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THE LIGHT OF THE DAY

If you look closely down the alleyways of older cities, or in government city halls, or on the side of an elementary school built in the 1950s, you may find a an old dirty, sooty, rusty metal sign. The triangles denoted meaning lost to most Americans who did not grow up with the instructions of their parents or teachers.

Each city had a weekly radio alert. One local station had been designated as an emergency transmitter in case of a national disaster. Today, those civil defense broadcasts are forgotten in time capsules.

It was not that long ago that children were trained on bomb shelters, the threat of a nuclear attack, and the destruction of the American Way of Life. A generation that lived through a depression, two World Wars, and the Cold War is no longer around to teach the children the light of the days ahead.

9/11 should have placed the Light in the memories of each and every American. But the American psyche has been diluted to the point of a half-hour, mind-numbing, reality television show. Things fade in and out of memory faster than the swiping of a credit card at the local burger joint.

The old, traditional media sheds little light on the politics of the day. The cable news channels are scavengers, picking a part the rotting carcasses of past political leaders or fading unrealistic policies of the past. The vocal ones are grousing hyenas, loud mouth scavengers none the less.

The old media desires to manipulate the results of the elections before the polls even open. Yellow journalism is still around today, but it is disguised as public interest broadcasting. Media has a vested economic interest in a bloodbath political battle because election ads are cash and carry profits to the networks.

The old media still leans the left. Its guest telephone directories are filled with even more leaning left academics and career politicians who push and nudge their way to the trough of public spending to digest their piggish fill.

The rotation of the bodies is like a farmer rotating beans for corn. The Dems out of power host shows and get fat book deals. The Repubs take control of the budget and spend billions on their special interest programs. When the Repubs get defeated, the Dems will with unsurpassed gluttony, write more checks we cannot cash, while the Repubs get their own book deals and cable shows to bide their time away from the D.C. cash machine called Congressional spending.

2004 election is not about change. There can be no change with the current Two Party/One Party in Reality system. There is no difference between a Republican or Democrat in Congress. The Senate millionaires club is just that, an elitist country club of power brokers or socialite party primos. The presidential candidates are merely having a flashback Yale student body election at our collective expense.



BUSH LEAGUER'S SECOND SEASON

George W. Bush, #43, is like a major league baseball manager who has spent a fortune on superstar secondary players but finds himself falling out of the race due to failing expectations. Bush won the presidency not on his will or personality but by the closest of margins because he announced his Team (Cheney, Powell, Rumsfeld etc.) to the voters before the Big Day. The voters elected a team to the presidency.

And the Elephants, the symbol for the old Philadelphia A's, got good grades for their handling of the post-9/11 era. The group of tough seasoned veterans were able to handle the Sunday morning press hosts like a hot knife through butter. The Big Lead in the standings has narrowed.



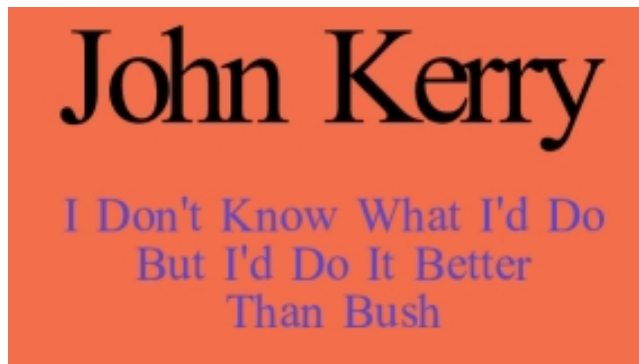
The opponents have started to balk at Bush's command of being in command. The Democratic lovefest in Boston was all about John Kerry's Vietnam heroism, his purple hearts, his combat service and his fitness for command. By implication, it was a frontal assault on Bush's leadership in foreign policy. The sole focus of the pollsters has been that four letter word the media loves to curse: Iraq.

The Bush-Cheney-Powell-Rumfeld reasons for the invasion of Iraq have proven more illusory than real. Saddam Hussein was a brutal dictator who would have tried another invasion of a neighboring country to upset the balance of power in the Middle East. But Bush has failed to comprehend the gravity of placing the center of the USA's military in the Middle East. Iraq is not post-war Germany, in need of defending against a Russian invasion. Iraq is the cross-roads for militant Muslim radical behavior. Religious intolerance. Anti-Israeli proponents. Brutal shows of force is the only way to gain respect.

