Subject: New York Times Leak
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 27 Jun 2006 14:24:57 GMT
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Watching Chris mathews interview Susskind who wrote the book on the NSA survellience program; the NYT vetted the whole disclosure with the government before they even printed. Second; the Al Queada operatives have stopped using wireless transfers over a year ago due to their knowledge of our surveillence. They use personal couriers now. So what is this big Brou-ha-ha with the bush and dick? Sounds a little disengenous on their part to go on TV and pretend this was so hurtfull to our cause.I geuss they are playing to the rubes again. The bush and dick carnivale hour.

Subject: Re: New York Times Leak
Posted by Bill Martinelli on Wed, 28 Jun 2006 00:21:07 GMT
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You know what I find most interesting. Half the folks in our country believe the president and all he says almost verbatim, The other half believes none. What is it that is creating such an adamant division?

Subject: Re: New York Times Leak
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 28 Jun 2006 00:39:09 GMT
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Ahhh: finally the question that needed to be asked and answered. The real problem exposed. What do you think Bill; you're one of the more reasonable voices? I can see from your posts you try to find common ground and don't swallow any nonsense.So whats the story?The death tax is on the agenda for elimination by this administration. It affects about 1% of the population; and that group has more money than King Midas. Eliminating that tax will hurt the middle-class but help the rich. So why does a guy making 80k$ or less in some red state support legislation like that which will hurt him and his family and only make a very rich guy richer? Why do they support this kind of thing?I think part of your answer lies in determining why the red staters consistently vote against their own interests.

Subject: Re: New York Times Leak
Posted by Leland Crooks on Wed, 28 Jun 2006 10:45:26 GMT
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"I think part of your answer lies in determining why the red staters consistently vote against their own interests."This book. Although I am seeing a seismic shift here, this book is as clear an explanation for KS and the country as I've seen.
http://www.henryholt.com/holt/whatsthematter.htm

Subject: Re: New York Times Leak
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 28 Jun 2006 12:26:36 GMT
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Gee Leland; thats the perfect book. I got to read that. Listen; we have all suspected as we watched from the distant coasts in amazement that people have been hoodwinked by the right with all that family values shuck and jive. It just seems so transparent that its hard to believe it could have such support.But when the policies of this administration became so blatantly anti-middle class we all assumed there would be an accounting; guess what? Never happened. And now with this argument proposed by cheney and his attorney Addington; that the President has rights not granted in the Constitution in a time of so-called "War", we are seeing what amounts to a grab for the divine right of kings by the President. Not only is the entire world getting nervous over this; but most of our citizens are starting to feel the anxiety over this very serious breach of governmental ethics.There is just no stopping these guys and no accountability.Anyway thanks for the mention of that Book; I'll let you know how I like it.

Subject: Re: New York Times Leak
Posted by Leland Crooks on Wed, 28 Jun 2006 15:50:49 GMT
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I was seething with anger when I finished it a while back. Duplicitous, arrrogant, and conniving. It's been brilliantly orchestrated. Machiavelli is probably cheeing somewhere.

Subject: Re: New York Times Leak
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 28 Jun 2006 17:55:16 GMT
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Yes but you can't blame them. They are doing what they set-out to do. It's the voters who are to blame. Same way people who you see in the newspaper who are cheated by phony home contractors. You begin to feel sorry for them until you get to the paragraph where the reporter asks why the victim signed on to have this work done by this crook; it's always the same answer;"He was the cheapest price."Ever think to ask why he was so much cheaper than the rest

of them?Same here; ever ask how they would pay for a War/The No Child Left Behind Act/Major Tax Cuts/ Build Up Of Military etc?This bush has never met a spending bill he didn't like.

