential advantages that come with being member of a Texas oil dynasty. She was a successful practicing attorney for 28 years. However practicing law does not qualify someone for the Supreme Court. Being a friend to George Bush does not qualify someone to sit in Sandra O'Connor's seat.

I want to see some digging from our Democratic side. I sometimes think that it is fast becoming the Party of the Lazy fair. It does not matter what outrageous notion is made by the Administration, the Democrats just seem to cave in. If they can not understand that until they can show to their liberal supporters that they own a philosophy that is drastically different from the Republican's party, they will continue to be losers.

I am still hoping for someone to become an unopposed leader with a vision and the political support to lead the Democratic Party. There have been so many mistakes made by this administration that Harriet Mier's nomination is just a drop in the bucket. When will the Democrats finally

### Previous Posts

- ◆ Furious Bliss and Meme
- ◆ Sex Lies & Audio Tape
- ◆ Sex and the Brain
- ◆ Romancing the Zen
- ◆ Hallmark and its Fabulous World of Kitsch
- ◆ Rehearsal Dinner At Dad's House
- ◆ Ghosts of past failures
- ◆ Why Canadians Can't be Good Republicans
- ◆ Personality Disorder
- ◆ Hurricane Rita to Hit Port Aransas, Texas



•Will she be able to place the law above her religious beliefs or the dictates of her church?

•When does a fertilized egg achieve personhood? Questions from Last Time.

<http://americanpinkcollar.blogspot.com/2005/10/i-wanna-nominate-my-attorney-to.html>

## Jitters at the White House Over the Leak Inquiry



Kevin Wolf/Associated Press

Karl Rove, early this morning.

By **RICHARD W. STEVENSON**

Published: October 14, 2005

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13 - [Karl Rove](#) nosed his Jaguar out of the garage at his home in Northwest Washington in the predawn gloom, starting another day in which he would be dealing with a troubled Supreme Court nomination, posthurricane reconstruction and all the other issues that come across the desk of President Bush's most influential aide.

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Kevin Wolf/Associated Press  
Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald, entering U.S. District Court in

But Mr. Rove's first challenge on Wednesday morning came before he cleared his driveway: how to get past the five television crews and the three photographers waiting for him. He flashed his blinding high beams into the camera lenses and sped by.

That is the way things are for the Bush White House these days. The routines are the same. But everything, in the glare of the final stages of a criminal investigation that has reached to the highest levels of power in Washington, is different.

Mr. Rove is scheduled to testify before a federal grand jury on Friday, the fourth time he will have done so in the case, which centers on the disclosure of an undercover C.I.A. officer's identity.

## Prosecutor Subpoenas Phone Data of DeLay

By [PHILIP SHENON](#)

Published: October 14, 2005

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 13 - A state prosecutor subpoenaed the phone records of Representative Tom DeLay and his daughter on Thursday as part of an investigation that has already produced two conspiracy indictments against Mr. DeLay.

The subpoenas, issued by the district attorney in Travis County, Tex., which includes Austin, the state capital, sought records for Mr. DeLay's home telephone number and for his campaign office, as well as for two phone numbers used by his daughter, a key political aide. The subpoenas sought information on long-distance calls made from or charged to the numbers.

The district attorney, Ronnie Earle, had no immediate comment on the subpoenas or their timing. The move appeared to be an effort to gather additional information that might tie Mr. DeLay, whose home is in Sugar Land, near Houston, to what Mr. Earle has described as a conspiracy in 2002 to undermine a state ban on the use of corporate money in local political campaigns.

Mr. DeLay has been indicted twice in the past month in Travis County - first on charges of conspiring to violate the election code, then on charges of conspiracy to commit money laundering.

He has denied wrongdoing and has suggested that Mr. Earle, a veteran prosecutor and a Democrat, is conducting a political witch hunt. Under Republican rules in the House, Mr. DeLay was required to step down as majority leader as a result of the criminal charges.

"This is a baseless investigation that is over three years old, and only now Ronnie Earle is issuing subpoenas?" said Kevin Madden, a spokesman in Washington for Mr. DeLay. "It's a ridiculous stunt to try and cover up the fact that Ronnie Earle's partisan investigation has turned into an embarrassment for him."

In the indictments, Mr. Earle offered no details tying Mr. DeLay to what prosecutors have described as the central act in the conspiracy: the funneling of \$190,000 in corporate money to individual Republican candidates in [Texas](#) through the Republican National Committee in Washington and a state political action committee set up by Mr. DeLay.

NYTimes.com

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## Debtors Throng to Bankruptcy as Clock Ticks

By [ERIC DASH](#)

Published: October 15, 2005

They were construction workers, schoolteachers and medical center managers. From Manhattan to Minneapolis, Chicago to San Francisco, they stood in long lines that snaked a block or more for much of yesterday. Some brought their children. Some had arrived at dawn.

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Hiroko Masuzoe for The New York Times

People lined up outside the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Lower Manhattan Friday. Thousands waited outside courthouses across the country.

### Multimedia

It may have looked like a frenzied rush for rock concert tickets, but the thousands of people standing patiently in line for hours outside federal courthouses were waiting to file for bankruptcy. It was the final workday before a tough new federal law takes effect.

