

LEFT OVER THOUGHTS

Collection: The beginning (9/13/03) thru ...

9/13/03

The “Man in Black” (Johnny Cash) explained:
I wear the black for the poor and the beaten down
Livin' in the hopeless hungry side of town

Whereas Toby Keith says:
American Girls and American Guys
We'll always stand up and salute
We'll always recognize
When we see Old Glory Flying

How did Country go from thoughtful to thoughtless so quickly?

9/15/03

Israeli vice Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, said his government intends to remove Yasser Arafat, even if they have to kill him to do it. Wouldn't that just guarantee years of suicide attacks on Israeli civilians? Well, isn't that insane? It is only insane if you assume the stated motive is the true motive.

9/17/03

The Vice President was on one of those Sunday morning propaganda shows that masquerade as news. In one hour he lied about four different major issues. This no longer surprising. What is still shocking is how this lying goes completely unchallenged by the supposed journalists who do these shows.

9/19/03

New research out of Atlanta shows that even monkeys resent unfairness, and respond emotionally rather than rationally. They respond like we do, contrary to what capitalist economic theory assumes. Perhaps it is time to admit that capitalist economic theory is as rational—and fair—as a pile of monkey dung.

9/22/03

Someone burned a huge US flag outside Frisco, CO. Papers at the scene compared the flag with the swastika. Regardless of the flag burning issue, Bush has used the flag the way the Nazis used the swastika. We can come to terms with this or not; the Germans did not.

9/24/03

Al Franken has a book called “Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them.” We know who the liar-in-chief is. A year ago the Canadian Prime Minister's spokesperson observed that this liar is a moron. Yesterday he went to the UN. He should consider himself lucky that anyone turned up to listen at all.

9/26/03

Edward Said, dead at 67. Said was a Mensch from way back. Not everyone agreed with him, but you could always count on him to speak his mind. He was an intellectual with principles. In an age when our society discounts the importance of both reason and honesty, Said stood for both.

9/29/03

“Catholic hospitals are permitted to give the morning-after pill to rape victims—but not if the medical staff determines fertilization already has occurred.” English does not offer words that are vitriolic enough to denounce the base cruelty and irrationality of this kind of policy; it is as if they simply hate people.

10/1/03

The White House is so out of control that the FBI is investigating at the CIA’s behest, so out of control that the Attorney General is in an open dispute with conservative judges. It’s like a bad Three Stooges movie: Stooges brainwashed by escaped Nazi scientist and left alone in charge of government.

10/3/03

The latest European figures show over 30,000 people died during the heat wave. Global warming is a threat to the survival of our species. So where is the war on global warming? Bush logic: If oil and military interests can profit from it then it is true, if not it must be in our imagination (and vice versa).

10/6/03

George Carlin used to open his shows: “I haven’t seen this many people all together since they took the group photo of all the criminals and law breakers in the Ronald Reagan administration.” Flash-forward to today’s White House and one wonders: do criminals become Republicans, or do Republicans become criminals?

10/8/03

The groping Nazi sympathizer with no experience won. Who would have thought that all it takes to succeed in America is an utter lack of respect for women, blacks, and Jews--that and the support of large business interests. If the Democrats could lose this, one has to wonder if they have a future.

10/10/03

A U of Maryland study found that 80% of people whose primary news source is Fox have patently erroneous beliefs about the war in Iraq. For most other media the numbers range from 17 to 23%. Obviously Fox “News” is not news. Is there a point at which regulators should shut down a broadcaster for lying?

10/13/03

The US Attorney in Miami has indicted Greenpeace. The FBI is bugging the mayor of Philadelphia. The mayor's campaign says it is political. Of course the "Justice" Department, and its various offices are political; the difference is these days they seem not to feel the need to even pretend to be professional.

10/15/03

"Conservative" Anglicans are upset. They think the Christian thing to do is to discriminate against homosexuals. I guess they never actually read anything Jesus said. A line from Woody Allen sums it up best: If Jesus came back today and saw what people do in his name he would never stop throwing up.

