

JESUS AND THE ELVES

And Joseph went up from Galilee to Bethlehem with Mary, his espoused wife, who was great with child. And she brought forth a son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. And the angel of the Lord spoke to the shepherds and said, "I bring you tidings of great joy. Unto you is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

"There's a problem with the angel," said a Pharisee who happened to be strolling by. As he explained to Joseph, angels are widely regarded as religious symbols, and the stable was on public property where such symbols were not allowed to land or even hover.

"And I have to tell you, this whole thing looks to me very much like a Nativity scene," he said sadly. "That's a no-no, too." Joseph had a bright idea. "What if I put a couple of reindeer over there near the ox and ass?" he said, eager to avoid sectarian strife.

"That would definitely help," said the Pharisee, who knew as well as anyone that whenever a savior appeared, judges usually liked to be on the safe side and surround it with deer or woodland creatures of some sort. "Just to clinch it, throw in a candy cane and a couple of elves and snowmen, too," he said. "No court can resist that."

Mary asked, "What does my son's birth have to do with snowmen?"

"Snowpersons," cried a young woman, changing the subject before it veered dangerously toward religion. Off to the side of the crowd, a Philistine was painting the Nativity scene. Mary complained that she and Joseph looked too tattered and worn in the picture. "Artistic license," he said. "I've got to show the plight of the haggard homeless in a greedy, uncaring society in winter," he quipped. "We're not haggard or homeless. The inn was just full," said Mary. "Whatever," said the painter.

Two women began to argue fiercely. One said she objected to Jesus' birth "because it privileged motherhood." The other scoffed at virgin births, but said that if they encouraged more attention to diversity in family forms and the rights of single mothers, well, then, she was all for them. "I'm not a single mother," Mary started to say, but she was cut off by a third woman who insisted that swaddling clothes are a form of child abuse, since they restrict the natural movement of babies.

With the arrival of 10 child advocates, all trained to spot infant abuse and manger rash, Mary and Joseph were pushed to the edge of the crowd, where arguments were breaking out over how many reindeer (or mix of reindeer and seasonal sprites) had to be installed to compensate for the infant's unfortunate religious character.

An older man bustled up, bowling over two merchants, who had been busy debating whether an elf is the same as a fairy and whether the elf/fairy should be shaking hands with Jesus in the crib or merely standing to the side, jumping around like a sports mascot. "I'd hold off on the reindeer," the man said, explaining that the use of asses and oxen as picturesque backdrops for Nativity scenes carries the subliminal message of human dominance. He passed out two leaflets, one denouncing manger births as invasions of animal space, the other arguing that stables are "penned environments" where animals are incarcerated against their will. He had no opinion about elves or candy canes.

Signs like "Free the Bethlehem 2" began to appear, referring to the obviously exploited ass and ox. Someone said the halo on Jesus' head was elitist. Mary was exasperated. "And what about you, old mother?" she said sharply to an elderly woman. "Are you here to attack the shepherds as prison guards for excluded species, maybe to complain that singing in Latin identifies us with our Roman oppressors, or just to say that I should have skipped patriarchal religiosity and joined some dumb new-age goddess religion?"

"None of the above," said the woman, "I just wanted to tell you that the Magi are here." Sure enough, the three wise men rode up. The crowd gasped, "They're all male!" and "Not

very multicultural!" "Balthasar here is black," said one of the Magi. "Yes, but how many of you are gay or disabled?" someone shouted. A committee was quickly formed to find an impoverished lesbian wise-person among the halt and lame of Bethlehem.

A calm voice said, "Be of good cheer, Mary, you have done well and your son will change the world." At last, a sane person, Mary thought. She turned to see a radiant and confident female face. The woman spoke again: "There is one thing, though. Religious holidays are important, but can't we learn to celebrate them in ways that unite, not divide? For instance, instead of all this business about 'Gloria in excelsis Deo,' why not just 'Season's Greetings'?"

Mary said, "You mean my son has entered human history to deliver the message, 'Hello, it's winter'?" "That's harsh, Mary," said the woman. "Remember, your son could make it big in midwinter festivals, if he doesn't push the religion thing too far. Centuries from now, in nations yet unborn, people will give each other pricey gifts and have big office parties on his birthday. That's not chopped liver."

"Let me get back to you," Mary said.

Upon a mandate from Congress that it was entirely too top-heavy with brass, The Pentagon posted an early retirement bonus. Any general to retire immediately would be guaranteed his full annual benefits-plus \$300,000 for every inch measured in a straight line between any two points on his body that the general chose.

The first general to accept instructed the pension man to measure from the top of his bald spot to the tips of his toes: 6 feet. He walked out with a check for \$21.6 million. The second general dictated a measurement from the tip of his outstretched hands to his toes: 8 feet, 2 inches. His check came to \$29.4 million.