For many in line, it was the first time they were filing for bankruptcy protection. Some acknowledged that they had waited until the last minute to file because they were procrastinators, others because their paperwork had been delayed. Most spoke of a messy divorce, medical bills or mountains of student loans or credit card debt that had gnawed at their finances for years.

"I have a lot of medical bills and, unfortunately, I can't pay them," said Mercedes Estrada, a legal assistant and single mother of three young children from the Bronx, who rattled off a list of more than \$50,000 in debts. "It's overwhelming and stressful."

"This is a day of last resort," added Stephen L. Morris, a lawyer bringing his clients' bankruptcy petitions to the court in Lower Manhattan.

Through Oct. 8, consumers had filed more than 1.47 million

[NYTimes.com](http://nytimes.com)

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## Bankruptcy Law Is Criticized for Creditors' Role in Counseling

By [ERIC DASH](#) and [JENNIFER BAYOT](#)

Published: October 14, 2005

A requirement of the new bankruptcy law that sends Americans into credit counseling before they can erase their debts is drawing criticism from consumer advocates, bankruptcy lawyers and financial educators, who are concerned that the creditors are subsidizing the counseling.

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[For Those Who Will Need Help ...](#)  
(October 14, 2005)[Government-Approved Credit  
Counseling Agencies](#)[Debt Counseling and Management  
Information From the Federal  
Trade Commission](#)

Critics say that the new counseling requirement, part of the law that takes effect on Monday, increases the risk that people will be improperly steered away from the courts and into debt management plans, for which the counseling agency often receives part of any debts repaid.

"Lots of people see the opportunity to make lots of money off the backs of consumer debtors, and that should make people extremely cautious about this," said Karen Gross, a New York Law School professor and president of the Coalition for Consumer Bankruptcy Debtor Education.

The counseling agencies, which will receive no additional government aid under the new law, are increasingly reliant on funds from the credit industry. And the industry has pledged \$10 million to the agencies for this year, possibly more.

The agencies maintain that they balance the competing interests of debtors and creditors and have worked with the lending industry for decades. But the aggressive practices of some counseling providers have been questioned by Congress and scrutinized by the Federal Trade Commission and the Internal Revenue Service. Indeed, I.R.S. officials say they will propose revoking the nonprofit



New Orleans October 3, 05

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## Refco Imposes a Partial Moratorium as Customers Seek to Close Accounts

By [JENNY ANDERSON](#)

Published: October 14, 2005

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Refco, one of the world's largest futures and commodities brokerage firms, said yesterday that it would suspend operations at one of its two main businesses because of a lack of cash.



Michael Nagle/Bloomberg News

A Refco trader at the New York Mercantile Exchange on Wednesday, the firm's former chief executive has been charged with securities fraud.

The announcement, coupled with another cut in its credit ratings, sent Refco's bonds into a tailspin, a sign that creditors believed the company would default.

Refco imposed a 15-day moratorium on the activities of its capital markets business, an unregulated entity that offers securities services like stock lending and foreign exchange and fixed-income transactions, informing customers that they could liquidate their accounts but could not get the funds in them for 15 days.

The moratorium appears to have been prompted by an exodus of client accounts.

"Customers were withdrawing their accounts and liquidating what they could and moving cash out," said Tom Foley, a credit analyst with Standard & Poor's, which downgraded the company's debt twice this week.

### Multimedia

#### GRAPHIC



[Rapid Decline and Fall](#)

The announcement of the moratorium, and the general uncertainty around the company, caused some clients of the firm's regulated futures brokerage business to withdraw their money as well.

The firm remains in a precarious financial position. On Monday, the company announced that its chief executive, Philip R. Bennett, and the head of its capital markets group, Santo C. Maggio, would be on leave indefinitely as the company investigated a \$430 million debt owed to it by a company controlled by Mr. Bennett. The company has said its financial statements back to 2002 cannot be relied upon.

### Related

[But as the Brokerage Firm](#)



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## Snow Urges Consumerism on China Trip

By [EDMUND L. ANDREWS](#)

Published: October 14, 2005

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MULAN, [China](#), Oct. 13 - Treasury Secretary John W. Snow, touring this village in the Sichuan province to promote "financial modernization," urged China on Thursday to take lessons from the [United States](#) on how to spend more, borrow more and save less.

Mr. Snow argued that China's consumers and entrepreneurs are badly in need of financial sophistication offered by American banks and investment banks.

As he wandered through a thriving farmers' market and a traditional rural credit cooperative, Mr. Snow said that with better credit, Chinese families would be able to spend more money, buy more goods and perhaps reduce China's huge trade surplus with the United States.

"Good credit facilitation and consumer finance is going to help consumers buy more things," Mr. Snow said.

"We see consumerism and consumer credit as going directly to the thing we have most on our minds - the global imbalances."

It has been an awkward lecture at times, given that China's economy is still growing at a blistering pace of 9 percent, is a huge magnet for foreign investors and is one of the United States' biggest creditors.

China's savings rate is nearly 50 percent, one of the highest rates in the world. The savings rate in the United States, by contrast, has sunk to less than zero in recent months and is one of the lowest rates in the world.

# Asia Avian Flu Confirmed as Killer of Birds in Turkey

By [ELISABETH ROSENTHAL](#),

International Herald Tribune

Published: October 14, 2005

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ROME, Oct. 13 - Thousands of birds that died in [Turkey](#) in the past week succumbed to the same deadly [avian influenza virus](#) that has ravaged Southeast Asia in the past five years, medical tests done in [Britain](#) confirmed Thursday. It was the first time that the disease had been reported in Europe.