10/17/03

Rush Limbaugh is in rehab. It must hurt to be that conservative. Still, if someone runs around saying really inane things--even hateful and racist things--but that person is strung out on narcotics, is it their fault? Maybe that's why nothing he says has any connection to reality; it's the drugs.

10/20/03

John Paul II has canonized more saints than any other pope, even more than all other popes combined. Now he is rushing to canonize Mother Theresa, in the final debasement of sainthood. Theresa was a cruel fanatic who preached that women should not control their fertility and the poor should stay poor.

10/22/03

Abortion rights and the right to die are about the dignity of human life. Dignity means respecting the necessity of making choices. Dignity means recognizing there is a time to be born and a time to die. Republicans clearly have no respect for human dignity, and therefore deserve no respect.

10/24/03

"Student support for teachers may surprise some," the headline read. The longest running teachers' strike in Washington State history has recently ended. What brain dead idiot would be surprised that students in a working class district would see the connection between labor struggles and their own quality of life?

10/27/03

"Mr. Wolfowitz, Mr. Cheney, Mr. Rumsfeld, you hate our troops and you've sent them off to die so your friends can get rich." This observation from Michael Moore appears to sum it all up. The real question is whether or not the Democrats will have the nerve to speak this truth to power.

10/29/03

Eleven states, two districts, and 20 cities are suing the EPA to force it to protect the environment (specifically clean air). To show their support for the radical notion that people need clear air, 36 Senate Democrats voted to confirm an anti-environmentalist to run the agency. Orwell's book title was two decades early.

10/31/03

The White House has a new strategy for archiving web pages. They don't allow it. Used to be that Google could archive pages and someone could compare archived versions with current versions. Since Bush's political philosophy is based on lying, archiving the originals gets in the way.

11/3/03

House Resolution 3077 would set up a monitoring panel and remove Title VI funding from academics who fail to research and teach the imperial view of history and politics. Evil intentions aside, you have to admire the boldness with which the Republicans are pursuing their fascist reorganization of society.

11/5/03

How can we be sure there will be more terrorist attacks against the American people? "Because these attacks will be instigated at the order of the Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld, U.S. Secretary of Defense." -- Chris Floyd. Operation Northwoods is being reborn via the Pentagon's "Proactive, Preemptive Operations Group (P2OG)".

11/7/03

Rumsfeld said, "I think we need, the world needs, to think about other things we can do to reduce the number of schools that teach terrorism." What about the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Ft. Benning, GA, which trains terrorists to operate as part of regular armies in Latin America? Can you say hypocrite?

11/10/03

Jessica Lynch was a patient, not a prisoner. She needed a ride home, not a rescue. By its retelling of the lies surrounding her ride home, has NBC lowered itself to the level of those who made propaganda films for the Nazis? Where is the moral or journalistic distinction between the two?

11/12/03

Ceremonies marking the return of soldiers' remains in flag draped coffins strain support for war due to the reminder of the cost. This practice has been stopped. There are no more ceremonies. The "president" has never marked the return of any of the dead. Why does he have so little respect for those he sends off to die?

11/14/03

According to **former** Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, "It's about whether or not you acknowledge God as a source of our law and our liberty. That's all I've done." Perhaps that's true -- if you are the Taliban. Here in America, at least for now, one person's views on theology are not above the law.

11/17/03

New research out of Dartmouth shows that prejudice actually makes people stupid. On an unrelated note, some people are still going to corporate organized rallies to "support" the troops as they are sent off to die – I mean when they are deployed. Perhaps these people are not just morally deficient, they are stupid?

11/19/03

According to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, "The marriage ban works deep and scarring hardship on a very real segment of the community for no rational reason." No doubt, the hate-mongers will now try to bolster their irrational reasons for denying that marriage is about love.

