

Web (& Print) Log (2006 C.E.)

Gene Michael Stover

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Chapter 1

2006 January

1.1 Sunday, January 1

1. “What to believe in the ‘war on terror’?”. By William Fisher and Jim Lobe. 2005 December 21. [86]
2. “Senate passes amendment to end habeas for detainees”. At Talk Left. 2005 November 10. [267]
3. “Senate votes no terror suspects in courts”. By Liz Sidoti. 2005 November 10. [260]
4. “Islamism, fascism, & terrorism”. By Marc Erikson. 2002 November. [82]
5. “Former top US justice official objected to Bush spy program”. At New Straits Times online. [306]
6. “US spy controversy hits Justice Dept”. By Kim Landers. 2006 January 2. [160]
7. “Top Democrat seeks wider NSA hearings”. By Brian Knowlton. [154]

1.1.1 The Graham Amendment

The essay [86] mentions a “Graham Amendment”. The essay says it would cause interrogation techniques to be listed in a secret appendix(?) of a military manual so that neither Congressmen nor average citizens could ever see them; this might allow for torture. It would also suspend the right of habeas corpus for detainees & prisoners of the United States’s military.

Let’s see how much of this is true, & if any of it is true, whether or not it’s too late to write letters to my Congressmen to tell them to vote against the Graham Amendment.

There’s no search feature at <http://senate.gov/>, so I couldn’t find information about it there.

I used Google to search for “graham amendment” & found this: “Senate passes amendment to end habeas for detainees”. According to that essay, the Senate passed the Graham Amendment on 2005 November 10.

Looks like I’m too late. What’s more, the more I read, the more depressed I get. If our government goes any farther out of control, I’m leaving. I swear it.

I wish I could find the amendment’s document id so I could look it up at <http://senate.gov/>.

Looks like the amendment is either S.AMDT.2515 or S.AMDT.2516. Both are amendments to S.1042, a huge Department of Defense budget bill for fiscal year 2006.

1.1.2 Double-Thinking Graham

This is fucking ironic. Senator Lindsey Graham introduced S.Con.Res.24 on 2005 March 20. Here’s the summary: “Expresses the sense of the Congress that: (1) the anti-secession law of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) provides a legal justification for the use of force against Taiwan, altering the status quo in the region and is of grave concern to the United States”.

Why is it ironic? Did you hear about the Civil War in history class? We mostly remember the main product, which was the 18th Amendment, which outlaws slavery, but the war was started not due to arguments about slavery but due to the wish of the southern states to secede. The states warred among themselves to decide whether or not states had the right to secede.

If you hadn’t noticed, that noisy discussion decided that states do not have the right to secede.

And now Senator Lindsey Graham is concerned because China says that Taiwan doesn’t have the right to secede? Riiiiight.

1.2 January 2

1. “Schumer calls for questioning in eavesdropping investigation”. By Brian Knowlton. 2006 January 1. [153]
2. “Bush defends eavesdropping amid calls for testimony”. By Tabassum Zakaria. 2006 January 1. [433]
3. “Iraq Under Occupation”. At Aljazeera.net. [318]
4. “Bush’s spy program and the Fourth Amendment”. By Geoffrey R. Stone. [384]

1.3 Tuesday, January 3

1. “Bush’s Spy controversy”. By William Bunch. [38]
2. “Has Bush gone too far?”. By Richard Lacayo. [159]

3. “Did MGM really win the Grokster case?”. By Pamela Samuelson. [236]
4. “Software in Ireland: a balance of entrepreneurship and x2026 lifestyle management?”. By Michael A. Cusumano. [49]
5. “Academic dishonesty and the Internet”. By Kenneth A. Ross. [231]
6. “Why the Internet is bad for democracy”. By Eli M. Noam. [204]
7. “From DQ to EQ: understanding data quality in the context of e-business systems”. By Yong Jin Kim and Rajiv Kishore and G. Lawrence Sanders. [148]
8. “IT skills in a tough job market”. By Bipin Prabhakar and Charles R. Litecky and Kirk Arnett. [218]
9. “The best-laid plans: a cautionary tale for developers”. By Lauren Weinstein. [424]