Subject: A classic example
Posted by Leland Crooks on Wed, 28 Jun 2006 19:32:03 GMT
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The GOP's "American Values Agenda" also includes a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, which died in the Senate before it even reached a vote; a prohibition on human cloning; and possibly votes on several popular tax cuts. That's exactly how it's done

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Subject: Re: A classic example
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 28 Jun 2006 19:54:06 GMT
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Thats why I ask the questions on this Dungeon. I don't have a lot of friends in the middle states so it's hard to get any kind of feedback about exactly what and why this silly business goes on. And sad to say the more I read on here the more discouraging it gets regarding any hope of meaningfull change.The whole concepts just seem to be distorted and unexplainable. You ask a direct question and get a direct diversion. Its almost as if they can't explain themselves.Why 1/10th of 1% of the population who may or may not want to avail themselves of a gay union should mean anything to the rest of us is incomprehensible.And actually; how many of the middles can even tell you what cloning is.

Subject: Re: A classic example
Posted by Shane on Wed, 28 Jun 2006 22:31:17 GMT
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Although I don't really know most of the issues, I can maybe say a little on the midwest, especially KS, setting, so here's a complete incoherent rattling on that probably doesn't have anything to do with your discussion. Having lived in rural KS most of my 36 years, I can tell you that most of the people out "there" don't have much to do with anything that might relate to what they consider "city folks" morals, values, or troubles (seems like most like to deny that they have the same issues in the sticks as are in the city). I mean, the largest city from me when I was growing up was 25,000 people and it was 35 miles away. The only large cities in the whole state are Wichita, Topeka, and Kansas City. Nearly all the towns by my hometown are way less than 1000 people and that goes for 100 miles in every direction. This seems to provide some sort of individualism if you will from town to town. Some towns are very, very strictly religious and conservative. One

town I worked in was nearly all Mennonite for instance. The next town 30 miles away is the major thoroughfare for all the drugs coming through the west part of the state and the thinking there is completely opposite of the previous example, but most are pretty much leaning toward the religious side and don't like anything that may interfere with that, never mind if it affects their income taxes, etc.... It's almost like you took a big city and split the damn thing up into 100 little cliques and spread them around. I think one explanation for the conservatism where I grew up is that the people didn't like the idea of any of that "city stuff" showing up in our town and went to the far side of that ideal. As far as people not liking immigrants in my neck of the woods: a lot of that has to do with it being mainly agricultural in nature, especially cattle. Most of the small towns are becoming a majority of Mexican immigrants due to the jobs available at the feedyards, hog farms, and packing houses. They are jobs that don't seem to ask a lot of questions about your status. For instance, I have an uncle who is high up in the sherrifs dept. and he's always telling stories of illegals being caught, detained, then released becuase there's not enough money to do anything with them. This trickles down into the school systems where it becomes a matter of national security for a lot of folks (english as a second language instead of a first and all that). Huge discrimination.

Subject: Re: New York Times Leak
Posted by Bill Martinelli on Wed, 28 Jun 2006 23:25:49 GMT
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What if people are not clever after all? Maybe they are brainwashed by the media. There is a lot of talk radio and it's pretty much one side or the other. Both sides say the other side sucks and your going to die a slow miserable and impovered death if you defect from red to blue or blue to red.Personally, I dint like party politics. I'd like to be a republican, and more often than not I like those candidates. But I vote for candidates. not a party line. I feel people voting straight party line are not voicing an educated opinion; but an opinion of the party. I'm very conservative on some things and very liberal on others. no one party suits me so there would be not one party of candidates that would suit me. Since I'm an individual, I vote for individuals. Death tax is pittance. wait till the average wage earner is making 75k a person in a few year and a married couple reports 150k and none of the itemized deduction amount to a piss hole in the snow, because your paying AMT. What about 400 billion in war efforts in 6 years. No student left behind my ass. That money could send 10 years of high school graduates to college across the country fro free. And of course you realize that the monthly payment for a family HMO is around 900. which is no more than the average mortgage payment.

Subject: Re: A classic example
Posted by Manualblock on Thu, 29 Jun 2006 00:49:56 GMT
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You make some good points. I think we have to disregard the religous aspect initially because

some of that thinking cancels itself out since different sects think different ways.My mom and dad live in a very small town in North Dakota but I so seldom have been there that I have no real insight into what their thinking is. But I know how insular the limited size and exposure to experience can be.But the concept that people would vote against their own interests is my point; and I see where you address that. So what is it; is it spite; the thinking that if someone in one of the big cities is in favor of something then we will be opposed as a matter of course?In terms of exposure to big city morals; with the computor and television and mandatory educational curricula; not to mention the leaching out of the young to better opportunities in larger areas isn't that whole negative approach irrelevant by now to most people?When an administration bleeds money from the poor and middle-class and that is very obvious; doesn't that rank as a serious breach of trust. Enough so people get angry and resentfull; as well they should?

