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Why the Levee Broke

By [Will Bunch](#), [Attytood](#). Posted [September 1, 2005](#).

Washington knew exactly what needed to be done to protect the citizens of New Orleans from disasters like Katrina. Yet federal funding for Louisiana flood control projects was diverted to pay for the war in Iraq.

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Even though Hurricane Katrina has moved well north of the city, the waters continued to rise in New Orleans on Wednesday. That's because Lake Pontchartrain continues to pour through a two-block-long break in the main levee, near the city's 17th Street Canal. With much of the Crescent City

some 10 feet below sea level, the rising tide may not stop until it's level with the massive lake.

There have been numerous reports of bodies floating in the poorest neighborhoods of this poverty-plagued city, but the truth is that the death toll may not be known for days, because the conditions continue to frustrate rescue efforts.

New Orleans had long known it was highly vulnerable to flooding and a direct hit from a hurricane. In fact, the federal government has been working with state and local officials in the region since the late 1960s on major hurricane and flood relief efforts. When flooding from a massive rainstorm in May 1995 killed six people, Congress authorized the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project, or SELA.

Over the next 10 years, the Army Corps of Engineers, tasked with carrying out SELA, spent \$430 million on shoring up levees and building pumping stations, with \$50 million in local aid. But at least \$250 million in crucial projects remained, even as hurricane activity in the Atlantic Basin increased dramatically and the levees surrounding New Orleans continued to subside.

Yet after 2003, the flow of federal dollars toward SELA dropped to a trickle. The Corps never tried to hide the fact that the spending pressures of the war in Iraq, as well as homeland security -- coming at the same time as federal tax cuts -- was the reason for the strain. At least nine articles in the Times-Picayune from 2004 and 2005 specifically cite the cost of Iraq as a reason for the lack of hurricane- and flood-control dollars.

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Newhouse News Service, in an article posted late Tuesday night at The Times-Picayune Web site, reported: "No one can say they didn't see it coming. ... Now in the wake of one of the worst storms ever, serious questions are being asked about the lack of preparation."

In early 2004, as the cost of the conflict in Iraq soared, President Bush proposed spending less than 20 percent of what the Corps said was needed for Lake Pontchartrain, according to this Feb. 16, 2004, article, in New Orleans CityBusiness:

The \$750 million Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection project is another major Corps project, which remains about 20% incomplete due to lack of funds, said Al Naomi, project manager. That project consists of building up levees and protection for pumping stations on the east bank of the Mississippi River in Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Charles and Jefferson parishes.

The Lake Pontchartrain project is slated to receive \$3.9 million in the president's 2005 budget. Naomi said about \$20 million is needed.

"The longer we wait without funding, the more we sink," he said. "I've got at least six levee construction contracts that need to be done to raise the levee protection back to where it should be (because of settling). Right now I owe my contractors about \$5 million. And we're going to have to pay them interest."

On June 8, 2004, Walter Maestri, emergency management chief for Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, told the Times-Picayune: "It appears that the money has been moved in the president's budget to handle homeland security and the war in Iraq, and I suppose that's the price we pay. Nobody locally is happy that the levees can't be finished, and we are doing everything we can to make the case that this is a security issue for us."

That June, with the 2004 hurricane season starting, the Corps' Naomi went before a local agency, the East Jefferson Levee Authority, and essentially begged for \$2 million for urgent work that Washington was now unable to pay for. From the June 18, 2004 Times-Picayune:

"The system is in great shape, but the levees are sinking. Everything is sinking, and if we don't get the money fast enough to raise them, then we can't stay ahead of the settlement," he said. "The problem that we have isn't that the levee is low, but that the federal funds have dried up so that we can't raise them."

The panel authorized that money, and on July 1, 2004, it had to pony up another \$250,000 when it learned that stretches of the levee in Metairie had sunk by four feet. The agency had to pay for the work with higher property taxes. The levee board noted in October 2004 that the feds were also now not paying for a hoped-for \$15 million project to better shore up the banks of Lake Pontchartrain.

The 2004 hurricane season was the worst in decades. In spite of that, the federal government came back this spring with the [steepest reduction in hurricane- and flood-control funding for New Orleans in history](#). Because of the proposed cuts, the Corps office there imposed a hiring freeze. Officials said that money targeted for the SELA project -- \$10.4 million, down from \$36.5 million -- was not enough to start any new jobs. According to New Orleans CityBusiness this June 5:

The district has identified \$35 million in projects to build and improve levees, floodwalls and pumping stations in St. Bernard, Orleans, Jefferson and St. Charles parishes. Those projects are included in a Corps line item called Lake Pontchartrain, where funding is scheduled to be cut from \$5.7 million this year to \$2.9 million in 2006. Naomi said it's enough to pay salaries but little else.

"We'll do some design work. We'll design the contracts and get them ready to go if we get the money. But we don't have the money to put the work in the field, and that's the problem," Naomi said.

There was, at the same time, a growing recognition that more research was needed to see what New Orleans must do to protect itself from a Category 4 or 5 hurricane. But once again, the money was not there. As the Times-Picayune reported last Sept. 22:

That second study would take about four years to complete and would cost about \$4 million, said Army Corps of Engineers project manager Al Naomi. About \$300,000 in federal money was proposed for the 2005 fiscal-year budget, and the state had agreed to match that amount.

But the cost of the Iraq war forced the Bush administration to order the New Orleans district office not to begin any new studies, and the 2005 budget no longer includes the needed money, he said.

The Senate was seeking to restore some of the SELA funding cuts for 2006. But now it's too late. One project that a contractor had been racing to finish this summer was a bridge and levee job right at the 17th Street Canal, site of the main breach on Monday. The levee failure appears to be causing a human tragedy of epic proportions: "We probably have 80 percent of our city under water; with some sections of our city the water is as deep as 20 feet. Both airports are underwater," Mayor Ray Nagin told a radio interviewer.

The Newhouse News Service article published Tuesday night observed, "The Louisiana congressional delegation urged Congress earlier this year to dedicate a stream of federal money to Louisiana's coast, only to be opposed by the White House. ... In its budget, the Bush administration proposed a significant reduction in funding for southeast Louisiana's chief hurricane protection project. Bush proposed \$10.4 million, a sixth of what local officials say they need."

Washington knew that this day could come at any time, and it knew the things that needed to be done to protect the citizens of New Orleans. But in the tradition of the riverboat gambler, the Bush administration decided to roll the dice on its fool's errand in Iraq, and on a tax cut that mainly benefitted the rich. Now Bush has lost that gamble, big time.

The president told us that we needed to fight in Iraq to save lives here at home. Yet -- after moving billions of domestic dollars to the Persian Gulf -- there are bodies floating through the streets of Louisiana. What does George W. Bush have to say for himself now?