11/21/03

There is something strangely appropriate about the nation's most famous drug addict, Rush Limbaugh, being investigated for laundering as much as \$400,000. The political system he advocates is best understood as a kleptocracy, so why wouldn't this strung out junkie be in on the rest of the crimes?

11/24/03

Turns out, AARP wants to be in the business of selling prescription drugs to seniors under the Republicans' latest plan to "overhaul" health care while making huge profits for their donors. No wonder AARP is supporting the coming destruction of Medicare.

11/26/03

Over two thousand cops viciously attacked FTAA protestors in Miami. Hundreds were arrested as police provocateurs pepper-spray kids and journalists. And once again (if they ever really stopped), the FBI is investigating peace groups. Welcome back to lock down Amerikkka.

11/28/03

The "president" found a way to travel without ever-larger protests greeting him: arrive unannounced, at night. He thanked the troops, not for defending oil profits, but for "defending Americans" (against a non-existent threat). We have been reduced to this? All we have left of democracy are the lies?

12/1/03

When asked about a potential draft, one 17-year old said "No problem." He would fight in Iraq because "the war is just." What more proof does anyone need that our education system is failing our children? This kid is so poorly educated and so lacking in critical thinking skills that he actually believes the things Republicans say.

12/3/03

The opposition says that Venezuela's program of bringing Cuban doctors in to work in poor clinics is part of a "sinister effort to 'Cubanize' the country and indoctrinate the poor with communist ideas." These sinister communist ideas apparently include the evil notion that everyone has a right to health care.

12/5/03

Boeing's new CEO, Harry Stonecipher, is known as an unreasonable zealot, concerned only with stock prices. As an integral part of the military-industrial complex, Boeing has decided that the slave like labor policies its military work enforces abroad can now be applied at home--to the peril of us all.

12/8/03

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda has convicted a few media executives for crimes against humanity. The defendants used their media power to encourage extreme violence. Should executives at Clear Channel and Fox News be charged with inciting violence against the people of Iraq?

12/10/03

One more reason to wonder if the "War on Terrorism" is anything other than a ruse to redistribute money from the poor to the rich is that the military has discharged 37 Arabic language specialists for being gay. Evidently the Bush administration is more afraid of gays and lesbians than terrorists.

12/12/03

According to a new UN report most ski areas in the world will be snowless by 2030. The horror, the horror! Of course, if the predictions about the effects of global warming are correct most of humanity will not be around come 2100, and that might have an even more dramatic effect on the ski industry.

12/15/03

Saddam Hussein captured. There are dark secrets yet to be uncovered. Saddam was a CIA asset beginning in 1956, and until 1990 the US government supported his dictatorship and crimes. Will anyone who knows that much about the CIA be allowed time in an open courtroom?

12/17/03 The Strangest

"He's just an uncomfortable man to be around – strange," Nixon said of Reagan in 1972. How strange and uncomfortable to be around does someone have to be for Nixon to comment? The strangest of the strange says that Reagan was stranger. Now the deviants want to put Reagan on our dime. It's laughable.

12/19/03 French Ban Head Scarves

The anti-humanistic values of all fundamentalisms are in conflict with the universal values of a free people. School children do not freely choose to adopt them or the sexist garb of fundamentalism. Is it not proper, then, for the state to free children from their isolation by banning clothing (at school) that oppresses them?

12/22/03 Threat Alerts

Being suspicious of everything Republicans say—let alone the morally bankrupt Bush administration—one wonders how far to trust these announcements of heightened threat levels (especially when they come on the busiest travel day of the year). Fascism needs fear: real, imagined, or manufactured.

12/24/03 Whose Dictator

Scripps Howard sent out its year-end propaganda piece on dictators. Included is Fidel Castro, the world's most popular politician, the man who brought Cuba first world health and education standards. Missing from the list is the world's most violent dictator: the unelected, lying, war-mongering George W. Bush.

12/26/03 The Worst Parents

"Family grieves for fallen soldier as 2nd son enlists," the headline read. These barbaric monsters are not angry that their 1st son suffered horribly and died so Bush's cronies can get richer. Now they are sending off another son to die. How can anyone care so little about their own children?