Subject: Re: A classic example
Posted by Shane on Thu, 29 Jun 2006 01:37:00 GMT
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Yes, we can disregard the religious aspect, but let's not forget it still is lurking in the background.I don't know if spite is the right word. I think it's still the small town mentality of "this or that" doesn't happen here and we're not going to let it (even though in reality it usually does in my experience). In my experience there were usually only a handful of people willing to take forward initiative on any stance in my small town. I think a lot of that has to do with the good chance of being ostracized in a small community. In a city, that doesn't necessarily happen to much effect.Again, in my experience a lot of the kids in the small towns don't move on to larger cities. They stay near home, work the family farm, or teach at the small schools, etc.... I think the exposure to "big city morals" is actually the fuel for the negativity. They only heard about it before, or saw it for real occasionally (TV doesn't count, it's been declining forever). Now it's everywhere, as your implying. Also, most of these small towns consist of an older generation than myself and a younger generation than myself. You have a set of people that are set in their ways so to speak, voting down the line for one party or the next, not like Bill or myself. Then you've got the younger generation that don't even know what voting is I think. I've got no reason to complain, as I'm a poor example for voting rights unfortunately.People should get angry! But in the small town I come from, a lot of people are used to having no money or losing money every year farming. As long as the gov't gives them their subsidies to farm another year they don't care. Anything that involves agriculture at the gov't level is what they're concerned about. Farming is all they know, and the markets are so worthless that it's a losing battle really for the small farmer. So whoever is for ag is who they vote for, regardless of any other agenda that candidate may have.

Subject: Re: A classic example
Posted by Manualblock on Thu, 29 Jun 2006 14:10:25 GMT
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Very thought provoking and well presented. In my pops town they lose most of the kids as soon as they leave for college or work. They call it the brain drain and North Dakota spends lots of money studying ways to reduce it.In terms of the overall effect that small town perceptions have on the political process I can't speculate; a place like Kansas has few congressmen but it does have two senators and the electoral votes have an impact. I can see why voting in favor of farm subsidies is typical and I guess whoever can provide the most of that money is going to be popular. What about a guy who delivers in that way but maybe doesn't hold such obviously sympathetic views along what might be considered "Moral" lines? Would in your opinion that individual still be elected?

Subject: Re: A classic example
Posted by Shane on Thu, 29 Jun 2006 15:48:01 GMT
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Probably. If the choice is between ag money and morals, ag will most likely win.

Subject: Re: A classic example
Posted by Manualblock on Thu, 29 Jun 2006 17:53:07 GMT
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Excellent I have faith in human nature to seek the most gain for themselves. If that is followed we don't have a problem because whatever brings in the most money for the middle class is good. By rights looking after ourselves will in the end provide the best electorate. So how did the rep[ublicans keep the vote there; by assuring the people they would keep their subsidies?

Subject: Re: A classic example
Posted by Shane on Fri, 30 Jun 2006 00:14:33 GMT
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Well, most of the elected officials are farmer/ranchers to begin with, so that pretty much explains that. The thing now is hunting outfitters as well as ag. The outfitters are courting the politicians quite hard and have several in hand. Why get minimal payment from the gov't for that CRP ground when you can lease it to an outfitter for $10/acre. And there is an issue with deer tags that I won't even get into. Let's just say that it's all tied together.

Subject: Re: A classic example
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 30 Jun 2006 00:26:07 GMT
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What exactly is a hunting outfitter? is it something like a guide or guide service that tracks game for hobby hunters?