Meantime, the first general had tipped off the third. When asked where to measure, without hesitation the third general told the pension man: "From the tip of my organ to my testicles." The pension man told the general his order would be followed, saluted-and deferred to the medical officer for the measurement.

The medical officer attended and quite officiously placed the tape on the tip of the general's organ and began to work back. "Omigod!" he spluttered. "Wh-where are your testicles?"

"Vietnam."

"I come from a very confused family. During the Civil War my family fought for the East."

"I joined the military when I was eighteen years old. I had 3 reasons: I wanted to defend my wonderful country; I knew it would help me morally and physically; and they drafted me."

A visitor from Holland was chatting with his American friend and was jokingly explaining about the red, white and blue in the Netherlands flag.

"Our flag symbolizes our taxes," he said. "We get red when we talk about them, white when we get our tax bill, and blue after we pay them."

"That's the same with us," the American said, "only we see stars, too."

THE BRITISH vs. THE AMERICANS

In a recent television show in the UK, actor & comedian John Cleese explained 3 reasons why the British are superior to the Americans:

1. They speak English.
2. When they host a world championship they invite other countries.

3. Visitors to the head of state are only expected to go down on one knee.

- - - - -
POLITICAL THOUGHT PROVOKER

Q: It is time to elect a world leader, and your vote counts. Here's the scoop on the 3 leading candidates.

Candidate A: associates with ward heelers & consults an astrologer. He's had 2 mistresses. He chain smokes and drinks 8-10 martinis a day.

Candidate B: was kicked out of office twice, sleeps until noon, used opium in college & drinks a quart of brandy every evening.

Candidate C: is a decorated war hero. He's a vegetarian, doesn't smoke, drinks an occasional beer and hasn't had any illicit affairs. Which of these candidates is your choice?

Candidate A is Franklin D Roosevelt

Candidate B is Winston Churchill

Candidate C is Adolph Hitler (Note: Wasn't the Eva Braun affair illicit till hours before the end?)

- - - - -
During a neighborhood party here, I got into an argument with my neighbor about presidential politics. Finally, he asked me why I was such a dedicated Democrat.

I told him that my Father and Grandfather were Democrats before me and that I was carrying on the family tradition.

"That's it?" said my exasperated neighbor. "What if your Father and Grandfather had been horse thieves?"

"Well..." I replied, "I suppose then I'd be a Republican like you."

- - - - -
[This may be an "urban legend" if it really happening where it is claimed, it would be Newton MA or Newtown CT - but not Newtown MA - however, it's reminiscent of frustrations we've all had on a smaller scale trying to deal with computers instead of real people! - Enjoy!]

In March 1992 a man living in Newtown near Boston Massachusetts received a bill for his as yet unused credit card stating that he owed \$0.00. He ignored it and threw it away.

In April he received another and threw that one away too.

The following month the credit card company sent him a very nasty note stating they were going to cancel his card if he didn't send them \$0.00 by return of post. He called them, talked to them, they said it was a computer error and told him they'd take care of it.

The following month our hero decided that it was about time that he tried out the troublesome credit card figuring that if there were purchases on his account it would put an end to his ridiculous predicament. However, in the first store that he produced his credit card in payment for his purchases he found that his card had been cancelled.

He called the credit card company who apologized for the computer error once again and said that they would take care of it. The next day he got a bill for \$0.00 stating that payment was now overdue.

Assuming that having spoken to the credit card company only the previous day the latest bill was yet another mistake - he ignored it, trusting the company would be as good as their word and sort the problem out. The next month he got a bill for \$0.00 stating that he had 10 days to pay his account or the company would have to take steps to recover the debt. Finally giving in he thought he would play the company at their own game and mailed them a check for \$0.00. The computer duly processed his account and returned a statement to the effect that he now owed the credit card company nothing at all.

A week later, the man's bank called him asking him what he was doing writing a check for \$0.00. After a lengthy explanation the bank replied that the \$0.00 check had caused their check processing software to fail. The bank could not now process ANY checks from ANY of their customers that day because the check for \$0.00 was causing the computer to crash.

The following month the man received a letter from the credit card company claiming that his check had bounced and that he now owed them \$0.00 and unless he sent a check by return of post they would be taking steps to recover the debt.

The man, who had been considering buying his wife a computer for her birthday, bought her a typewriter instead!

- - - - -

Honorable Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.
Dear Sir:

My friend, Ed Peterson, up in Mesa, Colorado received a check for \$1,000.00 from the Government for not raising hogs. So, I want to go into the "not raising hogs" business next year.

What I want to know is, in your opinion, what is the best kind of farm 'not to raise hogs' on? And what is the best breed of hogs not to raise? I want to be sure that I approach this endeavor in keeping with all governmental policies. I would prefer not to raise Razorbacks, but if that is not a good breed not to raise, then I will just as gladly not raise Yorkshires or Durocs.