Will Bunch is a senior writer at the Philadelphia Daily News and author of the blog [Attytood](#).

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American taxpayers can't fix everything

Posted by: Frumkinlovesmoney on Sep 1, 2005 3:25 AM [\[Report this comment\]](#)

Mr. Maestri's comment about the divergence of funds is his personal opinion. Pork is everywhere and just because someone got less than they asked for, does not mean the money was diverted.

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» [RE: American taxpayers can't fix everything](#) Posted by: susan9390

» [RE: American taxpayers can't fix everything](#) Posted by: Frumkinlovesmoney

» [RE: American taxpayers can't fix everything](#) Posted by: ALANHESTER

» [RE: American taxpayers can't fix everything](#) Posted by: Gma1

» [in Holland they live below sea level!](#) Posted by: deborama

» [I'd suggest doing a little research next time](#) Posted by: sausage

» [This Time I Did -- research that is](#) Posted by: aswgt@ix.netcom.com

» [RE: in Holland they live below sea level](#) Posted by: ALANHESTER

» [RE: in Holland they live below sea level](#) Posted by: Frumkinlovesmoney

» [RE: in Holland they live below sea level](#) Posted by: philame

» [RE: in Holland they live below sea level](#) Posted by: sausage

» [RE: American taxpayers can't fix everything](#) Posted by: Basenjjs

» [RE: American taxpayers can't fix everything](#) Posted by: RonaldBosch

» [Frumkinlovesmoney = Kneel = the same desperate rightwing troll](#) Posted by: maxpayne

» [Oxycontin gets "diverted" -- taxes get "allocated" --](#) Posted by: aswgt@ix.netcom.com

» [RE: American taxpayers can't fix everything](#) Posted by: eccentric

Priorities...

Posted by: dj0114 on Sep 1, 2005 4:01 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

Well, well... once again Georgie and Company's priorities have us in a bind. If he had not cut taxes so severely so that he and his rich friends could wallow in their money and tried to fight two major wars there may have been no need to cut funding for the levee projects in LA.

I wonder if those tax cuts are worth it now to the many who sided with Georgie. I daresay it will cost more than the tax cuts to put New Orleans back together.

Not only that, the hit our economy is taking now due to rising gas prices, lack of consumer's confidence and lack of confidence in Georgie's leadership will haunt us for a long time.

This disaster will also add to joblessness and the already ugly federal deficit.

So Georgie- do you think those tax cuts was money well spent now?

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» [RE: Priorities...](#) Posted by: susan9390

» [RE: Priorities...](#) Posted by: xenacat

» [What She Said](#) Posted by: rotorooter

» [RE: Priorities...](#) Posted by: Frumkinlovesmoney

[» RE: Priorities...](#) Posted by: JSquercia

[» RE: Priorities...](#) Posted by: feduphoosier

Priorities indeed!!

Posted by: Quendi on Sep 1, 2005 4:33 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

The criminal gang running the country these daze has a well-defined set of priorities: 1) help the rich get richer, via massive tax cuts, lack of tax-evasion enforcement, changes to the rules such as getting rid of inheritance and capital gains taxes....., 2) diminish the size and scope of government in general - via changing laws (the gutting of environmental laws and regulations, which has only just begun, for instance!), regulations and policies, installing conservative ideologues in the nation's courts and anywhere else possible, and by the method Regan called "starving the beast": create massive, unsustainable deficits via huge tax cuts for the wealthy combined with unprecedented levels of military spending, thereby requiring drastic cuts in government services in the long run, and 3) attain and maintain power and control as long as possible and by any and all means necessary.

The loss of the funding required to protect New Orleans from natural disasters such as Katrina, is a direct result of the warped priorities of the federal government. Look for more of the same in the years to come!!

-Quantum.

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[» RE: Priorities indeed!!](#) Posted by: &one

[» RE: Priorities indeed!!](#) Posted by: rinthy

Dubya's Gamble

Posted by: Tom Degan on Sep 1, 2005 4:43 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

This is another among, literally, hundreds of arguments that make the case for impeaching Bush. Much as he did with September 11th, he'll try to make political capital out of this. And as I said on another posting this morning, as he did with 9/11, count on him using this catastrophe as an excuse for doing something really dumb.

When the people of the United States finally understand the basic facts that are presented in this article (I loved the riverboat gambler analogy), that the president of the United States, the man who solemnly swore to "faithfully execute" his office (He loves to execute, what was the problem??), that he diverted desperately needed funds for hurricane protection on a tax cut for the richest one percent and an illegal, immoral invasion of a country that was a threat to no one but itself - when the people - WEEDA PEEPOLE, FOLKS - finally come to terms with what this hideous piece of shit did to their

country, your country - MY COUNTRY, DAG NAP IT! - They'll run him out of town on a rail.

George W. Bush has done more damage to the United States of America than any of her enemies, past or present, real or imagined could ever have dreamed of doing.

Tom Degan
Goshen, NY

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» [I Agree](#) Posted by: michele0726

» [RE: Dubya's Gamble](#) Posted by: beffie

» [RE: Dubya's Gamble](#) Posted by: RonaldBosch

RFK, Jr.

Posted by: Tom Degan on Sep 1, 2005 5:22 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

Oh and by the way, Go to today's Yahoo News and read Bobby Kennedy's article - It's great. And while you're at it, go to Amazon.com and order his recent book that exposes, chapter and verse, Bush's war on the environment.

Happy reading, kids!

Tom Degan
Goshen, NY

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» [RE: FK, Jr.](#) Posted by: xenacat

» [RE: FK, Jr. what's the link](#) Posted by: billyboy43

» [RE: FK, Jr. what's the link](#) Posted by: c2k68

Rebuild New Orleans above sea level

Posted by: ggmurray on Sep 1, 2005 5:48 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

It strikes me that once the rescue missions have done all they can, we should give OLD New Orleans back to nature. Build NEW New Orleans somewhere above sea level, where life can reasonably expect to thrive.

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» [RE: ebuild New Orleans above sea level](#) Posted by: **blueneck**

» [RE: ebuild New Orleans above sea level](#) Posted by: **ALANHESTER**

Will the MSM hold Bush and his Republican cohorts responsible?

Posted by: sausage on Sep 1, 2005 5:59 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

I don't even know why I ask such a question. In this case it is merely rhetorical. On last night's Newhour with Jim Lehrer, the only mention of the administration and Congress cutting the Corps of Engineers' budget was a passing reference by Scientific American's editor, John Rennie.

It was known by the Corps, hydrologists and environmental scientists that New Orleans' levee system was a disaster waiting to happen.

Unfortunately in our current religion-happy environment, what has transpired in New Orleans and along the northern Gulf Coast will be chalked up merely as an "**act of God.**" And we will go merrily on our national way holding no one accountable for what, had it been attended to earlier, should have been preventable.