The development signaled a new phase in the spread of the deadly virus across the globe.

[Enlarge This Image](#)



Ense Unsubtle/KPA

Veterinary experts gathering chickens in an effort to fight an outbreak of avian flu in in northwestern Turkey.

"We can now say that it was definitely the H5N1 virus," said Dr. Samuel Jutzi, director of the Animal Production and Health Division at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, which tracks animal diseases. But he suggested that the next stop for the virus would probably be countries near Turkey and African nations, rather than western Europe, because the virus is believed to be traveling with flocks of migratory bird moving south for the winter.

The H5N1 strain of bird flu has been responsible for tens of millions if not hundreds of millions of animal deaths in Asia since its appeared in 1997. Efforts to control it have cost governments in the region billions of dollars. It has infected about 120 people, generally those in close contact with sick birds. About half of the infected people have died.

The new test results were first announced Thursday morning by the European Union's health commissioner, Markos Kyprianou, who said the commission was proposing to set aside 1 billion euros to make and distribute [flu](#) drugs and vaccines in case of a human [pandemic](#). He urged countries to "stockpile antiviral" drugs "as the first line of defense" for people.

But Dr. Jutzi emphasized that, for now at least, "we continue to state that this is an animal disease, an animal health problem, that we want to deal with aggressively in order to prevent a human pandemic."



STEVE CAMPBELL : CHRONICLE

## Having a ball and banking on the Astros

**C**HARLIE Lopez, left, and Antonio Varela, from Aztec Party & Tent Rentals, place a baseball cover on the gold dome of the Washington Mutual building on the Southwest Freeway on Thursday. The bank had the cover placed on their dome to celebrate the Houston Astros' second straight trip to the National League Championship Series.

**Session Two**  
**TSS 05-06**

**The Politics of Fear**  
**Rush to Judgment**  
**Is anyone keeping Score?**  
**(Katrina, Rita, What's Next)**

**Curt Gibby**

*So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that **the only thing we have to fear is fear itself**—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days. FDR, First Inaugural Address*

Fear is a Gift, it enhances our chances of survival.

But are we right when we allow others to manipulate us by our fears?

Is the fear that we are presented with the one that offers us the greater threat?

Is keeping us in a high state of fear distracting us from real threats, and wasting our resources?

We will investigate our own and others' responses to potential threat.

We will ask are these our own or are we being manipulated by others to get us to respond in a certain way, spend money, accept added control of authority

Realized threats (Those that actually happened)

Were we prepared? Was the threat as bad as threatened (promised, warned)

And ask ourselves

Did the our politicians deliver? did our responders and managers respond and manage? Was the amount of damage caused or prevented real or perceived

In recent history

WWI

WWII

Cold War

Korean War – Communist Expansion

Vietnam – Domino Theory

Nuclear War – MAD

Terrorism

Peak Oil

Pandemics – Avian Flu

Natural Disaster – Hurricane, Earthquake,

Global Warming(?)

# **Ethical**

Being in accordance with the accepted principles of right and wrong.

# **Moral**

Of or concerned with the judgment of the goodness or badness of human action and character

## **Which is ethical or moral to you?**

**The Golden Rule** – all people are entitled to the same respect and opportunity. We are all obligated to support each other in a way we would like to be supported. (Jesus, Buddha)

**Social Darwinism** – Survival of the fittest. It is right that the strongest, and most adaptable will survive, dominate, control the available resources. They may subjugate other people in order to do this. This may be benevolent, sharing resources or totalitarian, whichever works best.

What are some of the things we fear?