The disconnect between fighting a war against Saddam's government and the freedom of the Iraqi citizens is the root problem. When Bush said major combat was over when the tanks rolled into Baghdad, it made the tactical mistake of allowing the dissenters to continue to fight a war that Bush said was over. Bush had no grievance against the Iraqi people; but the Iraqi people had resentment against the Americans. The only possible victory would have been unconditional surrender of the hearts, minds and souls of all the Iraqi people. But in political Washington DC, that is not politically correct. The passionate conservative bailed out on the end game and called a draw.

Bush may have guarded spare parts as part of his duties with the Alabama national guard, but that is not the record he is running on. He has to convince the American public that changing the Executive would be more dangerous than keeping him in office. It is very difficult to prove a negative proposition.

This election Bush has not filled in his second term line-up card. He may have to run on his advisor's coat-tails and good will in order to get re-elected in November.



KERRY ON THE DONKEY TRADITION

John Kerry went to Vietnam with an agenda. He would get out of his tour of duty as fast as possible to run for political office as a peace candidate, someone more credible than the peacenik campus protesters. He found out that three purple hearts leads to an honorable discharge; so he wrote his own valor reports and wrote his own ticket home.

Once he returned to America, he became a pit-bull advocate against his own soldiers. Returning Vietnam vets were the first fighting force to return home to boos and slanderous generalizations. The veterans, including the Swift boat commanders, never forgot the harsh comments a young Kerry said to the Congressional committees or to the press. They had a long memory because most had to tough it out for their full 12 month tour of duty.



So when Kerry praises himself about his valent Vietnam career, he is shooting himself in the foot. Bob Dole fumes that he is unaware of any veteran with three purple hearts who did not come home disabled. He speaks from personal experience.

But Kerry does not seem to care. He is a campaign zombie speaking from podium to podium. He never speaks of his ghost career in the U.S. Senate where he has the worst attendance and voting record. It was too much of a bother to show up and be a senator. He signed on to only a handful of bills. His ideas were not the centerpiece of any policy movement. He was merely a nameplate on an office door.

He had hid in the weeds and waited for the opportunity to better himself. Whether it was the war, his career, or his marriages. He was the sly opportunist. When the Democratic party believed early on that Bush was unbeatable after his 9/11 speech, he rushed to the center and found he could get huge donations on the road to the nomination. The old Clinton forces believe the real election is in 2008. Only a token candidate, like Michael Dukakis, would fill a void.

Kerry has a political void which he will never be able to fill. He has no vision. He has no

specifics. He has only one goal: say anything to get elected. He plays short bursts of the “common man” routine like skiing, bike riding or parasailing, but when he falls and the photo op is ruined, he blames his secret service agent for getting in his way. He has the temperament of a spoiled child. He has the attention span of a bipolar gnat. His campaign speeches are cold reads of leftover rhetoric. He thinks his initials, JFK, will invoke a tidal wave of nostalgic support. As Lloyd Bentsen was apt to say, “I knew JFK, and you’re no JFK.”

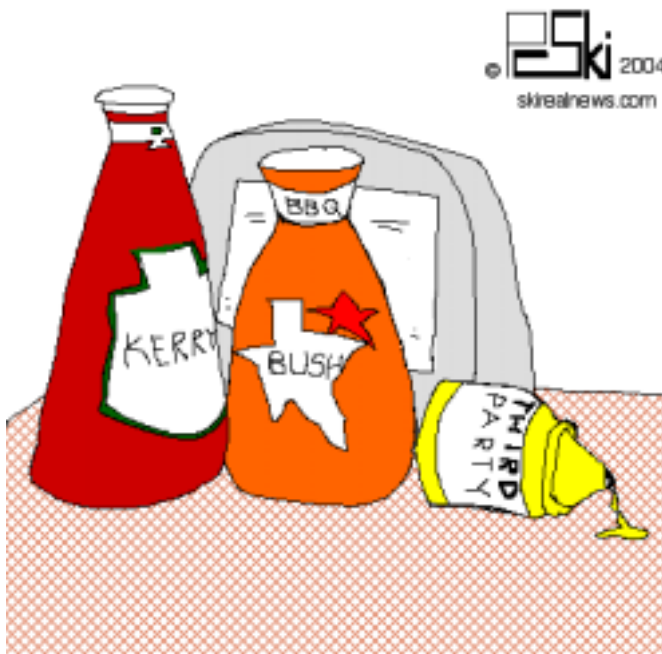
SETTING THE TABLE

If the Election were a diner, there would be slim pickings on the table. The condiments would be sparse even though the candidates relish the prospect of being the top Hot Dog.

