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Countdown to Armageddon

By Gary Whittaker

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'Tis the season to be jolly! Why? Simple. King George II, owing his re-election in large part to the American Christian Right Wing, will certainly not defoul the regions surrounding the holy land by launching any more full-scale attacks, in this, a time of celebration for the birth of baby Jesus. While "peace to all, and goodwill towards man" is a little too much to ask for right now, we can expect that no major military offensives will be planned until at least January 30th. That is the day when the people of Iraq will have the privilege of choosing which of their leaders will have the honor of bending over for american business interests before falling over after having been assassinated.

Make no mistake about it. No good will come of Iraq's first election. The Iraqi's have long since stopped seeing the Americans as liberators. Too many stories of shootings on sacred ground, refusal of medical care for the wounded, and of course, unlawful confinement (ex: Guantanamo Bay). The Americans have long outstayed their welcome on Iraqi soil.

Reading between the lines in Bush's latest address (CNN Article), he is clearly setting up his military strategy for 2005. Warning Syria and Iran to stay out of Iraq, would be like telling a child not to look for their presents, but showing them where you hid it. Both countries are now openly supporting the various revolutionary parties in Iraq, so a collision course is inevitable. I can only imagine the Iranians, who had to live with a decade of war with Iraq who were sponsored at the time by the Americans. They finally have a chance to strike back at their real enemy!

This, my friends, is only one example of American foreign policy that will eventually lead to the demise of the American Empire. Sooner or later, all cultures fade away, and the Americans will be undone by their blatant disregard for others. Live by the sword, die by the sword. Americans have used other countries as weapons for decades, yet are shocked when their planes are hijacked. I am in no way condoning any terrorist actions, only pointing out that the Americans are no better than the people they claim to be liberating today.

Countdown to Armegeddon

Saddam never sponsored terrorism. He had nothing to do with 9/11. By removing Saddam from power, the Americans now find themselves facing a people that have armed people with both weapons and a new motive for terror. The Americans have opened a door for the real terrorists to gain a foothold on a territory that they would NEVER have had a chance to enter before. Saddam was a dictator, and as such, would never have allowed any groups to arm themselves other than his own army.

And like a disease, other people have seen this change, and have started to feel like the terrorists were right. Other countries, countries that would never before spoken together, are now talking about banding together against this new Red, White and Blue threat. In case you have not realized, Christians look forward to the coming of Christ. Christians want to see Armegeddon take place so that the 1000 years of peace, led by Jesus come—again, will finally happen. They are not afraid to push the middle east into an all out war.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

Gary Whittaker is the editor of T.E.N Magazine, a social commentary webzine with balls! Check out more at

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Reduce Your Stress: Create a Countdown & Marketing Calendar

By Catherine Franz

Reduce Your Stress: Create a Countdown Marketing Calendar by Catherine Franz

Just like there are reverse dictionaries, there is a reason to create a count down calendar. A count down calendar starts with Franklin Covey's philosophy, "start with the end in mind." The biggest advantage to a county—down calendar is that it makes you think and focus harder as well as makes the planning easier.

First, you write down the exact results you want or expect. Let's say you have a teleclass, seminar, speaking engagement you are delivering on X date. This becomes your D—day — sort of speaking. It may be end of the event planning, however, it can also be the beginning of your follow—up plan. For simplicity sake, let us stop at the D—day point.

Now you can prepare a count down calendar in several ways. One way would be to use a calendar with the days of the month filled in. You mark down the D—day and then you back track from there to today.

Countdown to Armegeddon

Count down the days until _____. Number of marketing days to go until _____.

Example: Count down days until seminar. 20 marketing days to go until seminar.

Any doesn't matter which calendar method you use, you will need to write down your measurements or your mini-results that will deliver the end results you want. I use the pivoting question, "What is it going to take to..." to get my thinking moving in the right direction. I like to think through and write these on the back of my calendars. This gives me a bird's eye view for that particular commitment that my software does not provide.

Another way would be to use a blank form like this with the appropriate number of days in between. Then cross out the days that you will do any marketing - say Sundays or days filled with other requirements. For my teleclass programs, my D-day back to Day 1 is always 3 weeks, so I have created a regular calendar for these. In fact, I use green color paper to print out the calendar.

If you don't want to create your own, visit your local office supply store, they have countdown calendars available for purchase (blank planning books).

A third way to complete a countdown calendar would be to complete it in a linear form.

Day 21--Speaking event results I desire...describe those results.

Day 20--Get handouts printed at Kinko's.

Day 19--Write and send out reminder email to organizer.

To Day 1 - Today.

Again, if you have a reoccurring countdown, like teleclasses, you can create a linear countdown calendar like the one above. Eventually you will see a consistent pattern of to-dos. At that point, don't stop doing this with the thinking you have it down pat and you don't need to. This will jump up and bite you in the assets fairly quickly by bogging down your mind and making you wonder if you are missing something. If that occurs, jump back into the habit, it is a great one to have. Even if it is frustrating because it takes thinking time.

Once you have your count down calendar completed then you can enter it into your automatic reminder calendar, like Outlook or Act. This will track all your deadlines, goals, and projects. You will have a separate count down calendar for each one.

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