As I see it, the hardest part of this program will be in keeping an accurate inventory of how many hogs I haven't raised.

My friend, Peterson, is very joyful about the future of the business. He has been raising hogs for twenty years or so, and the best he ever made on them was \$422.00 in 1978, until this year when he got your check for \$1000.00 for not raising hogs.

If I get \$1,000.00 for not raising 50 hogs, will I get \$2,000.00 for not raising 100 hogs? I plan to operate on a small scale at first, holding myself down to about 4,000 hogs not raised, which will mean about \$80,000.00 the first year. Then I can afford a helicopter for my elk hunting.

Now another thing, these hogs I will not raise will not eat 100,000 bushels of corn. I understand that you also pay farmers for not raising corn or wheat. I got this information from a friend of mine in IL. Will I qualify for payments for not raising wheat and corn not to feed the 4,000 hogs I am not going to raise? Also, I am considering the "not milking cows" business, so send me any information you have on that too. A guy in Wisconsin told me about this.

In view of these circumstances, you understand that I will be totally unemployed and plan to file for unemployment and food stamps.

Be assured you will have my vote in the coming election

Patriotically yours,
Buckeye Bill

P.S. Would you please notify me when you plan to distribute more free cheese?

- - - - -

A government employee found an old brass lamp in a filing cabinet. When he dusted it off, a genie appeared and granted him three wishes.

"I'd love an ice-cold beer right now," he told the genie. Poof! A beer appeared.



Next, the man said, "I wish to be on an island, surrounded by beautiful and willing women."

Poof! He was on an island with gorgeous women fawning all over him. "Oh, man this is the life," the guy said. "I wish I never had to work again." And poof! He was back at his desk in the government office!

OATHS OF ENLISTMENT - 2002

All persons, upon entering Military Service & upon re-enlistment, are required to take the Oath of Enlistment. At one time, the Oath of Enlistment was the same for all services. Due to changes in both society & the differing Military Branches, the Oath has undergone marked change & has been specifically tailored to each branch of the Military & their specific function. Here are the latest versions of the Oath of Enlistment as recently released by the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

US AIR FORCE OATH OF ENLISTMENT

"I, (State your name), swear to sign away 4 years of my life to the UNITED STATES AIR FORCE because I know I couldn't hack it in the Army, because the Marines frighten me, and because I am afraid of water over waist-deep. I swear to sit behind a desk. I also swear not to do any form of real exercise, but promise to defend our bike-riding test as a valid form of exercise. I promise to walk around calling everyone by their first name because I find it amusing to annoy the other services. I will have a better quality of life than those around me and will, at all times, be sure to make them aware of that fact. After completion of "Basic Training", I will be a lean, mean, donut-eating, Lazy-Boy sitting, civilian-wearing-blue-clothes, Chair-borne Ranger. I will believe I am superior to all others and will make an effort to clean the knife before stabbing the next person in the back. I will annoy those around me, and will go home early every day. So Help Me God!"

Signature _____ Date _____

US ARMY OATH OF ENLISTMENT

"I, Rambo, swear to sign away 4 years of my mediocre life to the UNITED STATES ARMY because I couldn't score high enough on the ASVAB to get into the Air Force, I'm not tough enough for the Marines, and the Navy won't take me because I can't swim. I will wear camouflage every day and tuck my trousers into my boots because I can't figure out how to use blousing straps. I promise to wear my uniform 24 hours a day even when I have a date. I will continue to tell myself that I am a fierce killing machine because my Drill Sergeant told me I am, despite the fact that the only action I will see is a Court-Martial for sexual harassment. I acknowledge the fact that I will make E-8 in my first year of service, and vow to maintain that it is because I scored perfect on my PT test. After completion of my Sexual.....er.....I mean "Basic Training," I will attend a different Army school every other month and return knowing less than I did when I left. On my first trip home after Boot Camp, I will walk around like I am cool & propose to my 9th grade sweetheart. I will make my wife stay home because if I let her out she might leave me for a better-looking Air Force guy. Should she leave me twelve times, I will continue to take her back. While at work, I will maintain a look of knowledge while getting absolutely nothing accomplished. I will arrive to work every day at 1000 hrs because of morning PT and leave everyday at 1300 to report back to "COMPANY." I understand that I will undergo no training whatsoever that will help me get a job upon separation, and will end up working construction with my friends from high school. I will brag to everyone about the Army giving me \$30,000 for college, but will be unable to use it because I can't pass a placement exam. So Help Me God!"

