

■ Editorial

# And the scripted award goes to...

Since presidential politics has become little more than an over-hyped example of show biz at its most disreputable, the Emerald would like to present the following awards for excellence in political info-tainment to the participants of the first 2004 Presidential Debate and the media circus that surrounded it:

- **The Hippest Talking Head Award** goes to former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright for using the word "dissed" when discussing foreign policy with CNN's Anderson Cooper.
- **The Best 'Up Yours' Award** goes to the television stations that broadcast reaction shots despite provisions in the ridiculously stodgy "Memorandum of Understanding" that directly forbade it.
- **The Slow News Day Award** goes to the overwhelming media coverage of the height of the podiums and the dimensions of the stools.
- **The Two Snaps Up Award** goes to the wardrobe consultant who made sure the candidates wore coordinated ties.
- **The Softest Softball Question Award:** "What colossal misjudgments, in your opinion, has President Bush made in these areas?" Jim Lehrer might as well have asked, "Mr. Kerry, would you please level any attack on your opponent?"
- **The Most Obvious Use of a Word of the Day Calendar Award** goes to George W. Bush for, "... That's why they're fighting so vociferously."
- **The Phrase With the Most Potential to Be Turned Into a Dirty Joke Award** goes to John Kerry for using the term "backdoor draft."
- **The 'Is This Thing On?' Award** goes to George W. Bush for telling jokes despite the fact that the audience was not allowed to laugh. Among his biggest flops was, "Well, actually, he forgot Poland."
- **The 'Did They Seriously Just Mention Vietnam Again?' Award** goes to John Kerry, who alluded to Vietnam at least five times compared to Bush's single reference.
- **The 'You Graduated from Yale?' Award** goes to Kerry for suggesting we have a "fresh start" in war, to which his constituency would like to see a fresh end.
- **The 'Thank Goodness Umms, Ahs and Awkward Pauses Don't Appear in the Debate Transcripts' Award** most definitely goes to ... uh ... ah ... umm ... Bush.
- **The Most Rehashing of a Convention Speech Award** was close, but Kerry won by a nose with, "I defended this country as a young man at war, and I will defend it as president of the United States."
- **The Giving "Saturday Night Live" Even More Fodder to Mock Your Image Award** is a tie. Kerry oozed an elitist arrogance that made the whole debate seem like an Adams Family spin-off series called "Mr. Lurch Goes to Washington," while Bush looked like a stun-gunned chimpanzee that desperately needed to get to a Toastmasters meeting.

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# Jagernauth: Non-votes for Kerry kill the Progressive Party

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to fight for what is right when it could weaken them politically, then what good are they? Who cares what they say or think when they aren't willing to act on those beliefs or take responsibility for their horrendous votes?

Now the Greens for Kerry — yellow Greens as I call them — have conspired with the Democrats to destroy the progressive movement from within. I've watched the man who best represents my beliefs and values, Ralph Nader, kicked off the ballot in Oregon and unfairly attacked from the left.

When honkey-donkeys blame Nader for what happened in 2000, it is a slap in the face to the black community. Your outrage, progressive America, is misplaced, as usual. Part of President George W. Bush's legacy, win or lose, will be that he set back the progressive movement at least a decade. And what has the progressive movement gained by falling on its sword?

According to Congressional Quarterly, Kerry supported Bush on 65 percent of votes in 2001, including the USA PATRIOT Act,

which he still supports. I guess in a vote between 100 percent evil and 65 percent evil, the choice is clear. And although Kerry supported Bush in 72 percent of the votes in 2002, he became significantly less evil after he started running for president. In 2003, he dipped into the 30-percent range. And this year, he basically stopped voting altogether, participating in only 11 percent of the votes, as of the middle of July.

Unlike Al Gore, I will not begrudge those who choose to sit this election out or "throw their vote

away" on Ralph Nader or any candidate who represents their beliefs. Nor will I waste an ounce of energy praising Kerry. If he is elected, I will give a sigh of relief, but I will not join my peers in celebration — I will not even crack a smile.

Instead, I will start down that long road toward rebuilding the progressive movement, at every step, reminding my peers what a terrible mistake they have made by hitching their wagon to John Kerry's star.

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