

ROBERT ADAMS

Garry Wills observed that some of the assumptions on which American democracy is based — that reason matters, that attention to evidence matters, that "a decent respect for the opinions of mankind" matters — were abandoned by a majority of voters.

A friend of ours wrote after the election to say that the only way he could explain it was by reference to a half century of failed American education, which he noted corresponded to the age of television.

Civic life seems to me exhausted and poisoned. On many levels. What is the difference, really, between the way Bush operates with his cronies and the way our local officials operate with Calpine?

If the LNG facility is built and Kerstin and I nonetheless decide to stay — if we decide we're too old to move, or can't find a place that is relatively less corrupt — we want to try to be wiser and tougher. Though hopefully not less humane.

PAUL VAN DER VELDT

Most of us in my coffee shop agree that the mood there the morning of 11/3 was identical to the mood there the morning of 9/11. I feel that now maybe I should wear the Kerry button that didn't work since people who only read the "Bush/Cheney 2004" button failed to notice the rows of gravestones at the national cemetery.

What I frequently wonder about is the ongoing effect of accumulated group karma on us all that we have generated by the increasing deaths of thousands of human beings.

George Bernard Shaw's *Caesar & Cleopatra* comes to mind frequently — where Cleopatra is defending herself for having had an enemy slain: "If one man in all Alexandria can be found to say that I did wrong, I swear to have myself crucified on the door of the palace by my own slaves." And Caesar replies, "If one man in all the world can be found, now or forever, to know that you did wrong, that man will have either to conquer the world, as I have, or be crucified by it.... And so, to the end of history murder shall breed murder, always in the name of right and honor and peace, until the gods are tired of blood and create a race that can understand."

JON LINDHOUT

I consider myself the dumbest of the 48% who didn't vote for Bush. He outsmarted me. I got Bushwhacked.

They flat out beat our ass and maybe we've got just what we deserve.

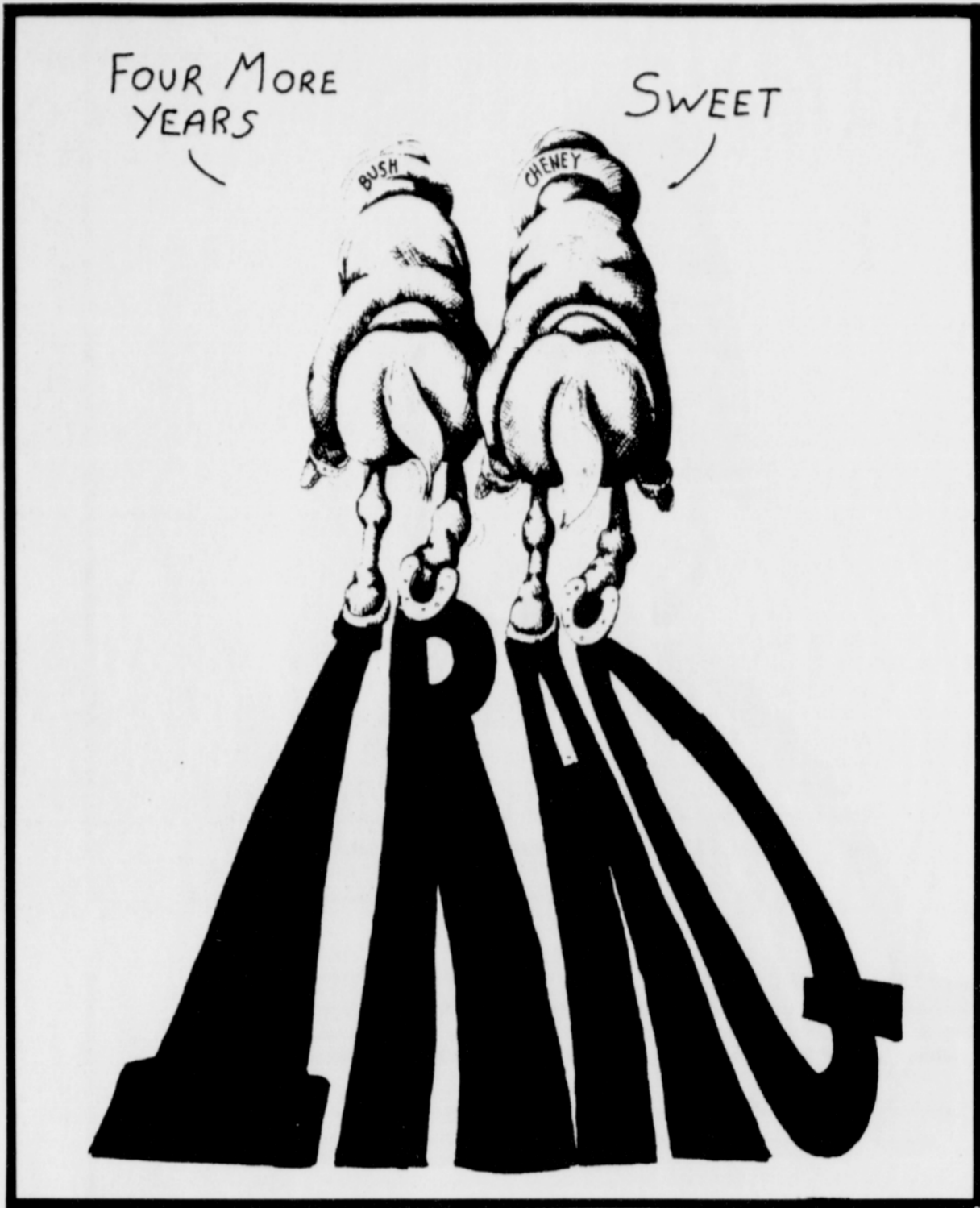
After 'Hopalong Bush' saves the world, Newt Gingrich will be President in 2008. So I will be safe until I am about 78.