Signature _____ Date _____

US NAVY OATH OF ENLISTMENT

"I, Top Gun, in lieu of going to prison, swear to sign away 4 years of my life to the UNITED STATES NAVY, because I want to hang out with Marines without actually having to BE one of them, because I thought the Air Force was too "corporate," because I didn't want to actually live in dirt like the Army, and because I thought, "Hey, I like to swim...why not?" I promise to wear clothes that went out of style in 1976 and to have my name stenciled on the butt of every pair of pants I own. I understand that I will be mistaken for the Good Humor Man during summer, and for Nazi Waffen SS during the winter. I will strive to use a different language than the rest of the English-speaking world, using words like "deck, bulkhead, cover, gee dunk, scuttlebutt, scuttle and head," when I really mean "floor, wall, hat, candy, water fountain, hole in wall and toilet." I will take great pride in the fact that all Navy acronyms, rank, and insignia, and everything else for that matter, are completely different from the other services and make absolutely no sense whatsoever. I will muster, whatever that is, at 0700 every morning unless I am buddy-buddy with the Chief, in which case I will show up around 0930. I vow to hone my coffee cup-handling skills to the point that I can stand up in a kayak being tossed around in a typhoon, and still not spill a drop. I consent to being promoted and subsequently busted at least twice per fiscal year. I realize that, once selected for Chief, I am required to submit myself to the sick, and quite possibly illegal, whims of my newfound "colleagues." So Help Me Neptune!"

Signature _____ Date _____

US MARINE CORPS OATH OF ENLISTMENT

"I, (make up a name the police won't recognize), swear ... uhhhh ... high-and-tight ... grunt ... cammies ... kill ...fix bayonets and ... charge ... slash ... dig burn ... blow up ... ugh ... Air Force women ... beer ... sailors wives ... air strikes ... yes SIR! ... whiskey ... liberty call ... salute ... Oorah Gunny ... grenades ... women ... OORAH! So Help Me Chesty PULLER!"

X _____ Thumb Print

XX _____ Teeth Marks

- - - - -

Thoughts of Osama

"You read about all these terrorists, most of them came here legally, but they hung around on these expired visas, some for as long as 10-15 years. Now, compare that to Blockbuster; you are 2 days late with a video & these people are all over you. Let's put Blockbuster in charge of immigration." -- Jay Leno

"What we know about Osama bin Laden is this-he's worth \$300 million, he has five wives and 26 kids - and he hates Americans for their *excessive* lifestyle."
-- David Letterman

"The leaders of the Taliban said today that killing bin Laden won't solve the problem. But, you know, it couldn't hurt."
-- Jay Leno

"More and more details coming out now about spoiled rich kid, Osama bin Laden. Time reports this week he was one of 52 kids. Mother must be exhausted. This guy inherited \$80 million at age 13 and has since expanded it to \$300 million through construction, smart investments and gas and oil investments. This way, he can use the money in his war against capitalism."
-- Jay Leno

"More and more facts coming out about Osama bin Laden. You know, he never sleeps in the same place two nights in a row - just like Clinton."
-- Jay Leno

"It was reported today that Osama Bin Laden has 50 brothers & sisters. Which absolutely shocked me because I had no idea he was Catholic." -Conan O'Brien

"CBS News finally received anthrax in the mail. As usual, we're number 3."
-- David Letterman

"Things have really changed here in Hollywood. Used to be people in this town couldn't wait to get an envelope full of white powder."
-- Jay Leno

"I don't mean to harp on this, but it's like the networks are a how-to manual for terrorists. You see them on the news. This reporter is standing outside a water treatment plant, going, 'If they poured the poison here it could wipe out thousands because the guard is off duty from noon until 1 every day!'"
-- Jay Leno

"Postal inspectors have been given advanced warning that Publishers Clearinghouse is sending packets of laundry detergent that could be mistaken for anthrax. Oh, good timing! What genius came up with this promotion? What's next? A ticking alarm clock?"
-- Jay Leno

"The FBI is urging all Americans to beware of any letters or package that have badly misspelled words. Man, this is going to be terrible news for the rap industry."
-- Jay Leno

"In Pakistan anti-American protesters set a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant on fire. The protesters mistakenly thought they were attacking high-ranking U.S. military official Colonel Sanders."
-- Jimmy Fallon (on Saturday Night Live's Weekend Update)

"Tomorrow night on NBC a very special episode of West Wing, it makes a direct reference to what happened in New York City. The exact plot is being kept top secret. We are the only country in the world where we put our battle plans on CNN, but the plots to our TV shows are top secret."
-- Jay Leno

"Pakistan's ruler Pervez Musharraf predicted the Taliban will fall for hiding Osamabin Laden. Ex-king Zahir Shah is standing by to replace Mullah Mohammed Omar. And the most ominous sign of all: President Bush has learned all their names!"
-- Comedian Argus Hamilton

"There was a rumor that Jesse Jackson was going to go over there to talk with the Taliban; apparently they were having trouble rhyming the word Jihad."

-- Jay Leno

"U.S. Government has said they are now going to go after the terrorist's electronic banking system. You know what they should do? They should transfer bin Laden's funds to my bank. They'd mess up his deposits, screw up his statement and nickel and dime him to death with service charges."