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» [RE: Will the MSM hold Bush and his Republican cohorts responsible?](#) Posted by: **kittynboi**

Corp of Engineers budget for New Orleans.

Posted by: james on Sep 1, 2005 6:00 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

The president wanted to cut 51 million from the army Corp. of Engineers budget for the New Orleans district. Congress, which sets the Corps budget, voted to cut it a further 20 million, for a total cut of 71.2 million. Cut anything but the big tax cut for the rich. Isn't it curious how this is not reported in the corporate media?

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Why The Levee Broke

Posted by: Dadster3 on Sep 1, 2005 6:05 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

If this article is true, then we can argue--persuasively I think--that in the span of 6 short years we have witnessed the destruction of two of the worlds great cities, and that we can lay the blame for both at the feet of this President and his associates.

A recent guest author on PBS' "The News Hour", who has written extensively on southern Louisiana, said that the cost of bringing the levees up to what would have been required to protect it from Hurricane Katrena was equal to the cost of the war in Iraq for two days. Two Days. Think about it.

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» [RE: Why The Levee Broke](#) Posted by: helenwheels

» [RE: Why The Levee Broke](#) Posted by: Jayzer

» [RE: Why The Levee Broke](#) Posted by: pmgreer1

» [RE: Why The Levee Broke](#) Posted by: Dadster3

» [RE: Why The Levee Broke](#) Posted by: Jayzer

Barbara

Posted by: Barbara on Sep 1, 2005 7:16 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

I'm sorry for the people in this disaster area. But,...the thing that I'm most sorry about is the lack of sympathy and support that the USA will get from the rest of the world this time around. There we were after 9/11 offering our resources, heart felt sympathy, etc, trusting that as the " world leader" that your country would deal with that disaster in an appropriate way. It didn't happen & you blew it. You voted, or chose not to vote , back into Government,...a Government which represents you guys globally by the way,....you voted back an idiot. So,...we're sorry for the people that died in this disaster. We're sorry for the people who lost their homes and everything that they had. But,...we're not going to help you out. We're not going to collect money to help your people as we did for Indonesia. We're not too crazy about your disregard for the rest of the world. It's time for you guys to do it yourself and look after each other. Are you up for it ?

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» [RE: Barbara](#) Posted by: Jas1317

» [RE: Barbara](#) Posted by: Basenjjs

» [RE: Barbara](#) Posted by: danbroadway

» [RE: Barbara](#) Posted by: Jennelle

» [RE: Barbara](#) Posted by: demidesigrri

» [RE: Barbara](#) Posted by: ConnecttheDots

This story needs to be told A LOT!!!

Posted by: bookwoman on Sep 1, 2005 7:18 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

I heard the story about the diversion of funding for the levee strengthening mentioned once yesterday morning. I, personally, haven't heard it repeated until I read it here. Once again, I ask where the broadcast media in on this. This story needs to be talked about, on the airwaves, where most people get their news.

How about it guys?

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Professor of Political Science

Posted by: david.model@senecac.on.ca on Sep 1, 2005 7:19 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

What else is new? Bush has diverted over \$200 billion to Iraq in order to commit war crimes (as documented in my latest book "Lying for Empire: How to Commit War Crimes with a Straight Face") and billions to the space program and missile defense. It seems that Bush has a lot of priorities it's just that none of them include the American people.

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» [RE: Professor of Political Science](#) Posted by: McCain/Bush '08

» [RE: Professor of Political Science](#) Posted by: Jayzer

» [RE: Professor of Political Science](#) Posted by: cyclone

» [RE: Professor of Political Science](#) Posted by: Jayzer

Well said!

Posted by: bambic on Sep 1, 2005 7:45 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

You beat me to the punch, Tom...what can I say but well said. Let's hear more from you.

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WHAT ABOUT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY?

Posted by: Kneel on Sep 1, 2005 7:48 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

Frumkinlovesmoney (at the top) is right, you people. The American taxpayer can't be expected to do everything.

In a post under Katrina's Economic Impact, Frumkin tells us that New Orleans was (was?) a corrupt city with "one of the most corrupt police departments in the nation."

MY POINT EXACTLY! Why bother dispensing taxpayer dollars to shore up the levees when God,

who hates a corrupt police department, is just going to flood the city anyway?

I say it's time for some PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY here. Why didn't these people have their own equipment to deal with this? They knew they were living in a potential hurricane zone - why didn't individual households purchase their own medical supplies, heavy pumps, lifeboats, helicopters, levees, and so forth?

You want flood control, mister, go buy it yourself. Go down to Home Depot and say, Hello, I'd like to buy a flood control, and then get to work and earn the money to pay for it. You're worried about mosquito-borne disease? Don't expect a hand-out, get off your butt! Buy a can of Raid, rent a helicopter and spend your Saturday spraying the standing water.

You want to rebuild the wetlands that, until a few decades ago, shielded New Orleans from this sort of thing? Get some potting soil and get to work. You want a war in Iraq? Pay for it yourself! Don't expect the American taxpayer to do everything.

And why should it be the *National* guard that deals with this. They're, correctly, busy guarding the nation in Fallujah.

This is a municipal issue, and as such it should be dealt with by the Municipal Guard. Or maybe the Inter-Municipal Guard.

If people were dumb enough have a corrupt police department in a hurricane zone, well, I say that whatever happens is their own damn fault!

How do you tackle these problems? Let the locals choose pay for their OWN issues, or not. It's YOUR responsibility, YOUR choice, and if you screw up, don't ask the American taxpayer for a hand out - just like we did with Iraq. You think Don Rumsfeld would come looking for a hand out from the American taxpayer? No way.

That man shows tremendous stoicism and courage in the face of other people's pain and danger. Take a cue from him and show a little backbone. You go into a hurricane with the levees you have, not the levees you need.

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» [Nice sarcasm.....](#) Posted by: Diecash1

» [Personal responsibility? You rightwing NAZIs sure lack it.](#) Posted by: maxpayne

» [RE: Personal responsibility? You rightwing NAZIs sure lack it.](#) Posted by: helenwheels

» [RE: Personal responsibility? You rightwing NAZIs sure lack it.](#) Posted by: maxpayne

» [RE: Personal responsibility? You rightwing NAZIs sure lack it.](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [RE: Personal responsibility? You rightwing NAZIs sure lack it.](#) Posted by: maxpayne

» [RE: Personal responsibility? You rightwing NAZIs sure lack it.](#) Posted by: Basenjjs

» [RE: WHAT ABOUT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY?](#) Posted by: helenwheels

» [RIGHT ON!](#) Posted by: dkm

» [RE: IGHT ON!](#) Posted by: Kneel

» [RE: WHAT ABOUT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY?](#) Posted by: speaktruthpower

» [RE: WHAT **ABOUT** PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY? There's no such thing as a free lunch](#) Posted by: jimsenter

» [RE: WHAT ABOUT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY?](#) Posted by: philame

» [touche kneel](#) Posted by: beetrueyou

Misplaced priorities

Posted by: Pete29 on Sep 1, 2005 8:04 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

Compassionate conservatism at its most ruthless.