Falling

Loss of Security

Loss of Food

Loss of Status

Loss of Love

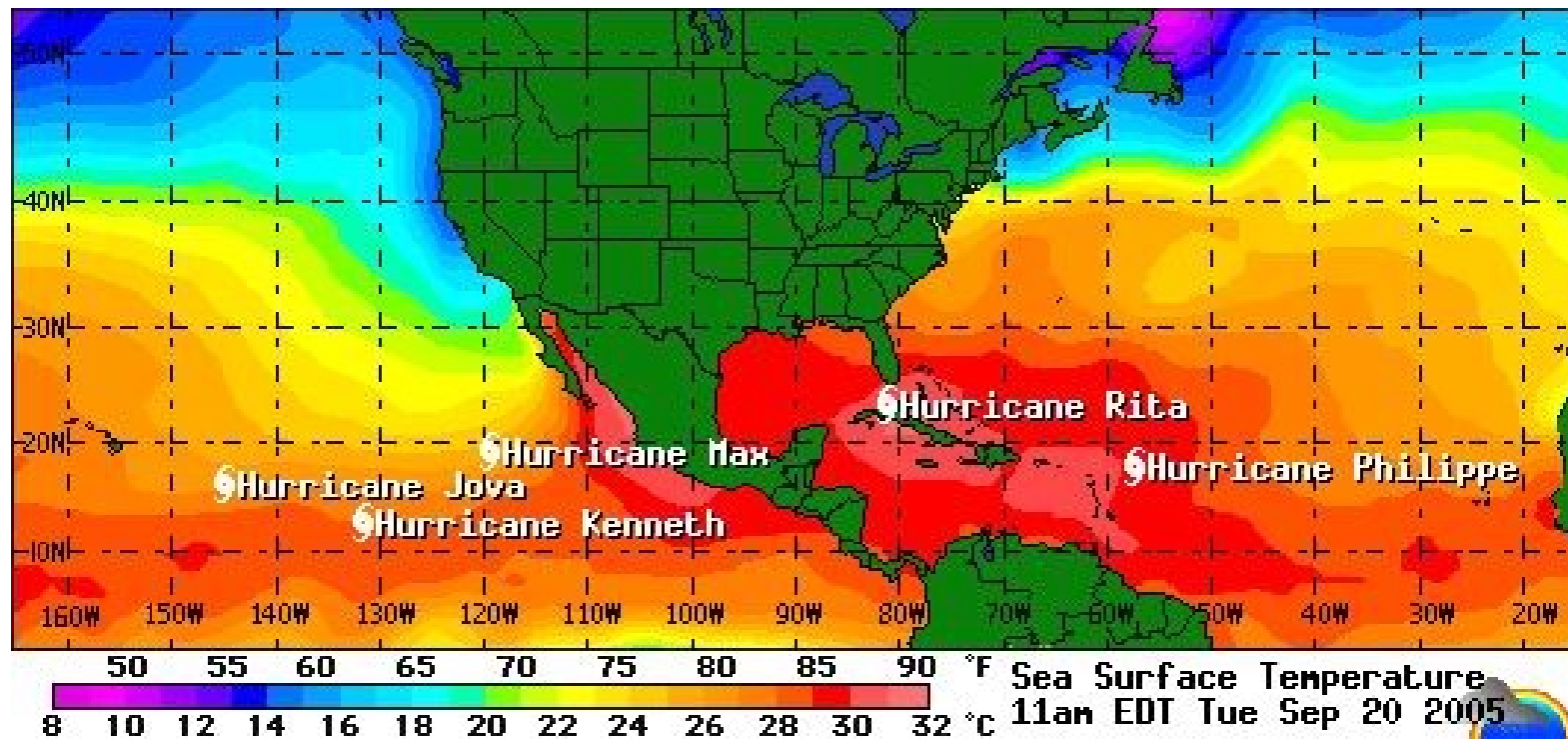
Being Alone

What about?

Religious fear (fear of Hell)

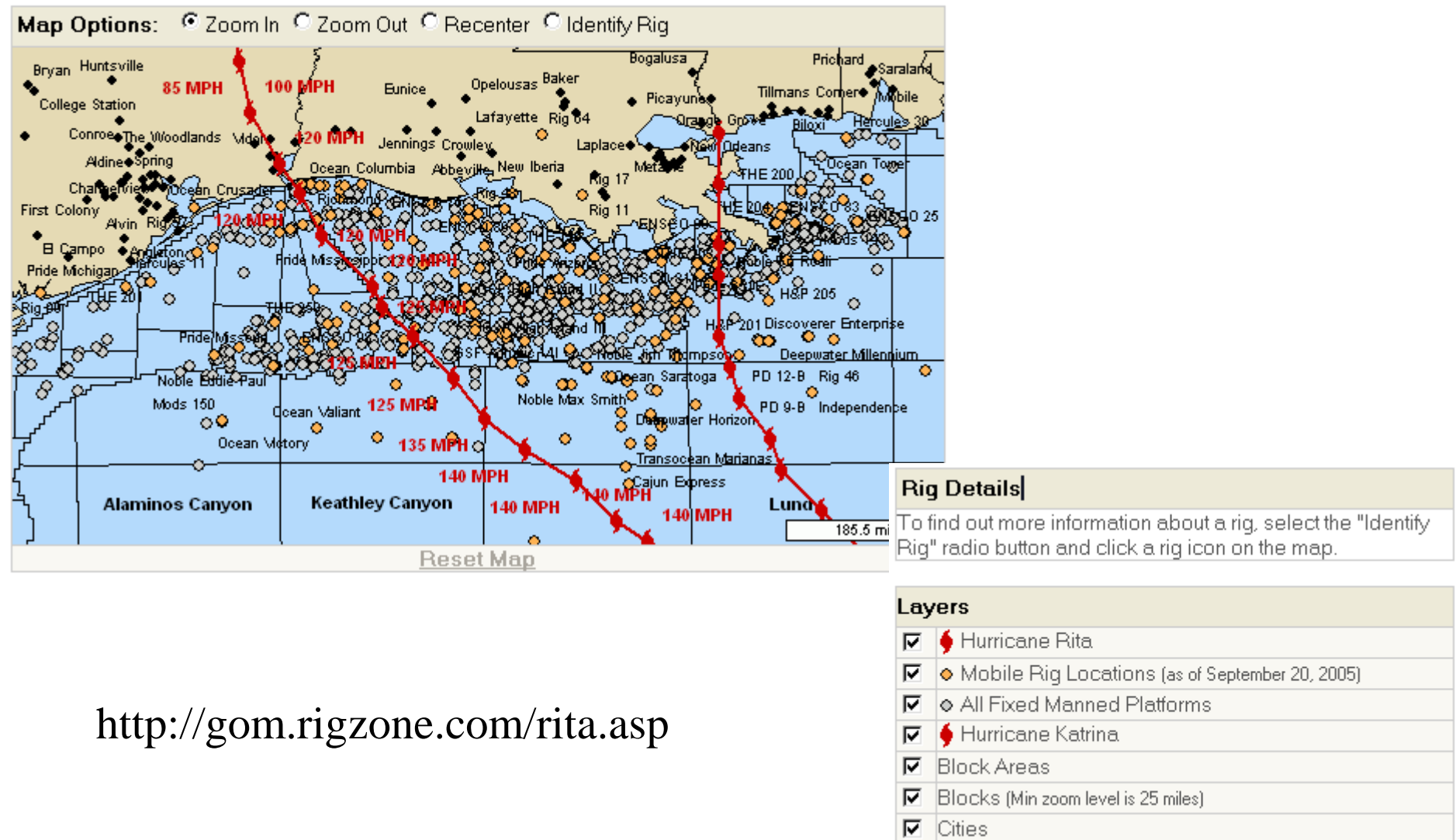
Fear of being attacked by the evil in the world