-- Jay Leno

"People want to say there isn't racial profiling at the airport, but let's be honest. If you first name is Mohammed, and your last name isn't Ali, arrive at the airport extra early."

-- Jay Leno

"Everybody is talking about finding bin Laden. How about finding Dick Cheney? Where did he go? What, have we got caves over here now, too? Where did he go? I think his Secret Service code name is 'Waldo.'"

-- Jay Leno

"President Bush has urged people to get back to normal and today Congress announced that they are accepting bribes again."

-- Jay Leno

The Canadian Prime Minister said Canada would lend the U.S. its full military support. You know what that means: both tanks."

-- Jay Leno

"President Bush's popularity is at 90%, the highest popularity ever! If Bush ran for president today he could actually be elected."

-- Jay Leno

It's God's job to forgive Osama bin Laden. It's the ARMY's job to arrange a face-to-face meeting!

"When the political ammunition runs low, inevitably the rusty artillery of abuse is always wheeled into action."

-- Adlai Stevenson

"Politics are almost as exciting as war and quite as dangerous. In war you can only be killed once, but in politics many times."

--Winston Churchill

- - - - -

A LETTER TO THE IRS:

April 23, 2001
Internal Revenue Service
State Processing Center
Holtsville, NY 01150-0115

Dear Taxmen/women:

Enclosed is my 2001 tax return & payment. Please take note of the attached article from the February 8, 2001 USA Today newspaper which serves as my Year 2000 Tax guide.

In the article, you will see that the Pentagon pays \$171.50 for hammers and NASA has paid \$600.00 for a toilet seat.

Please find enclosed 4 toilet seats (value \$2400) and 6 hammers (value \$1029). This brings my total payment to \$3429.00. Please note the overpayment of \$22.00 and apply it to the "Presidential Election Fund," as noted on my return.

Might I suggest you the send the above-mentioned fund a 1.5 inch screw. (See attached article...HUD paid \$22.00 each 1.5 inch Phillips head screw.)

It has been a pleasure to pay my tax bill this year, and I look forward to paying it again next year.

Sincerely,
J. Smith

- - - - -

A friend of mine who works in maintenance at Delta said that the Muslims have this "fear" of pigs. They consider pigs very dirty, so my solution is to have a "flight pig" in the cockpit ... train it to "sic"! Or ... maybe require that each passenger purchase a piglet before boarding a flight ... that would weed out any Muslim terrorist, wouldn't it?

Maybe serve only pork barbeque on all flights and instruct passengers to throw that at terrorists?

I had fun thinking about the flight pig ... wearing a little USA cap ... strapped into a little seat in the cockpit.

- - - - -

"98% of the adults are decent, hard-working, honest Americans. It's the other lousy 2% that get all the publicity. But then – we elected them." --Lily Tomlin

"A politician is a statesman who approaches every question with an open mouth."
--Adlai Stevenson

"Every politician is emphatically a promising politician." --G K Chesterton

"No diet will remove all the fat from your body because the brain is entirely fat. Without a brain you might look good, but all you could do is run for office."
--Covert Bailey

- - - - -

After getting nailed by a Daisy Cutter, Osama made his way to the pearly gates. There he's greeted by George Washington.

"How dare you attack the nation I helped conceive!" yells Mr. Washington, slapping Osama in the face.

Patrick Henry comes up from behind. "You wanted to end the Americans' liberty, so they gave you death!" Henry punches Osama on the nose.

James Madison comes up next, and says, "This is why I allowed the Federal government to provide for the common defense!" He drops a large weight on Osama's knee.

Osama is subject to similar beatings from John Randolph of Roanoke, James Monroe, and 65 other people who have the same love for liberty and America. As he writhes on the ground, Thomas Jefferson picks him up to hurl him back toward the gate where he is to be judged.

As Osama awaits his journey to his final very hot destination, he screams: "this is not what I was promised!"

An angel replies: "I told you there would be 72 Virginians waiting for you. What did you think I said?"

- - - - -

N.Y. Times, 1/30/02

ANGERED BY SNUBBING, LIBYA, CHINA, SYRIA FORM 'AXIS OF JUST AS EVIL'

Cuba, Sudan, Serbia Form 'Axis of Somewhat Evil'; Other Nations Start Own Clubs

Beijing (SatireWire.com). Bitter after being snubbed for membership in the "Axis of Evil," Libya, China, and Syria today announced they had formed the "Axis of Just as Evil," which they said would be "way eviler than that stupid Iran-Iraq-North Korea axis" President Bush warned of in his State of the Union address.

Axis of Evil members, however, immediately dismissed the new axis as having, for starters, a really dumb name. "Right. They are 'Just as Evil'... in their dreams!" declared North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. "Everybody knows we're the best evils... best at being evil... we're the best."