12/29/03 Nature's Revenge

Mysterious ice balls (megacryometeors), most around 30 pounds (but one was 440), are falling from clear skies around the world. Since 2000 there have been 50 documented, evidently due to global warming. From viruses to prions and now falling blocks of ice, mother nature has many ways to kill us when we abuse her.

12/31/03 State Media

Rick MacArthur of Harper's has compared the D.C. press corps with state media. Major media are an arm of the government, retelling the lies they are told. There is an obvious alignment of class interests between the owners of government, business, and the press. It would be naive to be surprised.

1/2/04 Future Complicity

"This was not something that had to happen." Thomas Kean, chairman of Sept. 11 commission, told CBS News. It is probable that the administration knew 9-11 was going to happen, so they probably know when future attacks will happen. The problem is they always lie, so they cannot be trusted to tell us.

1/5/04 Choosing Candidates

Washington State wants a new form of blanket primary. Why? Party nominations should not be handled by public primaries. Nominating candidates should be an internal affair. The electorate should be concerned with choosing **among** nominated candidates, and should not pay for parties' internal decisions.

1/7/04 Reactionary, Definition of

Reactionary: (n) 1. A political ideology in which irrational fear is made to replace reasoned inquiry into the causes of enmity. 2. An irrational person (see 1.) who pretends to provide security to airlines and travelers while redistributing wealth from working people to the owners of "defense" corporations.

1-9-04 Peace Candidate

Gore Vidal once quipped that the last time he voted was in 1964, for the peace candidate. LBJ won that election but it took almost a decade and three million lives before the peace came. One worries that this scenario will repeat itself these four decades later. If Dean or Clark win, will the war end? If not, what are the consequences for that betrayal?

1-12-04 Essence of Democracy

Sen. Harkin endorsed Dean because he is “the best person to beat George W. Bush.” Is this all that we have left of democracy? Does it not matter who the best candidate is or who has the best grasp of the problems facing us? Where is the hope? The vision? The dreams? Democracy is a sham without these.

1-14-04 Approval Ratings

If the most embarrassing, most deceitful, most violent, most insulting, and most thieving president in the last fifty years can have the highest approval rating going into a new election, what does that say about our media and public discourse? Shrub’s job approval rating is said to be 60%. So, do people just not know what he does or do they really approve?

1-16-04 Scary Elves

The people who say the War on Terrorism is a lie used to justify the police state paranoia of the Shrub administration are right, according to the FBI. The “threat” they worry about most comes from ALF and ELF, according to court documents in Seattle. Either this is true and the War on Terrorism is a scam, or the FBI is a joke, or both. Probably both.

1-19-04 MLK

In honoring the birthday and life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. we remind ourselves that things change. Dr. King’s life was about change, encouraging growth in society. Things may not have changed as much as Dr. King dreamed. But change can always happen. Even in the darkest days things continue to change—for the better if we make it so.

1-21-04 Bush Lies Idiots Cheer

“America will never seek a permission slip to defend the security of our country.” And then the audience cheers. Do they really not understand that democracy requires honesty from elected officials, or are they just so corrupt and criminal that they need those lies? Is America a criminal conspiracy or an experiment in democracy?

1-23-04 Neo vs Crypto Fascist

Shrub may have “run the most arrogant, inept, reckless and ideological foreign policy in the modern history of our country,” but the foreign policy of Democrats like Kerry is not fundamentally different. Democrats also have a foreign policy of protecting corporate interests, rationalized by fear of an imagined enemy. We deserve something better.

1-26-04 Voting Conscience

Voting the compromise of “electability” is voting against conscience. Lesser evil politics results in the death of the human spirit, the death of democracy, and the forces of darkness actually winning in the long term. For the sake of the future it may be better to die with the honor of conscience than to live without it.