U.S senators are isolated elitists. Governors are populist wind socks. The latter is more electable in national contests. However, this election comes down to a popularity contest in 18 “swing states.” The candidates will spend more time in Ohio and Iowa than New York or California. Of course it does not make sense, but the industry of political process has churned the voter databases and polling numbers to find the key electoral votes. It is the new Jungle, and again the average person does not want to see how sausage is made at the factory.

The nominating conventions were assembly line speeches of boring incompetent and self promoting book and development deals. The two main parties have run the gambit on the issues or problems they promise they can solve if they have just four more years in office. This snake oil speech has been droning on and on for 50 years and the same problems/issues/programs are being propped up with billions of tax dollars with no real results. So the pols have decided not even to promise specifics anymore; just run on generalizations and public relations created character messages.

Without any meat in the pot, there can be no stew. The candidates have kept all the fat to themselves and the voters will be stewed soon.



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Candidates from national to local elections are bland, cookie-cutter Gingerbread figures. Bland. Flat. Boring. No place better to highlight the collapse of the republic-democracy is Illinois. The state GOP failed to find a viable candidate within its own borders so it nominated Marylander-gadfly Alan Keyes for US Senate. The state party leaders refused to put out their own necks to run against the Demo rock star, Barack Obama. Losers never run again. Winning office is a big money proposition to a career politician. And there flows the problem.

In Illinois, the landscape has been carved into warload feudal regions. Mayor Daley is acting like a dictator within Chicago. The new Governor is running his own power machine in Springfield. The Speaker of the House hoisted his own daughter to Attorney General to take the heat off any General Assembly scandals. And all these officials are Democrats warring with each other!



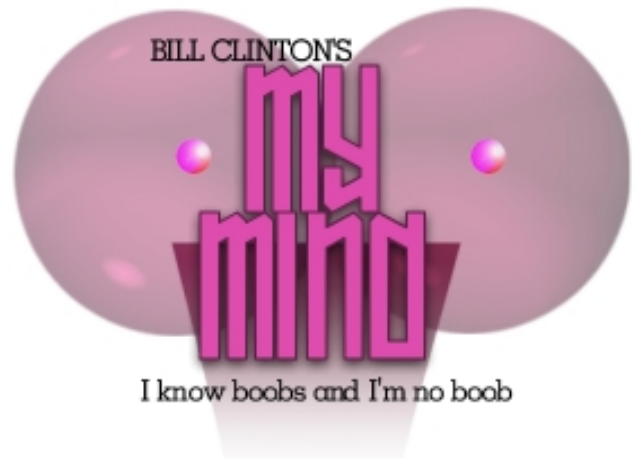
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United States of America
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The Cool Place



Bright minds think alike





There are alternatives. Jerry Kohn is the Libertarian candidate for US Senate in Illinois. He was a Republican, but got disgusted with the party's change away from conservative values. The Chicago Tribune interviewed him during the Jack Ryan sex scandal as an independent alternative to the imploding state Republican party. But the major candidates, Obama and Keyes, will not allow the limelight to be shared by third party candidates. The only thing that could happen would be that the third party candidates will make them look bad.

On the presidential front, Michael Badnarik is a constitutional scholar who won the Libertarian party nomination. He appeals to the "keep government out of my social life" Democrats and to the conservative, gun-toting, national defense Republicans. The Libertarians have been the hybrid party of ideas for more than 20 years. In the past, the major candidates have stripped them of their issues, taken them as their own, then downgraded their status on the ballot as "a wasted vote."

The Libertarians are for one thing the major parties cannot grasp: individual responsibility over government regulation. As former presidential candidate Harry Browne opined if he was elected president, he would slash his cabinet in half, terminate half of the executive agencies, and reduce government regulation in individual choices all before lunch on his first day on the job.