Mother Nature has more in store for us, not to mention what the ‘sons of various “Prophets” have in mind.



## Hurricane Rita Interactive Map

The map below provides current mobile offshore rig positions as of September 20, 2005 as well as 24-hour manned platform loc.



<http://gom.rigzone.com/rita.asp>

## Real Issues:

- Readiness
- Responsiveness
- Recovery
- Rebuilding

## What motivates us?

- Do we always consider the facts and then make a decisions. Do we assure ourselves that the facts behind decisions or policies or our leaders are largely true? or do we tend to follow their lead because they are in power?
- In our lives, in what ways are we persuaded to take certain actions, buy certain things, go along with the decisions of “higher authority?”
- Why do we buy certain brands, pay extra taxes?
- Two of the strongest human emotions are fear and greed.
- If fear is the motive, what are the results?
- Does the end justify the means? Should "fear" be used as a motivation even if it must be embellished, just to get the people to "move."

Have our victories (the ends) always justified the means. Are we keeping score? for example, "We were told this, then this is what happened."

Do we hold our leaders, our educators, our professional advisers and our spiritual advisers to high standards of not only integrity, but also accurate knowledge of the facts?

How do we respond to the words like:

**"Terrorist", "WMD", "Hurricane", "Tsunami", "Armageddon",  
"Avian Flu", "Illegal Alien", "Same-Sex Marriages", "National Debt",  
"Trade Deficit", "Cancer", "Inflation", "Global Warming", "Ice Age",  
"Nuclear Energy"**

## A Conservatives View.. (Metaphor)

- The world is divided into good and evil.
- To remain good in the face of evil (to "stand up to" evil), one must be morally strong.
- One becomes morally strong through self-discipline and self-denial.
- Someone who is morally weak cannot stand up to evil and so will eventually commit evil.
- Therefore, moral weakness is a form of immorality.
- Lack of self-control (the lack of self-discipline) and self-indulgence (the refusal to engage in self-denial) are therefore forms of immorality.

**Metaphor, Morality, and Politics, Or,  
Why Conservatives Have Left Liberals In the Dust by George Lakoff (1995)**

<http://www.wvcd.org/issues/Lakoff>

The metaphor of Moral Strength imposes a strict us-them moral dichotomy. The metaphor that morality is strength induces a view of evil as the force that moral strength is needed to counter. Evil must be fought. You do not empathize with evil, nor do you accord evil some truth of its own. You just fight it.

Moral strength, importantly, imposes a form of asceticism. To be morally strong you must be self-disciplined and self-denying. Otherwise you are self-indulgent, and such moral flabbiness ultimately helps the forces of evil.

In the conservative mind, the metaphor of moral strength has the highest priority. Though it clusters with other metaphors that we consider shortly, it is the one that matters most. It determines much of conservative thought and language -- as well as social policy. It is behind the view that social programs are immoral and promote evil because they are seen as working against self-discipline and self-reliance.