1.4 Wednesday, January 4

1. “Spy probe: Congress must reel in snooping on citizens”. At Lansing State Journal. [350]
2. “By skirting courts, Bush asserts a right he doesn’t have”. By Khalid Abdalla. [3]
3. “White House told NSA briefings broke the law”. By Katherine Shrader. [258]

1.5 Thursday, January 5

1. “A real flip-flopper”. By Mary Alice Wood. [430]
2. “Turning down the trade-off”. By Paul Wulfsberg. [431]
3. “Debunking Bush’s NSA Lies: A Handy Pocket Guide”. By Arianna Huffington. [131]
4. HuffingtonPost.com

1.6 Friday, January 6

1. *High-Performance Client/Server: A Guide to Building and Managing Robust Distributed Systems*. By Chris Loosley and Frank Douglas. 1998. [176]
2. “Iran’s no-show at IAEA fuels tension in atomic row”. By Mark Heinrich. [118]

3. George Bush: Master Spy. By Nat Hentoff. The Village Voice. [121]
4. Land of the Surveilled, Home of the Complacent. By Ken Sanders. DemocraticUnderground.com. [237]
5. Legal support for Bush's spy actions is thin, report says. By Siobhan Gorman. Baltimore Sun. [104]
6. Court routinely defers to NSA spy requests. By Sean Mussenden. journalnow.com. [196]
7. Spying rationale questioned. By Eric Lichtblau and Scott Shane. IndyStar.com. [167]

1.6.1 George & Julius

I'm certain that President Bush is trying to cross the Rubicon. I have an unpleasant hunch that Congress, due to its self-inflicted impotence, will let him get away with it.

1.7 Saturday, January 7

1. Clusty search engine at <http://clusty.org/>
2. ARGN - Alternate Reality Gaming Network¹
3. Push, NC²
4. Forbidden books of the original New Testament: The suppressed Gospels and Epistles of the original New Testament of Jesus the Christ, Complete. By William Wake. [417]

1.8 Sunday, January 8

1. Why even democracy fails. By Herbert W. Armstrong. theTrumpet.com. [15]
2. "My career history – Observations and Experiences". By Tony Marston. 2001 April. [183]

1.9 Monday, January 9

1. Legal Support for Bush's Spy Actions Is Thin, Report Says. By Siobhan Gorman. Los Angeles Times. [105]

¹<http://www.argn.com/>

²<http://www.pushnc.com/>

1.10 Thursday, January 12

1. “Hedda Gabbler”. By Henrik Ibsen. A play in [135]. I read it because of John Cale’s song of the same name.
2. A congressional report challenges Bush spy program. By Carol D. Leonnig. The Boston Globe. 2006 January 7. [163]
3. Annan: Iran still keen on nuclear talks. By staff. Aljazeera.Net. [274]
4. EU leaders say Iran talks are dead. By staff. Aljazeera.net. [302]
5. Iran and Russian begin nuclear talks. By staff. Aljazeera.net. [314]
6. Ahmadinejad: Holocaust a myth. By staff. Aljazeera.net. [272]
7. Tehran chokes in thick smog. By staff. Aljazeera.net. [359]
8. “Network laws”. By Peter J. Denning. Commun. ACM. 2004 November. [61]
9. “Is this a revolutionary idea, or not?”. By Robert L. Glass. Commun. ACM. 2004 November. [100]
10. “Computational biology and high-performance computing”. By David A. Bader. Commun. ACM. 2004 November. [20]
11. “PetaFLOPS computing”. By Ebisuzaki & others. Commun. ACM. 2004 November. [76]
12. “The one-minute risk assessment tool”. By Amrit Tiwana and Mark Keil. Commun. ACM. 2004 November. [409]
13. “What leads to user acceptance of digital libraries?”. By James Y.L. Thing and Weiyin Hong and Kar Yan Tam. Commun. ACM. 2004 November [405]
14. “Visualization strategies and tools for enhancing customer relationship management”. By Ganapathy & others. Commun. ACM. 2004 November. [94]
15. “Remote repair, diagnostics, and maintenance”. By Biehl & others. Commun. ACM. 2004 November. [33]
16. “Nanoscience fact versus fiction”. By Donaldson and Stone. Commun. ACM. 2004 November. [65]
17. “Evaluation of voting systems”. By Vora & a host of others. Commun. ACM. 2004 November. [416]