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Where to donate?

Posted by: pb120669 on Sep 1, 2005 8:20 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

Anyone have any opinions (laugh!) about where to donate money to help folks in the aftermath? I want my money to go to the infirm, aged, and poor folks who couldn't get out.

Thanks.

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» [RE: Where to donate?](#) Posted by: Diecash1

» [RE: Where to donate?](#) Posted by: knitter

» [RE: Where to donate?](#) Posted by: Yoman

I'd like to think he'd say....

Posted by: Beth G. on Sep 1, 2005 8:56 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

What does George W. Bush have to say for himself now?

I like to think he'd say, "you've been working with the federal Gov't on this since the 1960s. 40+ freakin' years. Over \$500M dollars has been spent on this. And this is the best the crack engineers could come up with? How is this MY fault?"

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» [RE: I'd like to think he'd say....](#) Posted by: helenwheels

» [RE: I'd like to think he'd say....](#) Posted by: jobloe

Amerika's Biggest (un)Natural Disaster

Posted by: rkewen on Sep 1, 2005 8:57 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

I wonder how happy all the bubba's in the red states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama are now with their chosen idiot. This greedy and arrogant administration is the biggest disaster that has ever occurred on American soil, and unfortunately they are a disaster for the whole planet, not just their own country.

I've heard that the southern mansion of racist/facist Trent Lott was completely destroyed by Katrina - there must have been a mix-up with communications to God on that one, isn't Trent on God's side? I will save my compassion for those more deserving than Mr. Lott and only regret that he wasn't home to greet Katrina personally and explain his connections to the big guy upstairs.

By the way that idiot "frumkinlovesmoney" should look into scoring a position in this current administrations of criminals, his username indicates that he worships the same god - money.

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» [RE: Amerika's Biggest \(un\)Natural Disaster](#) Posted by: helenwheels

» [RE: Amerika's Biggest \(un\)Natural Disaster](#) Posted by: dpcosteajr

» [RE: Amerika's Biggest \(un\)Natural Disaster](#) Posted by: cooter

» [RE: Amerika's Biggest \(un\)Natural Disaster](#) Posted by: Jayzer

» [RE: Amerika's Biggest \(un\)Natural Disaster](#) Posted by: cooter

» [RE: Amerika's Biggest \(un\)Natural Disaster](#) Posted by: Jayzer

Some much for Homeland preparedness...

Posted by: dpcosteajr on Sep 1, 2005 8:58 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

This is going to be an EXCELLENT test and a shocking wake-up call for the governments of Louisiana and the United States. It is as if New Orleans had been hit by the largest of terrorist bombs (attacks, whatever...) and we see first hand how ill prepared they are to deal with the situation!

In my opinion Federal troops, helicopters, and APCs should have been rolling into the area as soon as the weather broke! And what did we see? Days of suffering, unrescued people, no communications (if you believe the mass media) and general chaos. I can't believe they allowed ANY people to remain on the streets, exit the Superdome, or "loot" any of the undamaged stores!

The NAVY has the air cushioned (LCAC) vehicles, I know because I worked on them! The secretary of the NAVY should have been deploying them towards the Gulf of Mexico before Katrina even left Florida!

I suspect there will be calls for hearings and investigations over the poor response after all this is over. And don't even get me started about the American Red Cross... With all their 'we need your donations now' crap! Sorry! Where have they been over the past year? Sitting on their collective butts and praying a major hurricane didn't hit the U.S.? Duh!?! I guess they were "well prepared" too!

Did anyone in any agency imagine only 1,000, 2,000 or 3,000 people would be displaced when the next major storm hit the U.S.?

I know these people are having a tough time right now, but some of them should be ashamed of themselves for stooping to the levels of "looting" and petty theft we have seen. Where does Mr. Looter think he is going to hide that bag of Nike sneakers until he can unload them? Or are they going to hand them out at the Astrodome to the needy families? "Het buddy, where'd you get all them shoes?" Unbelievable.

Homes, garages, and self storage facilities are going to have to be emptied of their contaminated contents. So no storing anything of value anywhere in the area, that's for sure!

Americans, especially those in crisis, should be able to set a better example.

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» [RE: Some much for Homeland preparedness...](#) Posted by: McCain/Bush '08

» [RE: Some much for Homeland preparedness...](#) Posted by: maxpayne

Matt Singer of Montana nails the cons on responsibility

Posted by: maxpayne on Sep 1, 2005 9:15 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

[Assessing Responsibility](#)

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» [RE: Matt Singer of Montana nails the cons on responsibility](#) Posted by: McCain/Bush '08

» [RE: Matt Singer of Montana nails the cons on responsibility](#) Posted by: maxpayne

The irony makes my head explode

Posted by: helenwheels on Sep 1, 2005 9:22 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

I simply won't be able to believe it if people don't wake up after this.

The Coward of Crawford struts about saying how "safe" he's keeping Amurka, but how many have died now UNDER HIS WATCH?

And, how many could have been avoided? He was warned about Al Quaeda and 9/11. He was warned about the weak levees.

He did nothing, and now thousands are dead.

He invaded a country that had no ties to 9/11, and killed thousands of them. Nearly 2000 of our own have died for his meaningless war.

He is ruining our country, and hurting not only the U.S. but the world.

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» [RE: The irony makes my head explode](#) Posted by: dpcoasteajr

» [RE: The irony makes my head explode](#) Posted by: rkewen

» [RE: The irony makes my head explode](#) Posted by: cici

» [RE: The irony makes my head explode](#) Posted by: Basenjjs

» [RE: The irony makes my head explode](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [RE: The irony makes my head explode](#) Posted by: maxpayne

» [RE: The irony makes my head explode](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

"Scorched or Flooded, the Situation's the Same"

Posted by: monkeywrench on Sep 1, 2005 9:25 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

So BushCo takes money away from New Orleans' flood control projects for "homeland security." Well, I guess now we'll get to see how secure the nation feels with its largest port, the fifth largest in the world, as well as much of its oil refining, shut down. I doubt that any terrorist attack could have done the damage that has occurred from Katrina, at least in part because of BushCo's stupid funding decisions.

What is it going to take to get President Duh! and his merry band of neoCON thugs out of the White House?!

(By the way, Americans, especially those in the South, should be familiar with the spirit of the Bush agenda – that is, if they remember General Sherman's "scorched earth" march to the sea in the Civil War. . .)