**Metaphor, Morality, and Politics, Or,  
Why Conservatives Have Left Liberals In the Dust by George Lakoff (1995)**

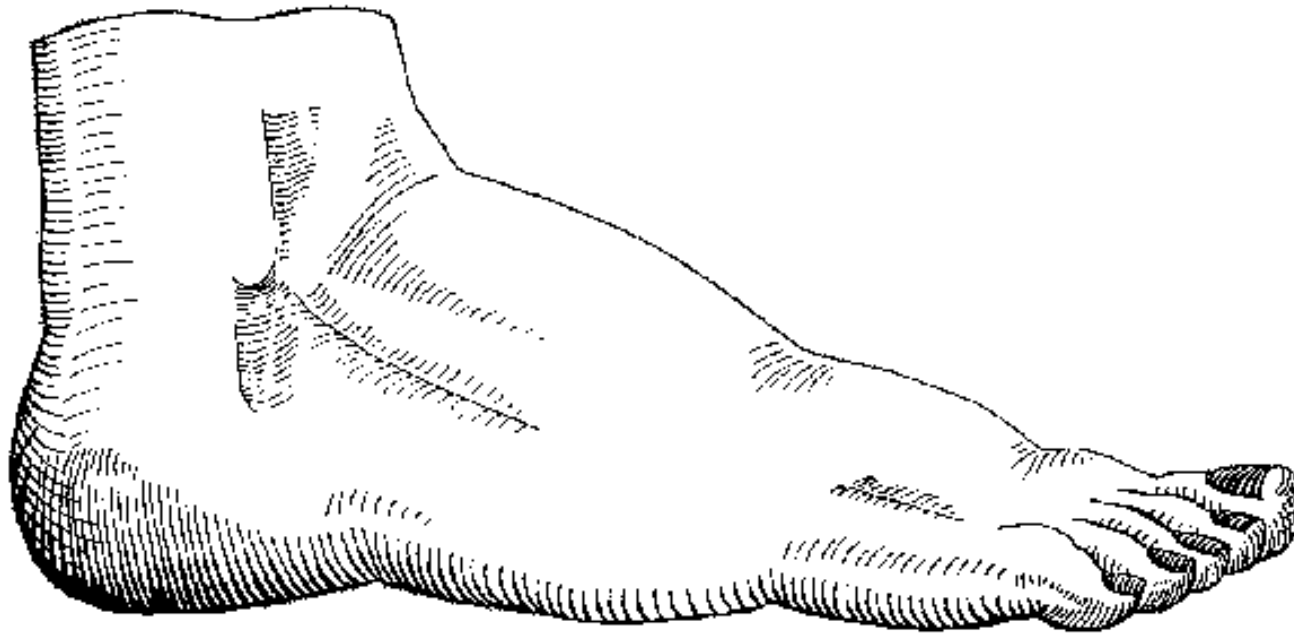
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## **What role does the media actually play in a crisis?**

Does it?

- Inform (Whose message(s) does it carry?)
- Educate
- Titillate
- Was it useful to see emotions, anger, confusion, etc.

The Monty Python Foot, a convenient way to end something that would seem to go on for ever accomplishing nothing.... (*See deus ex machina*)



The famous Python Foot can here be seen in its original format in the bottom left corner of "An Allegory of Venus and Cupid" by [Bronzino](#) (~1545)

When Monty Python had no ending for a skit, this foot would appear out of the sky and squash whatever was on screen with a rude noise. Allowing the show to move on.

# **Don't panic!**

## *Don't be Panicked!*

*Next Meeting November 19, 2005*

**F-103 (Change of Venue)**

# Enrichment Material

## An Opinion – Mine

We are born with critical survival instincts, but then it is socialized out of us, because the politicians lead us to believe the government really can be and do everything you could want it to be and do. After every disaster there is always a great rushing around, some of it actually prodding useful services. But this always becomes an excuse to have massive public inquiries, pass all sorts of unnecessary laws which will spend the tax payers moneys needlessly

It's a shame that we have let our tax supported agencies and authorities promise us so much, and that we have believed them; without asking the simplest questions, or when they are asked, not paying attention to the answers or lack of them.

Why? Well it has worked for the last 80 years in providing the West access to Middle East Oil. The Oil Companies buy off the sheiks and princes who buy off the mullahs, who keep the faithful in line. Since even such well-thought out plans have unintended consequences, such as education in western and other countries, Internet, television, satellite news from more than one perspective, and human desire to make things better for himself and others, they begin to see the promise is really a pile of rags on their side of the palace wall. Then when the ungrateful, but rich, son of one or one of the sheik/prince variety, gets a faith based vision that resonates with the disinherited, things go out of control.

# What about Global Warming?

I know someone will eventually push Global Warming into the mix. Which may or may not be happening. Since all the "expert opinions" seem to be political as opposed to scientific, intended to throw bones or boons to those "academics" who "believe" "it must be" so are willing to spend billions of tax dollars to "prove" it. (With that level of effort they can throw in a "proof" for intelligent design at the same time.)