But the anti-government candidates have been drowned out by the Big Brother government is the only solution salvation tent show. Bill Clinton was a typical ringmaster of this circus. Now

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his ticket takers are running the DNC and 527 attack groups. Without the new evil, Terrorists, the two major parties would have nothing to speak about to the average American. Unless you have a government job or a government contract, you are paying more than half of your income in income, sales, property and use taxes to some governmental agency. Big government is the legalized protection racket for the average taxpayer.

The major candidates talk about the need for change in this country. If people would really listen, and would really want change, they would vote en masse for a third party candidate. That is the only civilized way to shake up the system and make a dramatic change. When Steven Forbes ran for president, his serious change to the tax code, the simple flat tax, made him a contender until he was put under the steamroller by the national media pundits. The flat tax has not surfaced again because Congress buys donations by changing the tax code every session.

Speaker Dennis Haskert has floated the idea of a national sales tax to replace (or in reality supplement the income tax system because there has been no tax that Congress refuses to give up). When pushed to explain this new tax, he drops a figure of about 17% as the tax rate for all purchases. With state and local sales tax rates nearing 9% as it stands, who on earth wants to pay a total of 26% to the government for the privilege of buying a piece of merchandise. But this is what career politicians think about: more revenue streams to pay for their expanding perks and personal retirement funds. Change is needed.



THE IDS OF OZ



*We're off to see the Wizard,
The Wonderful Wizard of Politics.
I need a brain. I need a heart.
I need courage.
So we are off---
Off to see the Wizard,
The Wonderful Wizard of Politics!*

The old line, ward healer Democratic pros from the McGovern-McCarthy era of the party cannot swallow the brine of the state of their party elite. The top of the ticket used to be about principles and major issues. It was about the direction of the country. Crossroads.

Today, the presidential candidates have been a procession of political hacks trying to write their glorified histories before being elected to the Oval Office. They have not been men from the upper crust of the private sector, but career politicians, wealthy bluebloods or worse, both.

John Kerry is the latest in a bunch of bananas running the party. Walter Mondale was the walking ghost of the Minnesota liberal machine. Michael Dukakis was doomed to fail from the start. Bill Clinton smooth his way into impeachment as his dirty habits of a low budget Arkansas governor on the prowl with state troopers will be his only legacy. Al Gore was the unlikable Senate vampire

who believed he was entitled to the presidency because of his birthright.

The only qualification to be a Democratic frontrunner these days is EGO. The bigger the ego the bigger the opportunity for the national stage. They are actors in a really dated movie.

It would be a simple remake. Hollywood, the Democratic playland, loves remakes. Gore can play the character in need of a brain. Clinton can play the character in need of a heart. And Kerry, he can play the character in need of courage.

But there would be a battle over which politician would get top billing. This would sink any prospect of a blockbuster reunion. Each actor has no use for the others. Each thinks themselves as the reigning chief of the party.

After going on and on about his military service, Kerry attempted to portray himself as the real commander in chief. This was to counter the onslaught of negative commentary from other Vietnam vets who claimed that he was unfit for command because of doubts on his service record of purple hearts and his post-tour anti-war claims. His acceptance speech was devoid of any accomplishments during his 20 years in the Senate. His sole focus was being the hawk Democratic because the pre-convention focus groups number one concern was terrorism/national security.

But when he got no bounce from his convention, Kerry took another vacation. He can only swallow his pride and take the Clinton 1992 playbook off the shelf. Bush #43 is in the same position as Bush #41. He got a great boost from a strong war record in Iraq, but the economy has gone soft and people will vote their pocketbook before principle. But Kerry's ego will not allow him to copy Clinton, because he dislikes the Clintonites that run the DNC. He really believes that since he won the primaries, America owes him the presidency. It is not an election but a coronation.

Just as Gore was a sore loser, Kerry appears to be a sore winner. He constantly whines about the negative ads being played against him. His poll numbers fall; his testiness rises. He can't handle the pressure of the campaign. How would he handle the office itself?



Employee of the Month

Rocky Mountain Bureau Chief Crag Antler was proud to announce that the Real News employee of the month was Rush “Rocky” Rogstad.



When not bunkered in his spider hole of office, Rush has numerous hobbies. He trains cobras to spit liberal party soundbites at PTA meetings. He collects fossils from the Hoover administration. He spends most of his day trying to find that 100 foot wave to surf . . . on the internet from the safety of his lounge chair. He spends weekends in Yellowstone National park watching bison ram into tourist SUVs. He roots for the bison.