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Public Safety is not "pork"!

Posted by: cici on Sep 1, 2005 9:37 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

"Pork is everywhere and just because someone got less than they asked for...."

We're not talking about "pork" in the form of federally-funding the promotion of golf. Shoring up levees is not "pork." Preventing this kind of tragedy is not "pork." What is the government for anyway? What are my taxes for anyway? I am proud to pay taxes when they are used wisely for public projects.

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» [RE: Public Safety is not "pork"!](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [Frumkin = Johnny-boy](#) Posted by: maxpayne

» [RE: Frumkin = Johnny-boy](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [RE: Public Safety is not "pork"!](#) Posted by: Basenjjs

» [RE: Public Safety is not "pork"!](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

Government Responsibility

Posted by: dkm on Sep 1, 2005 9:50 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

The last I read, one of the major documents of our country (The Constitution) stated flat out that the function of government is "to promote the general welfare." That includes taking reasonable procedures to prevent foreseeable disasters such as just occurred in Louisiana. Our present

administration completely and deliberately failed to comply with its legal obligations, a case of "high crimes and misdemeanors" if there ever was one.

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» [RE: Government Responsibility](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

You Guys Are Out there!

Posted by: Johnny-Boy on Sep 1, 2005 9:53 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

Yikes, I think I've found probably the biggest collection of boneheads since Daily Kos.

What burden of proof do you guys have for the accusations you all toss around? If you heard it on Air America it must be true.

From 5 minutes of reading I've gathered that 1) President Bush stole the election 2) President Bush cut taxes to he and his rich buddies could sit around and smoke cigars lit by \$1000 dollar bills and shoot puppies. 3) The hurricane would have never happened had we signed Kyoto, instead New Orleans would be harvesting crops of lollipop fields and chocolate meadows 4) President Bush's plans to invade the moon are taking money away from disaster relief.

My goodness! Reading ya'lls comments is like watching a bunch of children complain about not being able to eat coco-puffs three meals a day.

I'd like to address everything in here, but I think you knuckleheads are too far out to hear the reality shouted at ya'll.

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» [RE: You Guys Are Out there!](#) Posted by: pomes

» [RE: You Guys Are Out there!](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [RE: You Guys Are Out there!](#) Posted by: russianblue

» [RE: You Guys Are Out there!](#) Posted by: vivachavez

» [RE: You Guys Are Out there!](#) Posted by: bqtrain

» [RE: You Guys Are Out there!](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [RE: You Guys Are Out there!](#) Posted by: bqtrain

[» RE: You Guys Are Out there!](#) Posted by: Basenjjs

[» RE: You Guys Are Out there!](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

[» RE: You Guys Are Out there!](#) Posted by: getafix

[» RE: You Guys Are Out there!](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

[» RE: You Guys Are Out there!](#) Posted by: maxpayne

[» More likely a case of the pot and the kettle.....](#) Posted by: Diecash1

Why does Bush get blamed for EVERYTHING?

Posted by: nightbrd on Sep 1, 2005 10:06 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

Hindsight is 20/20. Should we say Bush is a bad President because for example, he KNOWS San Fransisco could have an earthquake at any minute and he's not pouring money into retrofitting all the skyscrapers there? How about tornado areas? Should he pour money into all businesses in Kansas and make sure they don't ever blow away? He can't be held accountable for everything that happens. He is taking care of problems as they arise. Who else could say they could make these decisions better? Raise your hand if YOU want to be the world's scapegoat and could do a better job.

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[» RE: Why does Bush get blamed for EVERYTHING?](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

[» RE: Why does Bush get blamed for EVERYTHING?](#) Posted by: vivachavez

[» RE: Why does Bush get blamed for EVERYTHING?](#) Posted by: russianblue

[» RE: Why does Bush get blamed for EVERYTHING?](#) Posted by: bqtrain

[» RE: Why does Bush get blamed for EVERYTHING?](#) Posted by: Jayzer

[» He shouldn't have stolen the budgets and diverted them to Iraq in the 1st place](#) Posted by: maxpayne

[» RE: Why does Bush get blamed for EVERYTHING?](#) Posted by: ScottP

[» I'm confident I could do much, much better.....](#) Posted by: Diecash1

[» Because he's the damn leader!!!!](#) Posted by: beetrueyou

[» RE: Why does Bush get blamed for EVERYTHING?](#) Posted by: martian

Where is the Left's Accountability??

Posted by: Johnny-Boy on Sep 1, 2005 11:06 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

We hear shrieks and screams from the left already that this is President Bush's fault, with subsequent hysterics about impeachment (which will never happen dorks, grow up).

But for decades, you on the fringe left have tried to gut our defense spending. In one breath you groan about how we pump too much money into the military, then lament about how we're not sending enough man/material/money into the disaster zone.

The military provides the bulk of the support in times like these, but if it were up to you, we would have but a fraction of the resources to respond with.

Then, of course, its President Bush's fault.

And save it with the "there would be plenty to go around, as we would never have sent troops to Iraq." We have plenty of "boots on the ground" in the disaster area, we don't need the Army and Marines as much as we need the Navy and the Air Force for rescue efforts. A couple hundred looters and a lone nutcase with a shotgun -firing at a helicopter- does not warrant the entire 101st Airborne Division. Just a few thousand national guard and reserves.

Had it been up to the folks on this site who love to blame Bush, we would have never had the military infrastructure needed for the rescue efforts in the first place.

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» [RE: Where is the Left's Accountability??](#) Posted by: bqtrain

» [RE: Where is the Left's Accountability??](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [RE: Where is the Left's Accountability??](#) Posted by: Basenjjs

» [RE: Where is the Left's Accountability??](#) Posted by: Jayzer

» [RE: Where is the Left's Accountability??](#) Posted by: russianblue

» [RE: Where is the Left's Accountability??](#) Posted by: russianblue

» [You can't blame the left at a time when the rightwing is in power](#) Posted by: maxpayne

» [RE: You can't blame the left at a time when the rightwing is in power](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [RE: You can't blame the left at a time when the rightwing is in power](#) Posted by: 5horizons

[» RE: You can't blame the left at a time when the rightwing is in power](#) Posted by: Jayzer

[» Typical neo-con troll bullshit.....](#) Posted by: Diecash1

Let's quit with the Blame Game!

Posted by: Lizmv on Sep 1, 2005 11:16 AM [\[Report this comment\]](#)

As tempting as it would be for me to blame Bush, the fact is, he did not throw a hurricane at New Orleans and there is no way he could have stopped it. We most likely could have spent billions there and still had to same outcome. New Orleans was simply a disaster waiting to happen. We need to look and study this very hard as a lesson in really bad urban design. Having to be constantly building and rebuilding levees in order to hold back water in unsustainable.