Subject: Re: A classic example
Posted by Shane on Fri, 30 Jun 2006 01:32:57 GMT
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Something along those lines. Many of the outfitters in the area I grew up in basically lease or buy prime deer hunting ground and manage the herd with feed, culling of "inferior genetics", blah blah blah, then hunters pay to hunt there. Hobby hunters, professional hunters, guys who have TV shows, own camo companies, you name it. I hunted on a lot of this ground for free (well, we helped out the landowners with their work when they needed it, gave them part of our meat at the end of the hunt, etc...) for nearly 20 years. In the last 5 years it has all been leased by either outfitters or just hunters with the cash. To hunt a trophy size whitetail deer on some land I used to have permission on is between $6-10K, depending on antler size. Multiply this for 6-12 people per week, from the 1st of Oct. till the last day of Dec. Good money even after lease payments and insurance. If I'm going to pay money like that I can go to Africa and hunt for two weeks all inclusive. But I've never been a trophy hunter. I filled the freezer when it needed to be, and took mature animals to keep the herd balanced when needed. Don't get me wrong. I, like most whitetail deer hunters like to take an animal with big antlers. It's an ego thing. That and most bucks with large headgear get that way because they are careful, so the hunt for them is far, far harder than a young one. I've know guys that hunted the same deer for 6-7 years and never got a shot. But I never went out of my way to really pick out a specific one. Most the time I was just glad to out in the woods where it's peaceful. Half the time I'd leave my bow in the vehicle.

Subject: Re: A classic example
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 30 Jun 2006 14:31:36 GMT
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Wow; 6k?? Minge'! For that price the deer should volunteer to shoot himself for you.Do they still have safari tours in Africa? I thought they were banned. I know they have exotic game hunts in Texas; I have hunted but I am genuinely puzzled at what the attraction is on a controlled hunt site.I can see maybe with a bow due to the higher difficulty level but with high powered laser sited rifles??? Say; whats the best hunting book you ever read? I like the Bear; by Faulkner.

Subject: Books
Posted by Shane on Fri, 30 Jun 2006 15:33:35 GMT
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Yeh, I agree there.You can still hunt anything in Africa for the right price. My Dad's neighbor goes 3-4 times a year. He has shot everything. Last year he darted a black rhino. He had the choice of shooting or darting and chose darting. Same price either way. They evidently cull the old ones who become destructive to everything. He darted it, took his picture with it, and 4 vets brought it back.Some of the fenced in hunts here in TX are probably OK. The ones that are 25K acres plus. This is a large enough area that the fence doesn't really matter, especially if you're bowhunting. Deer only tend to range in a couple square mile area in the open range. Not my style though.I've never shot a laser sighted rifle. I've never really read any hunting books. Odd???

Subject: Re: Books
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 30 Jun 2006 20:40:34 GMT
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What; no Hemmingway? Over the River and Into The Trees? The Green HIlls Of Africa? I think they are the best descriptions of the act of hunting there is.Faulkner? The Bear. That has the dubious distinction of having the longest single sentence in American Literature.When I was a kid I used to read the hunting stories in Field and Stream religiously.Hey; we drifted off track a little here hah? My wife recieved a very lucrative job offer in Wyoming; Evanston to be exact. Know anything about the State? Cause I may be posting from there sometime in the near future.

Subject: Re: Books
Posted by Shane on Fri, 30 Jun 2006 23:03:10 GMT
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I guess I never read any Hemingway or Faulkner. I read a lot, but not many classics. I like biographies and war novels on WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. I'm in the process of reading one about the Battle of Verdun from the English perspective.Wyoming. Big sky, hot in the summer, COLD in the winter. Other than that I can't help you.

Subject: Re: Books
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 30 Jun 2006 23:11:31 GMT
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Ahh; good stuff. For some reason I think of the book,"The Things They Carried." Ever read Allan Furst, WW11 novels of what it was like to live in wartime Europe.

Subject: Re: Books
Posted by Shane on Sat, 01 Jul 2006 02:24:31 GMT
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The two war books I have going right now are "The Road to Verdun" by Ian Ousby and "War Letters" by Andrew Carroll. Then I've got a piece of fantasy fluff called "Tales of the Otori" by Lian Hearn and I just finished Alan Alda's autobio.I like to read while listening to my SOHA headphone amp after the family has hit the hay.