1.11 Sunday, January 15

1. “The Command Line – The Best Newbie Interface?”. By Richard Wareham. 2004 March 8. [419]
2. www.lispniks.com Mailing Lists

1.12 Monday, January 16

1. Q&A: Iran’s nuclear research. By staff. Aljazeera.net. [338]
2. Republican senator promises thorough investigation of domestic spy program. By staff. Muslim American Society. [340]
3. Impeachment talk bugging Bush. By staff. Times of India. [312]
4. The impeachment of George W. Bush. By Elizabeth Holtzman. Axis of Logic. [125]

1.13 Tuesday, January 17

1. Iran urges new nuclear talks. By staff. Aljazeera.net. [316]

1.14 Thursday, January 19

1. “A conversation with Tim Marsland”. By Kirk McKusick. Queue. 2005 May. [188]
2. “Mobile media: making it a reality”. By Fred Kitson. Queue. 2005 May. [151]
3. “Streams and Standards: Delivering Mobile Video”. By Tom Gerstel. Queue. 2005 May. [98]
4. “You don’t know jack about network performance”. By Kevin Fall and Steve McCanne. Queue. 2006 May. [85]
As it turned out, I *did* know jack about network performance.
5. US accused of torture policy. By staff. Aljazeera.net. [363]
6. Fresh Iran talks call rejected. By staff. Aljazeera.net. [307]
7. Bin Laden offers Americans truce. By staff. Aljazeera.net. [277]

1.14.1 Bush's 4th Amendment Violation

Since the new broke that President Bush authorized surveillance of US citizens without warrants, I've written letters to my congresscritters every week. My Senators are Maria Cantewll & Patty Murray. My Representative is David G. Reichert.

I haven't received a reply, but a friend who has done the same & who has a different Representative in the House has received a reply. His Representative is Jay Inslee, & here's what he said in an e-mailed reply.

From: Congressman Jay Inslee <Jay.Inslee@mail.house.gov>
To: ...
Subject: From Congressman Jay Inslee
Date: Tue, 17 Jan 2006 18:29:06 -0500

Dear ...

Thank you for contacting me about the job performance of President George W. Bush in regards to his authorization of a National Security Agency (NSA) secret domestic spying program on persons within the United States. I appreciate hearing from you.

First, I am equally outraged by the Bush Administration implementing this program possibly without the proper consent from Congress and also in possible violation of American citizens' right to privacy. I support a thorough, bipartisan investigation of this alarming policy. One way or another, we must get to the bottom of this situation and insist the president follows the law.

My foremost concern is that this policy appears to be in violation of existing law. We simply cannot allow the executive branch of our government, unchecked, to be the sole arbiter of the limits of its own power. We all deserve a president who follows the law, not a king who disobeys it. While I support efforts of the U.S. government in fighting terrorism, and acknowledge our involvement in a number of foreign conflicts, such as Iraq and Afghanistan, we cannot succumb to actions that infringe upon the constitutional rights of American citizens.