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[» But he did deny the budgets for maintainance needed so yes he's responsible](#) Posted by: maxpayne

Homeland Security???

Posted by: dodmama on Sep 1, 2005 11:18 AM [\[Report this comment\]](#)

Forget the fact that New Orleans is below sea level ,that the South voted for Bush and that nobody in Congress really cares about middle and lower income families we must focus on the fact that Homeland Security has engulfed FEMA and all funds are diverted to Iraq . The Port of New Orleans is the biggest in this country - one of the 5 biggest in the world. Fully 25% of the oil we consume is refined in this area- the pipelines to the rest of the country run through this area. No matter what the dollar ammount to fix the levee and pumping systems and to insure the viability of surrounding wetlands- a major buffer for such storms- it was petite cash when you consider the cumulative damage to the entire economy and national security. Tax dollars from California, Maine ot Idaho spent in New Orleans or else where in the country benefit us all in the long run. We must question why are taxes are being channeled elsewhere before all of our local and national security and economic issues have not been addressed and met. Our biggest security problems lie not with vague and random terrorist cells but with our government for playing fast and loose with the nations tax money and with it's taxpayers for not loudly demanding accountability and transparency in Congress's fiscal dealings.

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levees are part of the problem

Posted by: jimsenter on Sep 1, 2005 11:20 AM [\[Report this comment\]](#)

I was born and raised in New Orleans. As we speak, my sister and her family and my mom and cousins, aunts and uncles are part of the refugee stream heading for Texas. So I have a personal and close knowledge of these issues.

While I agree that Bush's budget priorities are MESSSED UP and leave many dire needs unmet, building up the levees can only be a stopgap solution, a temporary solution, because the levees are a major part of the problem.

Before the city was built, every spring the river would overflow, depositing sediments from the heartland of the continent over a wide area, building up the delta. By necessity, when the area was settled, levees were built and the river confined to its channel. Spring floods were a thing of the past. And the delta began to sink. The marshes to erode. The natural buffer that in the past protected the city from storms has pretty much disappeared. In large part because levees cut off the supply of sediment that kept the delta alive and growing.

The Corps of engineers has a plan, partially implimented, to artificially mimic this annual flood. The plan is to divert river water through massive pipes and systems of canals out into the marshes, where the sediment it carries can start to build up the delta again. Local politics (You're not gonna flood MY oyster beds!) as much as budget cuts has delayed full implimentation of this project.

So build the levees higher as short term protection. Long term protection of the city can only lie in human ingenuity that mimics the natural processes our actions have disrupted.

Jim Senter
Durham NC

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» [RE: levees are part of the problem](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [RE: levees are part of the problem](#) Posted by: WillieD

» [RE: levees are part of the problem](#) Posted by: jimsenter

» [RE: levees are part of the problem](#) Posted by: philame

» [I say it's time to push for better fuel efficiency and environmental repair in that state too given](#) Posted by: maxpayne

Phoney Bush Keywords

Posted by: Ray on Sep 1, 2005 11:55 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

Phoney Bush Keywords such as "Democracy", "Safety of American Citizens", "Terrorism", etc. are only false and hollow mockeries of a coward, fraud, and of the King of Terrorists himself. The people of New Orleans have been terrorized by Bush's greed and support for those rich folks benefiting from tax cuts and Iraq contracts, those he calls "hard working Americans". He, his administration, and their families should be arrested for treason, genocide, terrorism and turned over

to the families of those who have died in Iraq and New Orleans.

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» [RE: Phoney Bush Keywords](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [RE: Phoney Bush Keywords](#) Posted by: maxpayne

» [RE: Phoney Bush Keywords](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [RE: Phoney Bush Keywords](#) Posted by: maxpayne

Right wing lunatics

Posted by: jeaniew on Sep 1, 2005 11:58 AM [[Report this comment](#)]

Yesterday I was running through discussion groups on another site. The group is a mixed group of liberals and Bushviks, they jumped on the posts concerning this subject on the budget cuts to the Corp of Engineers, I posted all my links which did not help because they think this is some kind of liberal left wing conspiracy theory that we just cooked up off of one of their faux sites about us. I have been runiing into people wanting to blame Governor Blanco for this. I wish I could get this message through , why hasn't the mainstream media been leaked this information.

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Maybe it isn't all Bush's fault?

Posted by: philame on Sep 1, 2005 12:26 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

First off, let me make it clear that I am not a Bush supporter. Calling the Bush Administration incompetent and inept would be an undue compliment so now you know where I stand on that.

But I get confused when I hear people say he has destroyed our "great" country in 6 years. When was it great? Yes, it has greatness in it and it has had and hopefully will continue to have wonderful moments, but it is an exagerration to call our country a "once great nation".

This latest tragedy just shows we collectively don't give a sh** about our own fellow citizens - especially the poor ones. This isn't anything new. Yes, we did have a stronger sense of community earlier in American history, but to be shocked that we didn't come through for our own doesn't make sense to me.

Now, I am not trying to deny us Americans our humanity. I deeply admire the rescue workers there, people in the communities there reaching out and helping each other, everyone making donations. We are not heartless, but there is something deeply flawed in American society that cannot all be put on Bush's shoulders.

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Rod from Canada

Posted by: Rod from Canada on Sep 1, 2005 12:29 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

I don't know about anyone else, but (and this is from the perspective of an outsider, of course) I am getting a sense that if Bush and company don't get on the ball VERY quickly and start displaying some competence and leadership when it comes to dealing with the Katrina disaster, that this hurricane and its devastating aftermath may end being to the Bush Administration what the Chernobyl disaster was to the (then) government of the U.S.S.R. I think there are some some disturbing parallels here.

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American Taxpayers DO Pay for Everything

Posted by: LeftCoaster on Sep 1, 2005 12:40 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

I can't stand it anymore . . . I've avoided AlterNet for several weeks because I read so much balderdash from rightwingers in the comments but I just can't stand it (don't worry, Matt; I'll sink back under my rock again after this).

Infrastructure is precisely why Americans pay taxes. Infrastructure and disaster preparedness. Protecting America from floods is every bit as important as killing citizens of other countries because we've been told it protects our freedom. Tax money goes to both. We elect leaders we hope have the wisdom to put taxes toward defending America but it seems more and more like a crap shoot . . .

It's not possible to misconstrue the rants of those who continually bring up the dead of 9-11 as if they felt some compassion. What about the people of Louisiana who had nowhere to go? What about the people of Mississippi who had nowhere to go? These are working people who pay their taxes; they deserve uniquely American "let's-all-pull-together-ness" in their time of need. Instead, the rightwingers make like Scrooge and mutter about it lessening the surplus population.