Diplomats from Syria denied they were jealous over being excluded, although they conceded they did ask if they could join the Axis of Evil. "They told us it was full," said Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

"An Axis can't have more than three countries," explained Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. "This is not my rule, it's tradition. In World War II you had Germany, Italy, and Japan in the evil Axis. So you can only have three. And a secret handshake! Ours is wicked cool."

THE AXIS PANDEMIC

International reaction to Bush's Axis of Evil declaration was swift, as within minutes, France surrendered. Elsewhere, peer-conscious nations rushed to gain triumvirate status in what became a game of geopolitical chairs. Cuba, Sudan, and Serbia said they had formed the Axis of Somewhat Evil, forcing Somalia to join with Uganda and Myanmar in the Axis of Occasionally Evil, while Bulgaria, Indonesia and Russia established the Axis of Not So Much Evil Really As Just Generally Disagreeable.

With the criteria suddenly expanded and all the desirable clubs filling up, Sierra Leone, El Salvador, and Rwanda applied to be called the Axis of Countries That Aren't the Worst But Certainly Won't Be Asked to Host the Olympics; Canada, Mexico, and Australia formed the Axis of Nations That Are Actually Quite Nice But Secretly Have Nasty Thoughts About America, while Spain, Scotland, and New Zealand established the Axis of Countries That Are Allowed to Ask Sheep to Wear Lipstick. "That's not a threat, really, just something we like to do," said Scottish Executive First Minister Jack McConnell.

While wondering if the other nations of the world weren't perhaps making fun of him, a cautious Bush granted approval for most axes, although he rejected the establishment of the Axis of Countries Whose Names End in "Guay," accusing one of its members of filing a false application. Officials from Paraguay, Uruguay, and Chadguay denied the charges.

Israel, meanwhile, insisted it didn't want to join any Axis, but privately, world leaders said that's only because no one asked them.

- - - - -

Almost 150 years ago, President Lincoln found it necessary to hire a private investigator - Mr. Alan Pinkerton. He was actually the beginning of the Secret Service.

Since that time federal police authority has grown to a large number of agencies - FBI, CIA, INS, IRS, DEA, BATF, SS, ATF, etc. Now Congress is considering a proposal for another agency: The " **Federal Air Transportation Airport Security Service.**"

Can't you see it now: the new service in their black uniforms with their initials in large white letters across their backs?

- - - - -

Military Shorts

Sometimes I think war is God's way of teaching us geography. - Paul Rodriguez

"Make no mistake. There is no such thing as a conventional nuclear weapon."

--Lyndon B Johnson

"War hath no fury like a non-combatant." --C E Montague

A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it.

That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit.

- Army's magazine of preventive maintenance.

Aim towards Enemy.

- Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher

When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend!

If it's stupid, but it works, it isn't stupid!

Cluster bombing from B-52s is VERY accurate - the bombs always hit the ground.

If the enemy is in range, so are you.

It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.

Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons.

When in doubt, empty the magazine.

If God had meant us to be in the Navy, we'd have been born with gray, baggy skin.

Try to look un-important - they may be low on ammo.

You, you, and you - Panic. The rest of you, come with me.

Odd objects attract fire - never lurk behind one.

Incoming fire has the right of way.

Don't look conspicuous - it draws fire.

Tracers work both ways.

Five second fuses only last 3 seconds.

Who cares if a laser guided 500 lb bomb is accurate to within 9 feet?

The easy way is always mined.

Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you.

Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid.

If your attack is going well, you have walked into an ambush.

If you can't remember, the Claymore is pointed towards you.

Teamwork is essential. It gives the enemy someone else to shoot at.

Push to test. Release to detonate.

No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection.

Make it too tough for the enemy to get in and you can't get out.

Any ship can be a minesweeper... once.

Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.

The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war.

Don't draw fire - it irritates the people around you.

The enemy invariably attacks on 1 of 2 occasions: When you're ready for them /
When you're not ready for them.

Combat will occur on the ground between two adjoining maps.

Friendly fire - isn't.

The side with the simplest uniforms wins.
When you're short of everything but the enemy, you're in combat.
Mines are equal opportunity weapons.
If you find yourself in a fair fight, you didn't plan your mission properly.

- - - - -

You work in Government when...

You sat at the same desk for 4 years & worked for 3 different departments.
You worked for the same department for 4 years & sat at more than 10 different desks.
You've been in the same job for 4 years & have had 10 different supervisors.
You order your business cards in "half orders" instead of whole boxes.
Someone asks about what you do for a living & you can't explain it in 1 sentence.
You get really excited about a 2% pay raise.
You use acronyms in your sentences.
Your biggest loss from a system crash is that you lose your best jokes.
You sit in a cubicle smaller than your bedroom closet.
It's dark when you drive to and from work.
The words "challenge" and "opportunity" make you shiver in fear.
You see a well-dressed, good-looking person and know it is a visitor.
Free food left over from meetings is your main staple.
Weekends are those days your significant other makes you stay home.
Being sick is defined as can't walk or are in the hospital.
You're already late on the assignment you just got.
Your boss' favorite lines are *when you get a few minutes* or *when you're freed up*.
And last: You read this entire list & understood it.

