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**Bush vs. Kerry -- Negative Campaigning**

By Gary R. Hess

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As the presidential race hits full throttle, so do the smear campaigns. Negative ads are becoming more important to each parties race as time goes on, it is degrading. This is starting to feel like hatred is the only way either opponent believes they can win. The two major parties have been spitting and clawing at each other since the end of the primaries.

I am a Democrat (actually farther left, but for the sake of voting I am a Democrat), but I still feel saddened by the way the election is being held by Kerry. During the DNC, Democratic National Convention, John Kerry said that he is tired of the negative campaigning and will run a full legitimate campaign for the rest of the way. Then later in the speech started to talk negatively about Bush, how can this be? Not only are his words degrading, but his whole attitude towards the election is. Indeed he does have to defend himself against such things being thrown at him from the opposite side, but he does not need to throw ammunition into the smoking gun.

On the other hand Bush's boys are definitely not angels. Even before the Democratic Primaries hit main stream Bush was calling out Kerry as the winner and bashing him. Not only that, he as well as Dick Cheney have down graded Kerry's efforts during Vietnam and his voting record.

Kerry's medical records show that he was shot as well as had grenade shrapnel lodged inside his leg from a blast during the Vietnam War. How can someone call Kerry unworthy of a Purple Heart when something like this happens? None the less - if he did not get shot or had any medals or shrapnel in his leg, he still served for the United States in time of war. He should not be penalized thirty five years later, especially while his opponent was no where to be found during the same war.

Bush and Cheney have also stated that a Democrat would not be able to defend the country as well as a Republican would. To that, all I have to say is Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Some other Republicans started the Swift Boat ads and continued to smear Kerry's name even though none of the men claiming he lied on his reports actually served under Kerry during the Vietnam years.

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Bush has also stated that Kerry is a "flip flopper" on issues. His reasoning for this is the Vietnam War, the No Child Left Behind Act and the Iraq War. All of these issues are very controversial. John Kerry did go to Vietnam, but he did it in order to serve the country as many other young men and women did. He came back and protested because he saw how wrong the war was... as many other young men and women did.

The No Child Left Behind Act is the same way. Many people supported this before it got settled in, now they oppose it. The bill was set up to look like it would help American schools by giving them money, but in fact none of the needed funds were given to the schools and many of them ended up closing.

As for the Iraq War... very controversial. Bush stated that Iraq was seeking Uranium for nuclear weapons, they weren't. Bush stated that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, they didn't. So after the USA finds these statements false, who wouldn't change their mind besides the heartless?

I wish there was a different candidate who had a legitimate chance to win, but there isn't. We must now ask ourselves which candidate will fulfill his duties and protect the United States, better the economy and help schools. Will Bush do these things? Perhaps, but most likely? No. Will John Kerry? Yes.

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### **KVB: Whoever Wins, We Lose**

**By Gary Whittaker**

### **KVB: Whoever Wins, We Lose by Gary Whittaker**

While the rest of the world watches, Americans will be voting on November 2 to either re-elect George Bush, or John Kerry. You can be sure that as citizens of the earth, we all have a vested interest in the outcome of this election. The most powerful nation in the history of the planet is at war with terror, and terrorist organizations. This war started in New York City, on the infamous date of September 11th, and has now gone from Afghanistan to Iraq. Iran and her peoples are especially concerned, as they are most likely the next targets of the Bush administration. Slogans like "Vote or Die" are being shouted across that nation. The nation is almost equally divided, as history threatens to repeat itself after the Bush-Gore controversy in Florida. Kerry has vowed not to let that happen again, but how could he possibly prevent that from happening? And if he does become elected, will America, much less the World, actually become a safer place?

The main thing about Bush is, you know what you get. He is a puppet on a string. A sock with a face painted on. A nothing. A nobody. His handlers and party leaders tell him what to say, while the corporations that have bid the highest get to dictate foreign and domestic policy. But you know that, or at least you know what the outcome will be as a result of his re-election. The Americans will continue to wage war. The gap between the haves, and the have-nots will widen. Jobs will be shipped to other

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countries. Nothing new. The same as the last 4 years. If the Americans didn't complain enough then, there is no reason to believe they will complain much louder at the end of another 4 years. The flip side to this is control. George Bush will maintain control of the people. Money is power for the republicans, not opinion. There is no money is losing control over your country. Should people start taking the law into their own hands, they will be punished quickly, and severely. Bush would stop anarchy from spreading.

John Kerry. Here is a man that joined the army because of his own ideals. When he came back home, and found that public sentiment was against it, he went with them. He was one of them to the point where he made a public demonstration of throwing away his army medals to make a statement. Except he still has the real ones. He put replicas on his army jacket. Fast forward to pre-9/11. Kerry voted to reduce funding to intelligence gathering, and the military. In the wake of the attacks in New York, Kerry became a Bush supporter, and followed public sentiment that more should be spent on national defense and the armed forces. Kerry backed all of Bush's war efforts, until public sentiment turned against Bush. If Kerry is elected, he will be a West Coast style President. He will be a surfer, riding the waves of public opinion. Problem what that is, it is a proven fact that when a mass of people are confronted with a negative situation, problems arise. Problems become hysteria, and hysteria will lead to bloodshed. It is possible that in the event of another terrorist attack, John Kerry will fan the flames of public angst instead of putting them out. He will be slow to react, causing those people who would be naturally opposed to stir those who would be normally neutral.

Both Bush and Kerry are members of a secret organization known as the Skull and Bones. There have been movies about them, but at the core of those movies there is truth. This society was created to elevate its members into positions of power. Most of these men today are either in office, or executives in Fortune 500 companies. No matter who is elected, there are companies that stand to gain more than

others. It will be the job of either Bush or Kerry to keep the average Joe content enough to let it happen.

Gary Whittaker is the editor of T.E.N Magazine, a social commentary webzine with balls! Check out more articles at <http://www.tenwebzine.com>



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