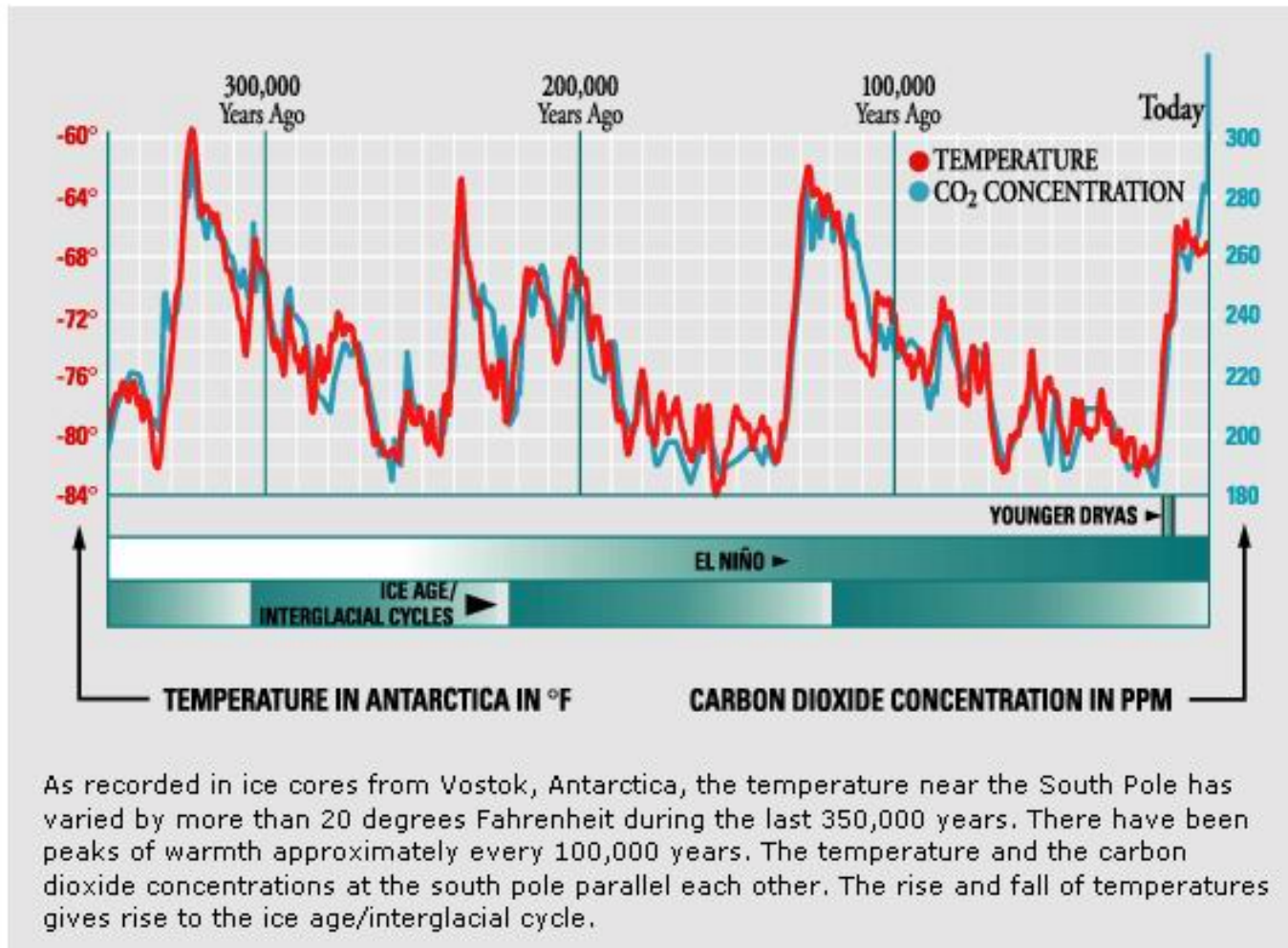
Whether the sea level rises, or New Orleans continues to sink, it would seem appropriate to apply some intelligence to the design of a future New Orleans.

Back to Mother Nature, who used to let the Mighty Mississippi wander back forth from the present outlet to the Achafalaya River. But, the Corps of Engineers, with your tax dollars, has "tamed" the Mississippi to stay where it is. (Note that the worst damage came from the "lakeside" this time.)

Now everybody seems to realized that square miles of Louisiana sink or are washed away each year and the scientific opinion is that it has a lot to do the destruction of the ecosystem that relied on the deposits of silt and fresh water from the Mississippi to refresh and replace vegetation and lost soil.

# Global Warming – Man-Made?

This graph is based on ice cores drilled in Vostok, Antarctica. It shows temperature changes near the South Pole, which were more extreme than in the middle latitudes.



# What does Katrina Mean to The United States of America?

- What did you expect?
- What did you see?
- Were you satisfied?
- Comment.

- Disaster, Catastrophe
- Tragedy or Opportunity
- Natural or man made
- Anticipated or not anticipated
- Panic or Manage
- Prepare
  - Build and stock a shelter?
  - Duct Tape and Plastic? Canned goods and water?
  - Make a list? Maps? Have a place to go?
- Start paying attention to your elected and appointed authorities.  
Is it competent or does it just want to spend a lot of your money. Are its policies sound.

# **Can man have an impact on the severity of a catastrophic event?**

- Is our government professionally competent?
- Is Mother Nature respected? Fault lines? Flood prone areas? (Should we even offer government underwritten flood insurance?)
- Do our social policies make sense and do they produce a happy, satisfied, productive, population or do they promote labeling and division between and within ethnically and economically diverse groups? Does everyone know the formula to achieve the American Dream?
- Do our foreign policies promote mutual respect and fairness to the peoples with whom we trade or are we supporting oppressive authority to keep the price down? Are we really creating fertile recruiting opportunity for terrorists? (Or, alienating governments)
- Do our clerics, ministers, priests, mullahs, rabbis and shamen really preach the Golden Rule, or are they spreading fear and suspicion to keep you under their influence or accomplish some other agenda? (How do you test this?)
- Do our public, private and parochial schools and institutions of higher learning truly prepare our young people to function well in the world of tomorrow, or, do we just make them “respect” authority and pass tests.

## Social Justice

The trouble with “social justice” begins with the very meaning of the term. Hayek points out that whole books and treatises have been written about social justice without ever offering a definition of it. It is allowed to float in the air as if everyone will recognize an instance of it when it appears. This vagueness seems indispensable. The minute one begins to define social justice, one runs into embarrassing intellectual difficulties. It becomes, most often, a term of art whose operational meaning is, “We need a law against that.” In other words, it becomes an instrument of ideological intimidation, for the purpose of gaining the power of legal coercion.