- - - - -

What is a Fighter Pilot?

As seen by 12th Air Force:

A drunken, brawling, jeep-stealing, woman-corrupting liar with a star sapphire ring, Seiko watch & a pearl-handled .38

As seen by Himself:

A tall, handsome, highly trained professional killer, gentleman idol of women, with a star sapphire ring, wearing a pearl-handled .38, who is always on time due to the reliability of his Seiko watch

As seen by his Woman:

A stinking male chauvinist pig who staggers into town about every year or so with a B-4 bag full of dirty underwear & fornication on his mind

As seen by his Commander:

A fine specimen of a drunken, brawling, jeep-stealing, woman-corrupting liar with a star sapphire ring, Seiko watch & a pearl-handled .38

As seen by the Department of the Air Force:

An overpaid, over-ranked tax burden who is indispensable because he has volunteered to go anywhere & do anything as long as he can booze it up, brawl, steal jeeps, corrupt women, lie, wear a star sapphire ring, a Seiko watch & carry a pearl-handled .38

- - - - -

George W Bush & Colin Powell are sitting in a bar. A guy walks in & asks the barman: "Isn't that Bush & Powell?" The barman says: "Yep."
The guy walks over & says: "Howdy, what you guys doin'?"
Bush says: "We're planning 'World War III.'"
The guy says: "Really? What's going to happen?"
Bush says: "Well, we're going to kill 10 million Arabs & 1 bicycle repairman."
The guy exclaims: "Why on earth you want to kill a bicycle repairman?!!!"
Bush turns to Powell & says: "See? I told you no one would give a shit about the 10 million Arabs!"

- - - - -

A naval lieutenant was rear-ended by a sailor, who approached him wide-eyed as he saw the man's rank. Said the officer: "It gets worse. I'm a lawyer too!"

- - - - -

Bush and Osama decided to settle the war once and for all. They sat down and decided to settle the whole dispute with one dogfight. They would have five years to breed the best fighting dog in the world and whichever side's dog won would be entitled to dominate the world.

Osama found the biggest meanest Doberman and Rottweiler female dogs in the world and bred them with the biggest meanest Siberian wolves. They selected only the biggest and strongest puppy from each litter and removed his siblings, which gave him all the milk.

After five years they came up with the biggest meanest dog the world had ever seen. Its cage needed steel bars that were five inches thick and nobody could get near it. When the day came for the dogfight, Bush and a Cajun dog handler showed up with a strange looking animal. It was a nine foot long Dachshund.

Everyone felt sorry for Bush because they knew there was no way that this dog could possibly last 10 seconds with the Afghan dog.

When the cages were opened up, the Dachshund came out of its cage and slowly waddled over towards Osama's dog. Osama's dog snarled and leaped out of it's cage and charged the American Dachshund. But, when it got close enough to bite the Dachshund's neck, the Dachshund opened it's mouth and consumed the Osama's dog in one bite. There was nothing left of his dog at all.

Osama came up to Bush shaking his head in disbelief. "We don't understand how this could have happened. We had our best people working for five years with the meanest Doberman and Rottweiler female dogs in the world and the biggest meanest Siberian wolves."

"Da's nothin", said Boudreaux, the Cajun handler with Bush. "We 'ad our bess plastic surgins workin' fo' 5 year for to make dat alligator look like a weenie dog."

- - - - -

What to do with bin Laden

The problem is: what do you do with him once he's found?

Kill him - he becomes a martyr.

Don't kill him - he's a hero to the extremists.

Solution: Capture him alive, convict him of his crimes, sentence him to his

punishment.

What punishment, you ask?

Why a full-blown sex change of course!

Then send him back to his home of Afghanistan to live out the rest of his life as a woman under the Taliban government!

- - - - -

Q. What do Baghdad and Hiroshima have in common?

A. Nothing, yet.

Q: What do Miss Muffet and Saddam Hussein have in common?

A: They both have Kurds in their Whey.

Q: What do Saddam Hussein and General Custer have in common?

A: They both want to know where the hell those Tomahawks are coming from!

Q: What is the best Iraqi job?

A: Foreign Ambassador

Q: Did you hear that it is twice as easy to train Iraqi fighter pilots?

A: You only have to teach them to take off.

Q: How do you play Iraqi bingo?

A: B-52 ... F-16 ... A-10 ...

Q: What is Iraq's national bird?

A: Duck

Q: What's the difference between Aeroflot and the Scud Missile?

A: Aeroflot has killed more people.

Q: How is Saddam like Fred Flintstone?

A: Both may look out their windows and see Rubble.

Q: Why does the Iraqi Navy have glass bottom boats?

A: So they can see their Air Force.