Most obnoxious are the ones who say let New Orleans drown. Clearly, they've never set foot there. This wasn't some weather-beaten coastal town with an out-of-business gas station and a broken traffic-light. This was 300 years of history that was so pervasive that it was the city itself, not just a glass-encased memory in a museum. That is not to say that the weather-beaten coastal towns in Mississippi and Alabama don't deserve help as well; the human toll there has been as devastating as 9-11 was to New Yorkers.

One last thing: don't defend Bush because he can't control the weather; he does control FEMA and he is an adult and he does know that two strong hurricanes did a lot of damage in Florida last year and the choice was always his to make. This isn't a high crime but maybe not bringing home the Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama National Guard now is conduct unbecoming.

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SETTLEMENT PUBLISHING

Posted by: Settlement Publishing on Sep 1, 2005 1:06 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

In times of devastation, where hurt is all we can feel, certain unalienable rights still apply: Try this one - Poetry!

SUM

INJUSTICE is not ended without wear,
and if it is to you, that it must come,
despite the provocation, or the bear,
consider self, as ransom for its sum.

That placing of thy life upon the strum,
of mind sets rank, contingencies duldrum,
accepting vile fate as wanton hum,
ignoring chronic hurt, its path's succumb.

That rescue of intent, from times unsung,
sing heartily, for within truth's force is from,
conspiring evil's battle, its among,
so commonplace, a cushion of undone.

Oh cruelty's heart - is effort, chaffing's won,
that putting down to weakness, lives its own
self-cruelty, like no bond could faith its hone,
and value its dissension, justice prone.

SEEK LAW, that sum of knowing - of unknown,
gives proving of thy course - is not alone!

Does that sorta explain this corrupted, corrupting, circumstance. When HURT wins over LAWS, we are all responsible to change something, and have the right!

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[» RE: SETTLEMENT PUBLISHING](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

[» RE: SETTLEMENT PUBLISHING](#) Posted by: maxpayne

Why We Find Fault With Bush (part I)

Posted by: Kneel on Sep 1, 2005 1:10 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

I think it's legitimate to ask how anyone can blame Bush for a hurricane. This is for those who do.

Pardon the length, but for anyone legitimately wondering, anyone, who, say, gets their info from Fox (or just the Box) and genuinely wonders, I hope this will help you at least to understand where some of us are coming from:

LONG TERM:

Wetlands destruction.

That was carried out over a few decades by a misguided Army Corps of Engineers; they since have developed a plan to rectify it.

Blame on Bush: Little or none. (Little because someone smarter might have actively pushed the reclamation projects, but they still wouldn't have gotten very far by now.)

Global warming.

Warmer ocean = stronger hurricanes. No serious scientist denies global warming, there are just some tobacco-company type "scientists" keeping tobacco-company type arguments afloat.

Blame on Bush: Some, for propping up the greedhead argument and preventing work on the problem.

Cutting funding for shoring up the levees.

This is sort of like the way they're dealing with everything. Unless they can figure ways for Bush friends and family to make obscene profits off it, they're not interested. Protecting the populace from something as unflashy as, say, tuberculosis, well, if you get that, it's your own damn fault.

We're very lucky not to have an attack on the ports (wouldn't take level half a city) or, say, a nuclear power plant (see Rory Kennedy's film on the subject - a small-scale attack could make the NYC region briefly uninhabitable, if we use "briefly" in geological terms). They're willing to pour \$300 billion into Iraq while leaving key potential terrorist targets at home defenseless. Weird.

And while it's true that nothing currently existing would have protected the city in the event of a direct hit from a category 5 hurricane... the city wasn't hit by a category 5 hurricane. On Monday, the people of NO were celebrating because Katrina missed.

And then the levee broke.

Blame on Bush: Full.

SHORT TERM

Prior to the event, everyone knew it was coming and, in fact, feared it would actually be much worse. We knew when it would hit and roughly where.

So, what did our beloved administration do? ...

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Why We Find Fault With Bush (part II)

Posted by: Kneel on Sep 1, 2005 1:11 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

...

...

...

Time's up. Oh, sorry, you missed that one, and now the Whitman family has a chance to steal. (Give us a kiss, darlin'.)

Why is that days later he's finally ordering up National Guard troops, that troops are... on their way? Why wasn't that done immediately... like BEFORE it even struck. Shouldn't they have been ready to go in as soon as the storm passed, like by that night? They could have set up staging areas in Texas and been in place Monday night.

Why isn't the area filled with Navy and Coast Guard personnel in everything from Zodiacs to hovercrafts (the LCHCs mentioned above) effecting rescues and so forth? Why aren't there enough helicopters?

(And if some whacko's shooting his shotgun at them, well, there aren't many who would oppose shooting back. Sorry dude, you shoot at air ambulances, you get fitted for a pair of Air Deadguys. But where are the helicopters that can do that?)

Might it have made sense to bring back the local National Guard units from Iraq, to be ready to roll in immediately? Because this is exactly what most of us thought the National Guard was for, to protect the... nation (hence the "National" part of the name) at home, whether it's from a terrorist attack or from God smiting a city because he hates a corrupt police force so much (which He really does, almost as much as sodomites).

What about temporarily scaling back operations overseas to gear up for this?

And doesn't anyone else see it as unconscionable, utterly unconscionable, that they, we, just left the people of the area to fend for themselves (uh... find a motel or something)? Why weren't army bases and other facilities made available to house these people? Why haven't they been made available now?

Blame on Bush: Full.

(Except for shotgun dude.)

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Why We Find Fault With Bush (part III)

Posted by: Kneel on Sep 1, 2005 1:15 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

AFTERMATH:

Where was our dear George after this thing had ripped through? Surely hunkered down in the crisis center, demanding constant updates, insisting that engineering teams be dangled from helicopters onto all the levees to make sure they were sound (seeing, because he's so smart, a danger that hadn't yet occurred to others), demanding all those drug interdiction planes be using their sophisticated thermal imaging to search for survivors, bringing in backup generators, moving all sorts of equipment into place as fast as possible... coordinating the recovery.

Oh, wait... he was off in San Diego, trying to drum up support for Iraq, because clearly that was top priority at the moment (for him, it was).

True to form, the main response from the Presidential level seems to be to... tap the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Why has the city been left to fend for itself for days, the people in it stranded and desperate? Why are they *just now* looking for locations to house the refugees?

Blame on Bush: Hmmmm.

Actually I don't know that I really blame Bush. The guy was in San Diego at the crisis was exploding because he's just a figurehead, and this is like his response to 9/11, or non-response. While planes hit buildings, the guy gave no orders, took no action, did everything but throw his hands in the air and scream "every man for himself" as he fled to Oklahoma. And for this people praised him?

It's really the (Reagan Redux) administration. You may think those of us who criticize Bush or the administrations policies somehow don't like America (which makes us much sense as equating criticizing the Postal Service with hating America), but in fact, we know that America is full of wonderfully compassionate people.