SEAMUS O'MURPHY

The 2004 Presidential election was a great disappointment to me. It was not a disappointment of a political nature, since unlike the 2000 election W actually received more votes than his Democratic adversary. Last November's election was a disappointment of a religious nature. The most troubling aspect of campaign 2004 is that the Republican Party was able to claim the moral high ground and persuade the majority of voters that their agenda is the moral one.

I am a Christian. I always have been. I grew up in an era when "good Christians" marched hand in hand with Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma. Good Christians voted for such government programs as the Peace Corps, VISTA, and in general tried to improve the lot of those less fortunate than themselves, both domestic and foreign. Good Christians voted to secure the future for our elderly, and to provide a head start for our young. Good Christians welcomed the "wretched refuse" of the world who came here, and worked to overcome linguistic and cultural differences to further the concept of the melting pot. Good Christians believe in family values, but recognize that some families are headed by single mothers, or grandparents, or foster parents or even gay partners. Good Christians believe that love truly is the answer, no matter what the question.

Now, W and his fundamentalist "base" have convinced the majority that Christians believe in closing our borders to those of less desirable ethnicity. The majority would have us reward greed and avarice in the form of large corporations taking advantage of tragedy to reap great profits. Those Christians preach family values while cutting programs to the poor



DALE FLOWERS

who are struggling to keep a semblance of family together. Those Christians make war, under false pretenses, and otherwise disrupt the peace process that had made progress, so that the oil robber barons' fortunes might not be diminished.

No, I'm not disappointed in the elective process. What I am disappointed in is that I and my fellow Christians have allowed others to use Jesus' message as their justification for their belligerence and war. Rather than worry about the politics of the next election, we must endeavor to take the moral high ground back. We must get the word out that the parable of the Good Samaritan is valid today — and means that by helping those around us, without concern for religious affiliation, race, language or sex, we improve our own world. We must learn that Jesus would favor gun control. He would favor fair treatment of our seniors, young and homeless, though the cost might hurt the Halliburton robber barons.

I hope that the consequence of 2004 is that true Christians will retake the initiative in our moral debate. I hope that by 2006 people will see the hypocrisy of the fundamentalists, and return to that "Old Time Religion."

THEDA SPRACKLIN

What do I think of the November 2 election, and what the consequences will be?

Nothing beats the smell of dirty politics in the morning. Furthermore, any country, person, place or thing that elects to be led by one who questions being questioned, is heading for sheer folly.

THOMAS N. BURGESS

Having spent an adult lifetime vowing never to become a single-issue constituent, I became one. And this fact may put me on the tenuous far outer edge of the *Times Eagle* publisher's friendships. I don't like George Bush. But I voted for him.

Hands down, I voted for him. My reason being that, for right now, whatever George Bush ain't (and he ain't a lot of things), he's the first President in history to have stood before Congress and framed the words, "frivolous lawsuit." He is the first President in history to tell the predatory, tort-litigation fraternity of this country that they were going to acquire a new backside orifice. So being severely focused on this issue, I not only pledged to fight his opponent John Kerry, but to deny Kerry's running mate, a class-action lawyer, a position of (even more) power over people's lives.