Q: Did you hear that Saddam Hussein won the toss?

A: He elected to receive.

Q: Why do all Iraqi soldiers carry a piece of sandpaper?

A: They need a map.

- - - - -

A shocking development took place today as the ruling members of the Taliban held a press conference threatening the United States if its territory is invaded. Immigration Czar Mohammed Ali Momaluke stated that the Afghan authorities "would not hesitate for a moment" to cut off the US supply of convenience store managers."

- - - - -

Did you hear about the 78-year-old woman kicked off the plane in St Louis for carrying knitting needles? They thought she might knit an afghan.

WHAT DID MARILYN QUAYLE TELL DAN ON THEIR WEDDING NIGHT? YOU'RE NO JACK KENNEDY!

AT A COUNTRY CLUB THE DAY AFTER CARTER'S ELECTION: JIMMY CARTER SPECIAL
PEANUT BUTTER AND CROW.

At Your Service

At one time in my life, I thought I had a handle on the meaning of the word "service." The act of doing things for other people. Then I heard the terms Internal Revenue Service, Postal Service, Civil Service, Service Stations ... And I became confused about the word "service." This is not what I thought "service" meant.

Then one day, I overheard two farmers talking and one of them mentioned that he was having a bull service a few of his cows.

SHAZAM!! It all came into perspective. Now I understand what all those "service" agencies are doing to us ...

NOW SING ALONG WITH ME

The George W Fight Song!

If you're happy and you know it, bomb Iraq (clap, clap)
If you're happy and you know it, bomb Iraq (clap, clap)
If you're happy and you know it, and you really want to show it
If you're happy and you know it, bomb Iraq

If your equities are falling, bomb Iraq...

If the euro keeps on climbing, bomb Iraq...

If the GDP is shrinking, bomb Iraq...

If my polls are falling, bomb Iraq...

If the GOP is hurtin', bomb Iraq...

If the talk has turned to Harken, bomb Iraq...

Are they checking Halliburton? bomb Iraq...

If your brother is a turkey, bomb Iraq...

If the pundits call you "moron," bomb Iraq...

If Noelle gets caught with crack, then bomb Iraq...

To divert public attention, bomb Iraq...

To get drilling in the Arctic, bomb Iraq...

...Add your own verses!

- - - - -

HU'S ON FIRST

Playwright Jim Sherman wrote this after hearing Hu Jintao was named China's Communist Party chief.

(We take you now to the Oval Office)

George: Condi! Nice to see you. What's happening?

Condi: Sir, I have the report here about the new leader of China.

George: Great. Lay it on me.

Condi: Hu is the new leader of China.

George: That's what I want to know.

Condi: That's what I'm telling you.

George: That's what I'm asking you. Who is the new leader of China?

Condi: Yes.

George: I mean the fellow's name.

Condi: Hu.

George: The guy in China.

Condi: Hu.

George: The new leader of China.

Condi: Hu.

George: The Chinaman!

Condi: Hu is leading China.

George: Now whaddya' asking me for?

Condi: I'm telling you Hu is leading China.

George: Well, I'm asking you. Who is leading China?

Condi: That's the man's name.

George: That's who's name?

Condi: Yes.

George: Will you or will you not tell me the name of the new leader of China?

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Yassir? Yassir Arafat is in China? I thought he was in the Middle East.

Condi: That's correct.

George: Then who is in China?

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Yassir is in China?

Condi: No, sir.

George: Then who is?

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Yassir?

Condi: No, sir.

George: Look, Condi. I need to know the name of the new leader of China. Get me the Secretary General of the U.N. on the phone.

Condi: Kofi?

George: No, thanks.

Condi: You want Kofi?

George: No.

Condi: You don't want Kofi.

George: No. But now that you mention it, I could use a glass of milk. And then get me the U.N.

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Not Yassir! The guy at the U.N.

Condi: Kofi?

George: Milk! Will you please make the call?

Condi: And call who?

George: Who is the guy at the U.N.?

Condi: Hu is the guy in China.

George: Will you stay out of China?!

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: And stay out of the Middle East! Just get me the guy at the U.N.

Condi: Kofi.

George: All right! With cream and two sugars. Now get on the phone.

(Condi picks up the phone)

Condi: Rice, here.

George: Rice? Good idea. And a couple of egg rolls, too. Maybe we should send some to the guy in China. And the Middle East. Can you get Chinese food in the Middle East?

- - - - -

Who authored the following quote?

"The administration's interest in all e-mail is a wholly unhealthy precedent, especially given this administration's track record on FBI files and IRS snooping. Every medium by which people communicate can be subject to exploitation by those with illegal intentions. Nevertheless, this is no reason to hand Big Brother the keys to unlock our e-mail diaries, open our ATM records, read our medical records, or translate our international communications."

—Sen. John Ashcroft, Oct. 1997

NOW, *THAT'S FUNNY!*