1-28-04 The 9-11 Secrets

Republicans are claiming that a requested extension on the time limit for the independent commission investigating the events of 9-11-01 is politically motivated. The extension is needed because the White House is uncooperative. Now Bush is trying to stop the extension. If he has nothing to hide, why he is so afraid of the report coming out during the campaign?

1-30-04 Blair’s Lies

One might have thought that the Republicans here were the height of blatantly obvious deceit. Turns out the masters of this art are still British. A judiciary panel investigating Tony Blair’s lies about the reasons for invading Iraq concluded that the party at fault is the BBC for noticing them. There is an obvious absurdity to blaming the messenger, but they do it with such style.

2-2-04 Thieving Whales

If you are fishing for Black Cod in the really deep water off the coast of Alaska you are not on the top of the food chain. The local Sperm Whales discovered that the sound of hydraulic equipment means dinner is coming up, and they pluck the fish off the lines like grapes. They have the largest brains of any animal ever and thus far are outsmarting the humans.

2-4-04 Republicans Hate People

I don’t know why Republicans hate people. Many Republicans are people, but self-hatred is a complex issue. Republicans have great distain for marriage too, but many of them are married. In Ohio they have decided to degrade the institution of marriage by saying it is not about love. Republicans must not be capable of love or they would see the absurdity.

2-6-04 Irrational Homophobes

The Massachusetts’ Supreme Court finally explained why the people who oppose gay marriage make no sense--because they are irrational. What are they afraid of? Will the sun explode? Will straight people stop marrying and all take up with gay partners? Paranoid delusions are never a sound way to decide public policy.

2-9-04 It is about resolve

Tony Blair said the war on Iraq is a test of western resolve. Blair may be just another lying puppet most of the time, but he is right about that. The war is a test of our resolve. Will the people of the United States and Britain have the resolve to end the lies and stop the barbarism of Shrub the lesser and Blair the fool?

2-11-04 The Meaning of Life

In the long term, what is at stake in the debates about sexuality related issues (abortion, gay marriage, etc.) is how we define what it means to be human. Is the purpose of human life to be happy or to reproduce workers for an exploitative system? The movement of history is visible in conflicts over values.

2-13-04 New October Surprise

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) said, “Osama bin Laden will obviously be caught before the election.” Obviously!?! Is this because he knows that the Bush administration is planning an “October Surprise,” wherein they produce bin Laden at a time most convenient to the campaign? How many laws will that break?

2-16-04 No Nutcases in the Cockpit

“Readers say religious zealots should not be in the cockpit,” the headline read. Even the most ardent believers recognize that religious zeal can be a symptom of psychopathology. Curiously, when politicians talk that way some people are tolerant or even encouraged, but when our lives are obviously on the line—as in an airplane—it is clear that some people cannot be trusted.

2-18-04 Bush kills more people than terrorists

Sir David King (Britain’s top science policy advisor) recently said that global warming is a greater threat than terrorism. But that is really not saying much. The “war on terrorism” is itself a bigger threat than terrorism. A simple count shows that Bush and the spineless in Congress have killed almost ten times as many people as all the terrorists combined.

2-20-04 Will Kerry Confront the Lies?

Robert Scheer has said that if John Kerry is unwilling to confront Bush’s lies then there is no point supporting him because our democracy will die anyway. Why is Kerry unwilling to confront the truth, speak truth to power and tell the world that he knows Bush lied? Any democrat could beat Bush if they confront the lies. Why is that so hard for them?

2-23-04 College Football Is Like Organized Crime

There are scandals these days involving the football programs at the Universities of Colorado and Washington. The former coach at UW came from CU. One lesson I learned working for the CU student union was that big money college athletics are more like organized crime than higher education.

2-25-04 Homophobic Fantasies

The homophobes are afraid that people celebrating their love will destroy civilization. That’s obviously stupid, so it must be something else: property. The homophobes seem to have this misogynistic fantasy that the basis of marriage is male property rights. The true Christian says that love will conquer all, in spite of those who bastardize Jesus’ teachings.