As long as the lawyers-on-horseback are allowed to capitalize on litigation through contingency fees, they will remain the ultimate "blame entrepreneurs." They will conceptualize and reconceptualize accountability as they wish, and do it into infinity and capitalize it into infinity. Thus can they tread on human rights to an extent that no militarist, no capitalist mogul, no clumsy or errant government agency has yet done; and all the while posing as rights-facilitators and inventing fine print as their thirst for revenue requires it. In the process, the common man and his various little nest eggs will join industry and institutions on the lawyers' target roster. We will be laboratory-bred into one another's perpetual plaintiff.

On other fronts, neither our inward or outward worlds seem too well managed right now — so if George W. doesn't deliver on my particular investment in him, I'll not only be a/crappier with my friends, I'll be in the crapper with myself.

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THE AVAILABILITY HEURISTIC
(A POEM OF GNU GENRE)

(In response to the question of the consequences of the 2004 election, we answer with an invitation to investigative reporters)

In response, we are lead to an overwhelming question.
(Oh do not ask "What is it?"
Let us go and make our visit.)

In the cave, the analysts come and go
Applying the availability heuristic.
What do they all have in common?

How do our biases affect the act?
Of perception itself,
Of existence and survival?

Someday, we will tell it all.
I shall say,
But how do they all fit in?

After all the votes and frauds
Are counted
I shall tell it all.

We have seen them all already
All the criminals
Exporting vast sums

In the name of democracy, Bat!
Tell, Children of Chernobyl!
A bloated face!!!

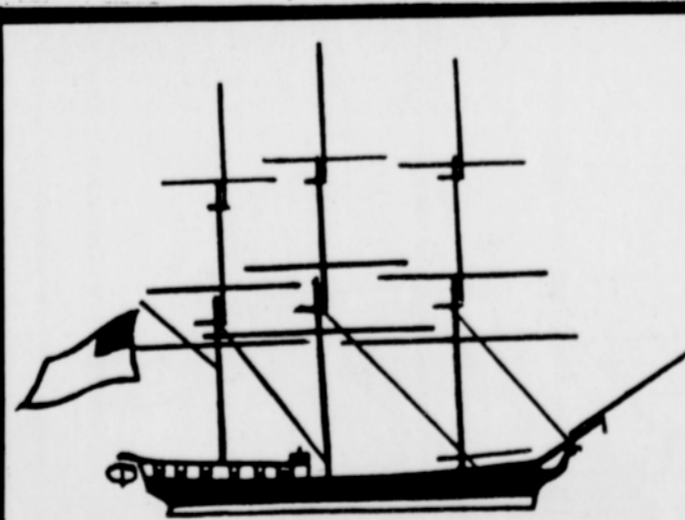
(To cover up the crime
The hundred billion
Or so, from a ewe, crane flu)

~LOIS DuPEY

HOPE L. HARRIS

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IN ASTORIA, OREGON

**LITTLE KNOWN POST-2004
ELECTION STATISTICS**

~17% of Floridians who accidentally voted for Buchanan in 2000 when they really wanted to vote for Gore voted in 2004 for Bush, thinking that they would end up with Kerry.

~Of all the people who said, "If Bush wins, I'm moving to Canada," only 0.1% actually moved there. (Of course, this figure will climb steadily once the draft is reinstated.)

~Though Kerry didn't do well among NASCAR fans and soccer moms, he did win 100% of windsurfing duck hunters.

~Although Bush garnered a whopping 88% of his votes from the Christian right, Dick Cheney pulled in an equal amount of votes from Satan worshippers who thought that he was the AntiChrist.

~11% of people who voted for Bush were gay guys trying to wriggle out of marrying their boyfriends.

~66% of viewers who watched the debates thought that Kerry showed poor sportsmanship by trouncing Bush — because you're always supposed to let the retarded guy win.

~Of the 1% of Americans who took up John Kerry's offer to check out his campaign platform on his website, 92% gave it up after 10 seconds to download porn.

~George Bush showed better than expected strength with young voters (19%) after they learned he was once a drug-addled, draft-dodging underachiever.

~93% of all Ivy League fraternity boys based their vote on which candidate's daughter they thought they had a better chance of scoring with.

~78% of Americans said they respected George Bush for recovering from alcoholism. Ironically, these are the same people who said they'd prefer to have a beer with Bush over John Kerry.

~MAD MAGAZINE