

Face Off: Is Miers a good choice?

onyism and favors
mpant in Bush
ministration

yo Stalnaker
Clackamas Print

ne would think George
ould have learned his
about hiring inexper-
ed staff. Well, his nomina-
of Harriet Miers to replace
ra Day O'Connor proves

She used to be Bush's
onal lawyer and was part of
biggest law firm in Texas.
really came as no surprise.
from Texas and a friend
ush with no experience.
ne else see a trend?

ers will balance
Christianity and secu-

v. Sam Krause
Editor

Miers' nomination as
e Sandra Day O'Connor's
ecement is an astounding
by the Bush administra-
that the judicial system
a balance.

ers' past as a lawyer close
e Bush family, and specifi-
our current president, is
onstrative of the conserva-
that a strong judicial sys-
needs to exercise: a strict
pretation of the constitu-

don't see Miers'
egelical Christian faith as
flag because I am opti-
ic. Some Evangelicals,
many Democrats, have
nded positively to Miers.

However, there is some dis-
sent on the Right about the
selection of Harriet Miers. This
has been more shocking than
her nomination. Apparently the
Republicans feel, like me, that
she is not qualified for the job.
Maybe the GOP is finally real-
izing that Bush doesn't make
smart decisions in hiring or
promoting. Well, that's what I
thought until I read some more
about Miers.

Apparently, she has served
as a mouth piece for George
W. Bush ever since he was

Christian and joined up with a
very conservative church. Now,
why do the neo-cons hate her
so much? I can understand why
Pat Buchanan doesn't like her.
He's an actual conservative that
has never liked Bush's policies
or decisions.

My only guess as to why
the Right is having problems
with her is that it's just a ruse.
They're only saying these things
to get the Dems to think
that maybe she really
is a good choice.
Well my fellow
Democrats,

please don't fall for the trap (if
that's what this is). I haven't had
much faith in the Democrats for
a while now, just like I lost faith
in the Republicans. Miers will
probably get approved no mat-
ter what, because even if some
Republicans don't vote for her,
I know a lot of Democrats will.
I'm just glad to see a divide
in the Republicans
over some-
thing.
Maybe
the true
conserv-
atives
will
final-
ly

What really steams me about
this nomination is the lack of
experience. She doesn't have
a paper trail we can look at to
figure her out. The only paper
trail she has just leads us to
her strong ties with Bush and
major corporations. Roberts
didn't answer questions; now
with Miers, we get somebody
who probably won't answer
any questions and also has
absolutely no experience being
a judge. Please Mr. President,
stop hiring your "buddies" and
get some people with actual
experience. You remember
what happened with "Brownie,"
right?

At least the other justices
we've had who weren't
judges previously were
constitutional scholars or
lawyers. Miers is neither.

bites to attempt to stimu-
late the grass-roots side
of conservatism. Many
pundits are now tout-
ing Miers' religion and it
seems to be working, as
slow as it may be.

One aspect of Bush's
nomination is giving
me some trepidation.
Conservative radio talk show
host James Dobson recent-
ly received a "confidential
briefing" from Karl Rove,
the president's chief political
advisor. The information
Dobson received caused him
to agree with Bush's decision
to nominate Miers. The ques-
tion that arises is why sena-
tors haven't received the same
information, seeing as how it's
up to the Senate to approve
Bush's nominations.

Harriet Miers is a good nom-
ination. She is a good Christian
with good morals and she will
view the constitution in a way
that will thwart any legislation
from the bench. I'm optimistic.

Katrina: FEMA's foibles vs. Blanco's blunders

Gabe Stone
Clackamas Print

In the aftermath of Hurricane
Katrina, all the finger-pointing and
blame-whinging obviously didn't help
things much. Democrats, in their big
government fantasies, put the blame
squarely on the Federal Emergency
Management Agency. Republicans
are eager to deflect criticism
towards the White House.
Louisiana Governor Kathleen
Blanco and New Orleans Mayor
Ray Nagin, both Democrats
incidentally. They targeted some of
their favorite government agencies
for example, the Corporation for
Public Broadcasting - for termina-
tion to help fund relief efforts.

Both, of course, can be served
with a heaping helping of blame,

with all levels of government suffer-
ing from paralyzing and incred-
ible ineptitude

First responders to disasters have
traditionally been local and state
authorities because, quite possibly,
they are closer and as Americans
we believe in federalism. By law,
the federal government can't step
in unless asked by the governor.
Blanco dropped the ball getting
multi-state National Guard assist-
ance while she and Nagin were

at odds on how to save their own
people.

Controversy has swirled around
Nagin's failure to follow New
Orleans' own disaster plan and why
all those school buses stood idle.
Nagin contends no one was there to
drive the buses. Where's the Guard
when you need them?

The federal act outlining
FEMA's mission says it is "to
provide an orderly and continuing
means of assistance ... to State and

local governments in carrying out
their responsibilities to alleviate the
suffering and damage which result
from such disasters." They were
intended to be coordinators and
facilitators, not the first (and last)
responders.

However, FEMA's preparations
for Katrina paled in comparison to
Hurricane Rita, and it seemed they
suffered from the same stultifying
confusion that local authorities did,
resulting from a byzantine bureau-
cratic boondoggle that failed thou-
sands of Americans.

More troubling, however, is its
history of wasting taxpayer money
and being a dumping ground for
political cronies. When Hurricane
Lili hit Louisiana in 2002, an
analysis by the South Florida Sun-
Sentinel revealed that FEMA gave
\$15.4 million to unaffected Baton

Rouge area residents. Let's not
forget everyone's favorite former
FEMA director and horse judge
Michael Brown, who had no emer-
gency management experience.
FEMA's previous director, Joe
Allbaugh, Bush's campaign man-
ager in 2000, recommended his col-
lege buddy Brown for his job, and
now is working for a Halliburton
subsidiary.

FEMA also subsidizes cheap
insurance for rebuilding where peo-
ple probably shouldn't build in the
first place. Even worse, 75 percent
of its 2006 disaster preparedness
grants are targeted towards terror-
ism, not natural or nuclear disas-
ters, according to a Government
Accountability Office report. FEMA
is already in the middle of a
storm; it needs to change direction
before it runs aground.

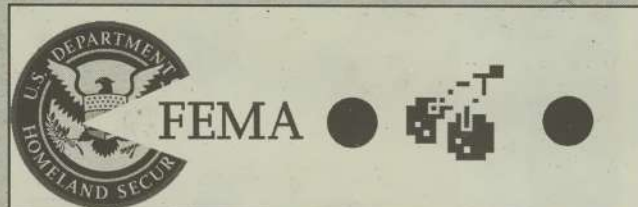


Photo illustration by Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

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The Clackamas Print is a weekly
student publication and is
distributed every Wednesday except
finals week.

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