When told of his award, he asked “How much is the honorary?” When told that the award had no monetary compensation, he flipped out. “You m&^*#@\$*\$&#\$# s#\$%\$%^\$# . . .” His raging outburst has put him on a manager track.



Antler said that the award was an easy decision. “The reasons why Rocky won the award was that he has missed all his deadlines, he complains about everything, he has crashed our computer systems on a daily basis, and he ran up our telephone bill to almost bankruptcy levels.”

Antler continued. “I think the situation is that he does not get enough caffeine in the morning to get his catatonic brain cells to function at the base monkey level that all Real News employees must maintain in order to avoid chronic zombism.”

The Publisher was not informed of this award prior to this edition going to press. “We did not want to upset the boss,” Antler said. “The Rocky Mountain bureau has prided itself on not delivering any printable copy for the last two years. Why should we waste our time writing memos to the home office. We have other things to do. We have extended cable and a corporate credit card.”



Hurricane TV

The Hurricane Center has no sense of humor. It should have named the first two Florida hurricanes, Bonnie and Clyde (instead of Charley) so the headline writers across America could get out their gatt slang books from the 1920s.

When Hurricane Connie Frances hit the coast a few weeks later, the networks heard the song "Who's Sorry Now?" Every single television crew in the state put their street reporters in front of the wind tunnel to basically say nothing. It is the stupid people in harm's way television photo shot. The only purpose for this television stupidity is to get a roll of tape submitted to the local Emmy committee. Television awards are for

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wind bags.

The Energizer Bunny had a distasteful ad during the height of the Storm. It showed a post man delivering mail while the entire neighborhood around him is being blown away by Category 2 winds and rain. Madison Avenue is as brain dead as television producers. Brian Williams is running around the coast in the Bloom-Iraqi mobile comm unit. Did NBC think this story was equivalent to a war zone? Williams hunkered down in a local hospital instead of patrolling the scarred streets of Vero Beach. Why hurt your chances of promotion by actually getting hurt on assignment. Don't give Brokaw a reason to reconsider his retirement.



THE BLENDER CALLED THE YEAR OF 2004

Hurricanes, political lies that are 30 years old, the economy is either good or bad, prices are skyrocketing without any government recognition of inflation, the stock market has been replaced by poker tournaments, the nip and tuck B-celebrity reality show tramp, the unqualified apprentice to a bankrupt boss and the government hand-out promise that is the monopoly money of the incumbent candidate for any office. Put it all in a blender with shark chum and a wad of new colorful \$20 bills, you have a real picture of this country this year.

The more John Kerry campaigns, the more he is disliked . . . by old school Democrats. The more George W. Bush speaks of his first term, the more he sounds like his one term father. The independent voter has been pushed, polled, plucked and pinned more than an ostrich on the way to a gourmet meat market. The media has let its guard down and really does not cover up its bias for one candidate over another. CBS is rocked with a journalism scandal over using forged documents to call Bush's national guard service as a lie. Fox News is attacked for a right wing leaning slant that makes the Leaning Tower look upright. Less and less Americans are paying attention to the so-called "most important election in their lifetime." It is really the most important election to the politicians running for office, for this time may be the last time they will have a free pass to their perk laden positions.

There comes a time when the populous will say enough is enough. If the federal deficit grows to bury every man woman and child in suffocating debt service through increased taxation, there will be a rebellion. It is beginning to stir at the local level, where states have borrowed their citizens into a generational hole. They have taxed their citizens to the breaking point, so they are trying to sell off state buildings, or sell the state name to beverage makers for marketing fees. It is stupid. Instead of managing a budget like a normal house-



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hold, the state pols run around like a crack whore looking for quick money scores to feed their whacked out budget addiction. The fastest growing segment of state budgets is the pensions and benefits for the elected officials. It is private gain on the pledge of public service.

The hollow promises of both parties for the past generation have got to roost sooner than later. Every single issue since WWII that state and national politics claimed to have the solutions for has failed miserably. Education. Worse than ever. National security. What color level are we at today? Economic growth. Unless you are part of the third of American work force employed by the fast food industry, the growth is an illusion called worker turnover. Public health. Medicine is not practiced it is managed, or in the case of Medicaid and Medicare, mismanaged.

That is why both parties hate the idea of any third party candidate on the ballot. Because if people voted for real change, a third party candidate, like a Libertarian, could ruin their Party.

