

Notable Quotables

April 1, 2004 April Fools Edition (Vol. 17; No. 7)

A bi-weekly compilation of the latest outrageous, sometimes humorous, quotes in the liberal media.



Bringing Political
Balance to the Media

Apologize to “Prophetic” French?

“I’ve heard some say that Richard Clarke provided a beacon of love to the 9/11 families with his apology last week, while you and President Bush have simply caused heart-break and distress with a jingoistic foreign policy that has only angered the world. It seems to me this might be a good time for you to apologize to the French and Germans. After all, they’ve been proven prophetic, haven’t they, by the quagmire we’re seeing in Iraq?”

— **Bob Schieffer to Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld, April 1 *Face the Nation*.**

Clinton Would Have Stopped 9/11

“It’s now obvious that the 22nd Amendment barring third presidential terms punishes the nation more than the politician....After three years of George Bush’s flailings, who doesn’t yearn for Clinton’s steady, nuanced leadership? We would have been spared those fiscally destructive tax cuts, the environment would not have been despoiled, and America would not be an outcast among nations. With a serious and non-ideological foreign policy team which had already thwarted at least two major terrorist attacks, there’s every reason to believe that if voters could have elected Bill Clinton to a third term, September 11th would have been just a day just like any other.”

— ***Newsweek* Senior Editor Jonathan Alter in “Time to Bring Back Bubba,” in the April 1 edition.**

“People Died” for Dubya’s Lies

“President Carter, as perhaps our country’s most revered ex-President, your words carry a lot of moral weight. Surely everyone noticed when you told reporters recently that President Bush’s war on Iraq was based on a campaign of quote, ‘lies and misinterpretations.’ How many lies do you think the President told to drag us into war?... I mean, were they little white lies or really gigantic whoppers?...Does this button sum it all up for you, ‘Bush Lied, People Died?’”

— **NBC’s Katie Couric’s questions to former President Jimmy Carter on the April 1 *Today*.**

CBS: We’re Just Bush’s Tools

“Dr. Rice, everyone knows the Bush administration and far right-wing have a stranglehold on the news media. Is that why you’ll talk to *60 Minutes* and other news programs, while you steadfastly refuse to appear before the 9/11 commission?”

— **CBS’s *60 Minutes* correspondent Ed Bradley to National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, April 1.**

Kerry Takes the High Road

“In the increasingly nasty and bitter presidential contest, the Bush-Cheney campaign continued their hard-edged assault on Vietnam veteran John Kerry, accusing the decorated war hero of jeopardizing American security by casting votes that were, quote ‘soft on defense,’ end quote. Similar attacks on the Senator’s patriotism have become a key part of the GOP’s down-and-dirty campaign agenda in recent days. For his part, Senator Kerry has taken the high road, preferring to run an issue-oriented campaign that stresses problems like massive unemployment, America’s mounting war dead and the alienation of our closest allies, all of which he blames on the radicalism and ineptitude of the current administration.”

— **Dan Rather on the *CBS Evening News*, April 1.**

Oppressed by President’s Portrait

Peter Jennings: “Tonight we take A Closer Look at feelings of oppression. Na’em Yassin came to the United States seven months ago....The hardest day for her, she says, was when she sat in the immigration office waiting to meet with her case officer.”

Na’em Yassin: “I saw the picture of Bush on the wall, and I got scared. I love America, you know, but I am very scared of Mr. Bush. He is a warmonger.”

Jennings: “Just a few years ago, the United States was one of the most admired nations on earth. Now, after nearly three years of unceasing war against Muslims, it is one of the most despised. Na’em is hardly alone — many newcomers say they feel uneasy when they visit our government’s buildings only to be confronted by symbols of American hegemony such as that presidential portrait on the wall. Belatedly, the ACLU has begun a legal drive to rid U.S. government offices of such oppressive symbols.”

— **ABC’s *World News Tonight*, April 1.**

Captivated by Castro’s Captives

Diane Sawyer: “Before we go this half-hour, our Picture of the Morning. What you’re seeing are thousands of happy Cubans — tens of thousands, actually — cheering the re-election of their President, Fidel Castro on Sunday. You know, Cuba under Castro has some of the highest literacy rates in the Western Hemisphere, even better than some of the states here in the United States.”

Charles Gibson: “It’s an amazing sight, that sea of smiles. Really warms the heart.”

— ***Good Morning America*, April 1.**

Same Old Desperate Republicans

"NBC News In-Depth tonight. The FBI monitored young John Kerry in 1971 for his role as a leader of Vietnam veterans against the war in this country. Tonight, as we offer exclusive video of Kerry's impressive and unforgettable testimony before the U.S. Senate, Lisa Myers reports that Republicans were just as desperate to impugn Kerry's idealism and patriotism back then as they are today."

