



## Bush doublespeak cuts to bone



**Write Angles**  
Pat Malach

It's about trust. Well, actually it's about trust and taxes.

The theme of the Bush/Quayle campaign has evolved into a character assassination of Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton.

"My opponent, I like to call him Gov. Doublespeak," Bush has said, "needs to come clean with the American people."

And Bush should know about not coming clean. He has lied to the American people about how much he knew about Manuel Noriega's drug dealing. He lied to the American people about being in "the loop" of Iran/Contra. And his administration is currently involved in allegations that it covered up a banking scandal that led to U.S. dollars being used to arm Saddam Hussein.

The press has done its best to cover these stories and dig for some semblance of truth.

On the down side, the media have also admitted spending considerable resources proving that no woman besides his wife has slept with George Bush (go figure).

All the while these fine journalists have been hounding the bedroom trail, a character issue that could have a real effect on our nation's leader has all but been ignored.

It's called Skull and Bones. During his junior year at Yale University, George Bush was "tapped" to be a member of the school's elite secret society. After an initiation that involved laying in a coffin naked and revealing his adolescent sex life, the future president was honored as one of that year's chosen 15.

Because it is a secret society, little is known about Skull and Bones. Most people (including journalists) have always assumed the club is just a secretive good-old-boys' club for East Coast WASPs.

There has never been any substantial proof offered that Skull and Bones is anything but an innocent little club with a few odd rituals. Of course, no

one has ever proven the harmlessness of the group either.

The point should be made that if *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* have spent considerable resources finding out who slept with whom, you would expect the organizations to look into a club whose membership boasts the president, the CIA director, the country's leaders in banking and industry and numerous senators, congressmen, journalists and publishers.

Other than being rich, white members of America's aristocracy, what kind of bonds and allegiances do these men have to each other? How far would they go to scratch each other's backs, as it were?

These are the kinds of questions that bother researchers like Dr. Ralph Bunch, a political science professor at Portland State University.

"The real question is, since it's a secret organization, what relationship do Bonesmen have to each other that would be inappropriate for a public figure?" Bunch said. "What kind of commitment does George Bush make to his fellow Bonesmen that he's sworn to uphold their interests?"

In an article written for *The Washington Post* during the 1988 election, Republican and Yale graduate Bob Woodward reported: "Throughout his life Bush has forged a series of strong allegiances that have been critically important to him personally, and to his rise. Indeed, friends and associates from every phase of his life agreed that relationships with other people have always been much more important to Bush than political ideas, policy preferences or any abstract political concern."

This is a pretty strong statement made about a man who is sworn to uphold the interests of a country full of people he's never met, people who certainly don't fall within his aristocratic class.

In the *Post* article, fellow Bonesman William Connelly Jr. characterized members as "stand(ing) together, 15 brothers under the skin. (It is) the greatest allegiance in the world."

Bush has steadfastly refused to discuss Skull and Bones. He refused to discuss it for Woodward's 1988 article, saying he "didn't know that (he) could contribute anything to it." It wasn't until Bush was cornered on an airplane by *Esquire* writer Ron Rosenbaum that he finally admitted he was even a member.

"The amazing thing is that we don't even bring the question up," Bunch said. "We don't ask that of Bush, and it should be a public question."

There is also the issue of what the agenda of Skull and Bones is. Bunch seems to believe it's just a fraternal club with strong ties between members.

Other researchers believe the agenda of Skull and Bones is much more sinister. The idea is that Skull and Bones is an organization bent on developing one governing body of white males to rule the world.

It's easy to laugh at this conspiracy theory. But remember, all knowledge of Skull and Bones is highly speculative. Few facts are known about the group. The idea that it is simply an "old boys' club" is entirely as assumed as the conspiracy theory. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to laugh at the people who believe Skull and Bones' agenda is to set up a "New World Order" (a quote from Bones founder General William Huntington Russell) out of knowledge of facts, rather than a blind assumption?

Why don't you just level with the American people, Mr. President?

Pat Malach is editor of the Emerald.



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