How many Americans feel that these people should have been left to fend for themselves this long, from the failure to shore up the levees over the past few years, to the evacuation, to the horrible chaos they're stuck in now?

And that's why, though hurricane is an act of God (who's simply mad about a corrupt police force, apparently), some people find fault with the Bush administration's preparation for it, and their response to it. We feel it's our society (hijacked by these greedheads) and we want to see those people helped, and fast. Like, yesterday.

Or last week.

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» [RE: Why We Find Fault With Bush \(part III\)](#) Posted by: Basenjjs

» [RE: Why We Find Fault With Bush \(part III\)](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [RE: Why We Find Fault With Bush \(part III\)](#) Posted by: Kneel

» [RE: Why We Find Fault With Bush \(part III\)](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [RE: Why We Find Fault With Bush \(part III\)](#) Posted by: maxpayne

Don't Feed the Troll

Posted by: demidesigrrl on Sep 1, 2005 1:24 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

Johnny-boy's first comment should have been clue enough that he is the one who is "out there". Some people made attempts to engage him/her/it in a "reality-based" discourse but clearly that wasn't the agenda. Like most neo-cons and Bush apologists (misspelling on purpose), J-b just wanted to perform the internet equivalent of jumping up and down with his fingers in his ears, hollering "nyanyanee boo boo".

BTW, Johnny-boy, it's nice to see frumkin has one little friend. But you should know that most of the world thinks people like you and your president are dangerous sociopathic morons who ought to be stopped from destroying the rest of us. Peace.

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» [RE: Don't Feed the Troll](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [RE: Don't Feed the Troll](#) Posted by: maxpayne

» [RE: Don't Feed the Troll](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [Trolls have a purpose ...](#) Posted by: aswgt@ix.netcom.com

» [RE: Trolls have a purpose ...](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [RE: Trolls have a purpose ...](#) Posted by: maxpayne

Prepare for Disasters Don't Create Them

Posted by: barrys new conversations on Sep 1, 2005 1:32 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

In growth we trust. Bush and Congress don't get paid to be prudent. They can't wait for a natural disaster to come along. They have to spend money now. So they do a man-made one like Iraq. Special interests that include evangelism by way of democracy in the Middle East, protecting shrinking Israel from the growing muslim populations and the ever war ready military-industrial complex are very strong lobbies. In Washington they follow the lobbies and the money. They don't follow prudent policies like preparing for disasters.

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Listen to Nature

Posted by: Irufus1 on Sep 1, 2005 1:31 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

Fighting nature is a monumental task. Millions upon millions of dollars could have reinforced the levees enough to withstand this epic storm, but we will never know. But in the aftermath, do we have to make the same mistake twice? The mistake being that of building a city of over a million people in a "bathtub" made of earthen walls trying to protect its citizens and buildings against hurricanes, floods, and heavy rains. The troubles of reclaiming land and trying to protect them has been no secret in this delta region for decades. Sometimes you have to surrender to nature or pay a heavy price to fight her. Maybe abandoning a city rich in culture and history is no answer, but maybe its the only reasonable one. Build it back on the high ground. This is what nature's trying to tell us.

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What they're saying on AM talk radio...

Posted by: getafix on Sep 1, 2005 1:35 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

I spend part of my commute listening to and occasionally calling in to AM talk radio shows, in addition to BBC, Pacifica, NPR and a little AirAmerica. Funny, but the story they're repeating ad nauseum is a claim that Clinton declined an Army Corps request to shore up levees in New Orleans-- not a scratch about budget cuts to an existing program under Bush. Though I've heard the claim many times, I've yet to hear any reference on their version of the story. This seems to be the usual pre-emptive PR stunt, but it's also good to be able to factually respond to the Clinton claim. Has anyone dug deeper on this one?

The other big item for Rush, Sean, and especially the local dumasses is the shrill whine "Where are the other countries offering their assistance?". The funniest one was Jeff Katz wondering aloud why Iraq wasn't rushing aid to New Orleans. One of his callers then suggested they fill the levee with bodies of dead Iraqis, and the host laughed and pretended not to understand what he'd just heard,

"Sometimes you just have to say, 'Thanks for the call' and hang up." This is an extreme example of a typical AM radio manœuvre: Whip up the listeners into a frenzie and let the callers say on air what the host would really like to express, but can't: vitreolic racism, xenophobia, and homophobia, i.e. the core 'conservative' values.

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» [WHAT ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSIBILITY?](#) Posted by: Kneel

» [RE: WHAT ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSIBILITY?](#) Posted by: pmgreer1

» [RE: What they're saying on AM talk radio...](#) Posted by: pmgreer1

» [RE: What they're saying on AM talk radio...](#) Posted by: ajajez

SoCalPundit

Posted by: SoCalPundit on Sep 1, 2005 2:39 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

I just wanted to quickly add here that it seems an improper time to try to assess blame here. If (as many have written on these pages) the problem of the levies has been around for a long time that there is plenty of blame to go around.

I for one am tired of hearing the left blame Bush for everything bad that happens yet have been silent on the good things that have happened as if only the bad is worth talking about.

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» [RE: Hmmm, what good things, exactly?](#) Posted by: Kneel

» [RE: Hmmm, what good things, exactly?](#) Posted by: Johnny-Boy

» [RE: No seriously, what good things, exactly?](#) Posted by: nitsua1023

» [ummm...We're waiting](#) Posted by: beetrueyou

Johnny Boy Has too much free time

Posted by: nitsua1023 on Sep 1, 2005 3:34 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

Get a job Johnny Boy, you have made about a hundred posts today. Are you sitting at home in a dark room in your underwear, wasting your entire day on a website which you know is will consistently disagree with you? Do you really have all day to just sit there and get nothing done? Do you tune your radio to Air America and yell back at it all day until you are exhausted and out of breath. You talk about helping the folks down here in Louisiana, but it looks like you have all day to get

absolutely wank done to help out anybody. So you can spend all day here posting comments, but you look really pathetic. Why not make your point and move on. We are all really sad for you. :(

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Hypocrisy

Posted by: Olympiada on Sep 1, 2005 5:59 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

I am reading this article late in the day, after 187 comments. Hypocrisy. That is what I garner from this article about our government.

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death by inches

Posted by: thunderstar on Sep 1, 2005 6:55 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

**NEW ORLEANS:
genocide by the shrubbery.**

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touche!

Posted by: beetrueyou on Sep 1, 2005 7:30 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

what more can i say?

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» [RE: touche!](#) Posted by: beetrueyou

touche kneel

Posted by: beetrueyou on Sep 1, 2005 7:35 PM [[Report this comment](#)]

what more can i say? i can't believe how many ignorant people there are in this country.

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» [RE: touche kneel](#) Posted by: beetrueyou

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