

## Re: Will Osama help W.?

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Date: Sun, 31 Oct 2004 11:04:32 -0800

On 31 Oct 2004 10:04:46 -0800, Winfield Hill

<[Winfield\\_member@newsguy.com](mailto:Winfield_member@newsguy.com)> wrote:

- > *My favorite part: "The Bushies' campaign pitch follows their usual backward*
- > *logic: Because we have failed to make you safe in three years, you should*
- > *reelect us to make you safer in the next four years."*
- >
- > <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/10/31/opinion/31dowd.html?>
- > <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/NewsStory.aspx?section=Opinion&OID=62531>
- >
- > ---
- > *MAUREEN DOWD – October 28, 2004 – WASHINGTON –*
- >
- > *Some people thought the October surprise would be the President producing*
- > *Osama.*
- >
- > *Instead, it was Osama producing yet another video taunting the President*
- > *and lecturing America.*
- >
- > *After bin Laden's pre-election commentary from his anchor desk at a secure,*
- > *undisclosed location, many TV chatterers and Republicans postulated that*
- > *the evildoer's campaign intrusion would help the President.*
- >
- > *OBL, they said, might reelect W.*
- >
- > *They follow the Bush strategists' reasoning that since President Bush rates*
- > *higher than John Kerry on fighting terror, anytime Americans get rattled*
- > *about Iraq and al-Qaeda, it's a plus for the President. And Republicans can*
- > *keep claiming that al-Qaeda wants the "weak" Democrat elected, even as some*
- > *intelligence experts suggest the terrorists prefer that the belligerent*
- > *Mr. Bush stay in power because he has been a boon to jihadist recruiting,*
- > *with his disastrous occupation of Iraq and his true believer, us-versus-them,*
- > *my-Christian-God's-directing-my-foreign-policy vibe.*
- >
- > *The Bushies' campaign pitch follows their usual backward logic: Because*
- > *we have failed to make you safe, you should reelect us to make you safer.*
- > *Because we haven't caught Osama in three years, you need us to catch Osama*
- > *in the next four years. Because we didn't bother to secure explosives in*

- > *Iraq, you can count on us to make sure those explosives aren't used against*
- > *you.*
- >
- > *You'd think that seeing Osama looking fit as a fiddle and ready for hate*
- > *would spark anger at the Bush administration's cynical diversion of the war*
- > *on al-Qaeda to the war on Saddam. It's absurd that we're mired in Iraq —*
- > *an invasion the demented Vice President praised on Friday for its*
- > *"brilliance" — while the 9/11 mastermind nonchalantly pops up anytime he*
- > *wants. For some, it seemed cartoonish, with Osama as Road Runner beeping*
- > *by Wile E. Bush as Dick Cheney and Rummy run the Acme/Halliburton explosives*
- > *company—now under FBI investigation for its no-bid contracts on anvils, axle*
- > *grease (guaranteed slippery) and dehydrated boulders (just add water).*
- >
- > *Osama slouched onto TV bragging about pulling off the 9/11 attacks just*
- > *after the President strutted onto TV in New Hampshire with 9/11 families,*
- > *bragging that al-Qaeda leaders know "we are on their trail."*
- >
- > *Maybe bin Laden hasn't gotten the word. Maybe W. should get off the trail*
- > *and get on Osama's tail.*
- >
- > *W. was clinging to his inane mantra that if we fight the terrorists over*
- > *there, we don't have to fight them here, even as bin Laden was back on TV*
- > *threatening to come here. The President still avoided using Osama's name*
- > *on Friday, part of the concerted effort to downgrade him and merge him with*
- > *Iraqi insurgents.*
- >
- > *The White House reaction to the disclosures about the vanished explosives*
- > *in Iraq was typical. Though it's clear the treasures and terrors of Iraq —*
- > *from viruses to ammunition to artifacts—were being looted and loaded into*
- > *donkey carts and pickups because we had insufficient troops to secure the*
- > *country, Bush officials devoted the vast resources of the government to*
- > *trying to undermine the facts to protect the President.*
- >
- > *The Pentagon mobilized to debunk the bunker story with a tortured press*
- > *conference and a satellite photo of trucks that proved about as much as*
- > *Colin Powell's prewar drawings of two trailers that were supposed to be*
- > *mobile biological weapons labs.*
- >
- > *Republicans insinuated that it was a plot by foreign internationalists to*
- > *help the foreigner-loving, internationalist Kerry, a UN leak from the camp*
- > *of Mohamed ElBaradei to hurt the administration that had scorned the UN as*
- > *a weak sister.*
- >
- > *In their ruthless determination to put Mr. Bush's political future ahead of*
- > *our future safety, the White House and House Republicans last week thwarted*
- > *the enactment of recommendations of the 9/11 commission they never wanted*
- > *in the first place.*
- >
- > *While pretending to be serious about getting a bill on reorganizing*
- > *intelligence agencies before the election, the White House never forced*
- > *congressional Republicans to come to an agreement. So the advice from the*

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- > *panel that spent 19 months studying how the government could shore up*
- > *intelligence so there wouldn't be another 9/11 may be squandered, even*
- > *though Dick Cheney's favorite warning to scare voters away from Mr. Kerry*
- > *is that we might someday face terrorists "in the middle of one of our cities*
- > *with deadlier weapons than have ever before been used against us," including*
- > *a nuclear bomb.*
- >
- > *Wow. I feel safer. Don't you?*

Hey, Win, would you mind if I snipped chapters from AoE and published them here?

John