**Defining Social Justice, Michael Novak,** [Copyright \(c\) 2000 First Things 108 \(December 2000\): 11-13.,](http://www.firstthings.com/ftissues/ft0012/opinion/novak.html)  
<http://www.firstthings.com/ftissues/ft0012/opinion/novak.html>

## Charity or Cooperation...

None of us have truly internalized the obvious conclusion, that if we all prosper, we will all be prosperous. That, what every pioneer that participated in a barn raising or a hay gathering knew -- that **when you helped your neighbor, you helped yourself** (and it was a fun social occasion), even though he might be your competitor. Because, wealth will spread itself around the community if it isn't hoarded by a few. Curt's Corollary to that is that societies must have "critical mass" in order to grow; be it: socially, economically, intellectually, technically. On a world scale this has produced food and computers for the masses and atom bombs and low cost AK-47's. (Having the ability to produce (a lot of) something, doesn't seem to go along with knowing appropriateness.)

Curt Gibby, Economics 000 <http://www.northstarinst.org/economics000rev05.html>

“ If oxygen masks come down, put on your own first, then assist your children or your neighbor.”

*You can't help others if you have passed out from lack of oxygen.*

# Practical Charity

Rule for life guards (in this order)-

Don't Panic

Get the victim's attention – “Do you want help?”

- 1. **Reach** – with a long pole
- 2. **Throw** – a rope with something that floats
- 3. **Go** – the most dangerous alternative – panicked drowning people often overpower their rescuers.

# Authority? a lesson from Nature

Both capitalists and the new Marxists bent Darwin to fit their ends. Kropotkin reacted with articles. He showed that cooperation is our primary survival strategy. He wrote:

*Life in societies enables the feeblest animals, the feeblest birds, and the feeblest mammals to resist, or protect themselves from the most terrible birds and beasts of prey;* Kropotkin showed how acts of mercy and mutual support were part of all insect, animal, and human societies. In 1902 he wove his studies into a powerful lucid book. He called it *Mutual Aid*.

Kropotkin had supported the Russian revolution. But, as Marxists turned up their own Darwinian rhetoric, he withdrew. Before his death in 1921 he wrote to Lenin, "Vladimir Ilych, your actions are [unworthy of your ideals]." And today we're learning that Kropotkin's modes of cooperation are far more subtly active in our ecology than we'd once thought. We find new hope in his words,

*[A society] which organizes itself without authority is always in existence. [It is] like a seed beneath the snow.*

It really is you and I who shape our world and who will save our world. Our cooperation and interaction have far more to say than any form of leadership does. We form our world simply by working together and by cherishing one another.

**John Lienhard, THE SUBTLE TEXTURE OF COOPERATION** <http://uh.edu/engines/hisd.htm>

# Homelessness in America, 2005

By Tyler Cabot

Experts attribute the rise of the homeless population since 2000 to a perfect storm of a slow economy with too few well-paying jobs and a housing market that has risen exponentially, pricing those on the margins out of homes. "Up until 1980, we thought it was good public policy to have a minimum wage set so that if someone worked 40 hours a week, he could afford housing anywhere in this country," says Robert Hess, deputy managing director for special-needs housing in Philadelphia. "Today, at least in Philly, you have to work 130 hours a week at minimum wage to afford [minimal] market-rate housing. It's a joke."

Esquire Magazine, May 2005

## **US Military Rules Governing Combat (Satire)**

### **Marine Corps Rules:**

(Some of these rules have obvious and useful analogs in civilian life, which ones are a matter of your ethics)

1. Be courteous to everyone, friendly to no one.
2. Decide to be aggressive enough, quickly enough.
3. Have a plan.
4. Have a back-up plan, because the first one probably won't work.
5. Be polite. Be professional. But, have a plan to kill everyone you meet.
6. Do not attend a gunfight with a handgun whose caliber does not start with a "4."
7. Anything worth shooting is worth shooting twice. Ammo is cheap. Life is expensive.
8. Move away from your attacker. Distance is your friend. (lateral & diagonal preferred.)
9. Use cover or concealment as much as possible.
10. Flank your adversary when possible. Protect yours.
11. Always cheat; always win. The only unfair fight is the one you lose.
12. In ten years nobody will remember the details of caliber, stance, or tactics. They will only remember who lived.
13. If you can't shoot, you should be cut out of the team to shoot.

## **US Military Rules Governing Combat (Satire Continued)**

### **Navy SEAL Rules:**

1. Look very cool in sunglasses.
2. Kill every living thing within view.
3. Adjust speedo.
4. Check hair in mirror.

### **US Army Rules:**

1. Select a new beret to wear.
2. Sew patch on right shoulder.
3. Change the color of beret you decide to wear.

### **Army Ranger Rules:**

1. Walk in 50 miles wearing 75 pound rucksack while starving.
2. Locate individuals requiring killing.
3. Request permission via radio from "Higher" to perform killing.
4. Curse bitterly when mission is aborted.
5. Walk out 50 miles wearing a 75 pound rucksack while starving.

## US Military Rules Governing Combat (Satire Continued)

### Air Force Rules:

1. Have a cocktail.
2. Adjust temperature on air-conditioner.
3. See what's on HBO.
4. Ask "what is a gunfight?"
5. Request more funding from Congress with a "killer" PowerPoint presentation.
6. Wine & dine 'key' Congressmen, invite DOD & defense industry executives.
7. Receive funding, set up new command and assemble assets.
8. Declare the assets "strategic" and never deploy them operationally.
9. Hurry to make 1345 tee-time.

### Navy Rules:

1. Go to Sea.
2. Drink Coffee.
3. Watch porn.
4. Deploy the Marines