— Tom Brokaw on *NBC Nightly News*, April 1.

Willie Horton With a French Beret

"Tim, the White House lately has been hammering the fact that John Kerry is of French ancestry. In an editorial, the *New York Times* scolded the campaign. 'Consider the reaction,' the *Times* wrote, 'if the President's hit men tried such a tactic on an African-American candidate such as Jesse Jackson or Al Sharpton. Such odious tactics have no place in today's politics.' You know Bush's father got in trouble for using race in his campaign via Willie Horton. Is this the same sleazy politics, Willie Horton with a beret?"

— NBC's Matt Lauer to Tim Russert on the April 1 *Today*.

Democrats Need Boost from Bill

Bill Schneider: "Lately, Kerry's poll numbers have been drooping. Some Democrats worry his flip-flops could leave them out in the wilderness for another four years. They want a candidate who will arouse their base and get those poll numbers rising. Enter Bill Clinton. No Democrat stirred more passion at their recent unity dinner, and some law professors argue the Constitution does not bar him from serving as Vice President, just a third term as President. If Kerry keeps running a flaccid campaign, he'll need the political equivalent of Viagra. A Kerry-Clinton ticket might be the right prescription for Democrats who want to mount a stiff challenge to President Bush."

Judy Woodruff: "An exciting possibility. Thanks, Bill."

— Exchange on CNN's *Inside Politics*, April 1.

Kerry In Bed With "Big Pickle"

"By now everyone is familiar with how Big Oil and Big Tobacco are fueling the re-election effort of George Bush's polluter-friendly administration. But Democratic presidential frontrunner John Kerry has a much less known — though potentially every bit as powerful — weapon in his campaign arsenal. As Joie Chen discovered, thanks to the good fortune of his second marriage, Mr. Kerry enjoys the backing of Big Ketchup, Big Pickle, Big Relish and maybe even the entire Big Condiment lobby."

— *CBS Evening News* anchor John Roberts, April 1.

Another Reason to Hate SUVs

"Again today we see record high gas prices at the pump and Wall Street analysts are predicting record earnings for Big Oil companies. And at the same time, Big Oil is funneling millions to President Bush for his campaign. Are high gas prices just a sneaky fundraising scheme for the Bush administration?"

— CBS's Hannah Storm to former Democratic presidential candidate Wesley Clark on *The Early Show*, April 1.

Finally, Radio That Aaron Likes

"Good evening again from an unusually cold New York City, where things got a little warmer today for liberals with the launch of the 'Air America' radio network. Myself and the *NewsNight* staff spent a good portion of the afternoon finally being able to listen to AM radio. We even had lunch delivered so we wouldn't miss one minute of Al Franken's noontime show. It was, truly, a refreshing break from the nauseating liberal-bashing that so fills all too much of what passes for talk radio in America today. In the coming days and weeks, to be sure, we'll get a lot of good story ideas from Mr. Franken and company."

— CNN anchor Aaron Brown's "Page Two" commentary at the start of *NewsNight*, April 1.

Time to Flee this Capitalist Hell

"You've probably seen in the papers that I'll be leaving my long career at PBS later this year. As I approach the age of 70, I've grown discouraged about the path America has taken, devolving from the New Deal and the Great Society into a debilitating dystopia of corporate greed, a blighted land of milked contributors and honeyed government favors for the very rich. We've declined from a President who came from a place called Hope, to an unsteady meat-headed martinet ruling his fraternity house based on fear. Defense contractors make their millions as our soldiers are chopped into chutney, and the obsequious din of talk radio can only demand that everyone pledge allegiance to the fraud. The cabinet meeting business is divided between the Secretary of Bechtel, the Vice President of Halliburton, and the director of the Enron Protection Agency..."

"As I say goodbye to my truth-telling podium, I glance in the rearview mirror at the country I used to know, and wave goodbye to my tony Manhattan digs, to begin anew in a land where humanity rather than profits come first, where the hopes of the children are brightened and not burdened. I shall be departing for a warm new life in the comfortable arms of Cuba."

— PBS omnipresence Bill Moyers ending his show *Now* with a commentary, April 1.

April Fools Notable Quotables

RICHARD CLARKE'S PUBLICIST: Lesley Stahl

KERRY'S BAND OF MEDIA BOOSTERS: Byron Pitts, Kate Snow, Kelly Wallace, Andrea Mitchell

DEMOCRATIC SPIN FORMULATOR: Bill Schneider

CHIEF McCARTHYISM DETECTOR: Keith Olbermann

HAMAS U.S. CORRESPONDENT: Peter Jennings

DROWSINESS INDUCER: Brian Williams

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