2-27-04 Scalia's Delusional View of the World

Justice Scalia, writing for the minority, claimed, "This case is about discrimination against a religious minority." The case involved the State of Washington not giving scholarship money to support religious vocations, in this case a Christian ministerial student. So Scalia thinks that Christians are a religious minority. Can a lack of contact with reality disqualify a justice?

3-1-04 US Coup in Haiti

President Aristide told Maxine Waters that he did not resign and flee Haiti; US Marines kidnapped him. Perhaps he was wrong to disband the army, which could have defended him and the country from this coup. These are dangerous times for those who support democracy — the empire is spreading its tentacles anywhere it can. Hugo are you watching?

3-3-04 Winning a Mythical War

Kerry thinks Bush is failing to properly fight the War on Terrorism. How is that possible? The War is a farce constructed by Bush to justify a fascist reorganization of society. Even Bush cannot fail at something that is fictional in the first place. If Democrats want to win they must challenge the War, not fall right in line behind Bush and his abuses and deceptions.

3-5-04 The American Gestapo

A biographer of Truman recently said that he regarded the CIA as an American Gestapo, when it became obvious they were interested in overthrowing foreign governments. Presidents after him did not seem to mind. Counting Haiti now, the CIA has helped overthrow an average of one democratically elected government for every five years of its existence.

3-8-04 Elected for being Electable

"If a celebrity is someone who is famous for being famous, what do you call a politician who is elected for being electable? John Kerry?" (Ellen Goodman). Kerry is polling even with the worst president in history. Being electable will not bring people to the polls, confronting Bush's lies would. Do the Democrats want to preserve the status quo more than they want to win?

3-10-04 Mel's real motive

Mel Gibson makes violent movies. Fundamentalist Christians complain about violent movies. Now they are lining up to see one of the most violent movies ever. How are those same fundamentalists going to complain about violence in movies if they are paying through the nose to support it? Maybe Mel is just trying to stop the complaints about his chosen profession.

3-12-04 Aznar will pay

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar will be the next casualty of the bombings in Spain. If the bombing was the work of ETA then Aznar has failed to deal with them. If the bombing was the work of al-Qaida then Aznar brought the tragedy upon Spain by ignoring the majority who said NO to war. Either way the tragedy shows that he and his right-wing politics are a failure.

3-15-04 Spain Shows the Way

Terrorism usually serves right-wing interests by causing fear, and fear is the organizing tool for fascism. Today a brighter day has dawned: Spain has shown the world the path forward. Instead of rallying around the flag and turning to fear mongers they choose the enlightened path of voting them out of office. Lesson: Terrorism has a cause, to stop it you undermine the cause.

3-17-04 Spanish Eye for the American and Israeli Guy

Terrorists and right-wing politicians are mutually supportive. Rejecting the right-wing party in Spain delivers a powerful blow to the terrorists. Terrorists encourage right-wing politicians and right-wing politicians encourage terrorists. This is why real security comes through peace, not war. Americans and Israelis could reap huge benefits by following the Spanish example.

3-19-04 The Stupidest People on Earth

All of you contemplating doing something stupid in the contest to find the stupidest people on Earth can give up. We have a winner (maybe). The eight Commissioners of Rhea County (Tenn.) think homosexuality is a crime against nature and want homosexuals banned from living in Rhea. Then they reversed themselves, so should that still count as a winning entry?

3-22-04 Parting Thought on Asking the Deeper Questions

Richard Clark is getting a lot of attention for his contention that Bush has mishandled the War on Terrorism. This assumes the war is justified, disputing only how to fight it. We need to ask is America really threatened, who is responsible, and why. Clark does not ask these deeper questions and in fact functions so as to obscure them, thus perpetuating both war and terrorism.

(This is the last installment of [Left Over Thoughts](#), at least for now. It was an interesting experiment and fun for me, and I hope interesting -- at least at times -- for those who read it.)