As Ben Franklin said, "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

With the current makeup of Congress, it is obvious impeachment would not pass, so we should also consider the real impact of filing articles. It may come to that as our only option, but I think it important for us to demonstrate responsibility in the use of that constitutional process. To that end, I believe we must have comprehensive, probing hearings and then make the determination whether that is the right response. Our actions will win greater acceptance by the American people if we follow that route.

I support a full congressional investigation of this matter, as suggested by many members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. You will be pleased to know that I joined many of my colleagues in sending a letter to President Bush expressing our position that the administration's policy has violated the U.S. Constitution and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), and was not authorized when Congress voted to support the September 18, 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force. Our letter requests that the president release documents to Congress regarding the nature of this secret program. We need access to the legal opinions the administration used pertaining to the lawfulness of the surveillance program; the specific orders authorizing and reauthorizing this program; the number of U.S. persons that this surveillance was authorized for use on; the number of U.S. persons whose communications were intercepted; the total number of intercepted communications since the start of this surveillance program; the records of any member of the press whose communications have been intercepted; information about how the information intercepted has been stored and shared with other government agencies, and whether this information will be destroyed.

In addition, I have cosponsored H.RES.643, a resolution of inquiry which directs the Attorney General to submit to the House of Representatives all documents in his possession relating to warrantless electronic surveillance of telephone conversations and electronic communications of persons in the U.S. conducted by the National Security Agency. This type of resolution is unique because it is required that the full committee review a vote within 14 legislative days. If the committee fails to act within this time period, the bill can be brought before the entire House for a vote. This is one of the only legislative procedures available to Congress to get information from the executive branch.

I also joined my colleagues in sending to the Acting Inspector General at the Department of Defense, the Inspector General at the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Comptroller General calling for immediate investigations of reports that the Attorney General authorized the NSA to conduct the warrantless domestic spying program of persons inside the U.S. We cite a specific violation of Section 1802(a) of FISA, which permits the surveillance of communications without a court order only if the Attorney General can certify that either the communications are solely between foreign powers, or there is no substantial likelihood that the surveillance will acquire the contents of any communications to which a U.S. person is a party. We find that the NSA has violated these prohibitions on at least 500 individuals within the U.S. In response to our letter, the Inspector General wrote that the issue falls outside the jurisdiction of the Attorney General, and that the matter would

fall instead under the jurisdiction of the DOJ's Office of Professional Responsibility. However, he is wrong and we have told him so, demanding an investigation.

We have been down this road before, FISA was passed by Congress in 1978 in response to the Nixon Administration's policy of conducting surveillance on citizens participating in political groups, or suspected of having certain political persuasions. FISA prescribes procedures for requesting judicial authorization for electronic surveillance and physical search of persons engaged in espionage or international terrorism against the United States on behalf of a foreign power. This law helped create a framework for the use of electronic surveillance and other investigative methods to acquire foreign intelligence information, and requires a showing of probable cause to believe that the target is a foreign power or an agent of a foreign power before searches and surveillance can be conducted.

One of the provisions of FISA requires the Office of the Attorney General to submit an annual report to Congress disclosing information about applications made to the FISA Court, and the number of applications approved and modified by the Court. In both 2002 and 2004, the Court approved all applications submitted. In 2003, of the 1,727 applications made, all but three were approved. I have many questions as to why the Bush Administration chose to bypass the process set up by FISA, since past administrations have not encountered difficulty obtaining FISA warrants, and such warrants can be obtained up to 72 hours after the surveillance is collected.

Furthermore, I do not find the September 18, 2001 authorization for use of military force passed by Congress to include any sort of authorization for warrantless domestic spying. You may be interested to know that in a recent review by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the Bush Administration's claims that its warrantless activities were sanctioned by this authorization for military force, CRS found that it is doubtful that the president can claim that the authorization passed by Congress grants him the broad powers that he has claimed exist. This report defers to FISA, being the latest congressional legislation addressing domestic surveillance.

I believe that Congress can protect our national security interests, while at the same time protecting civil liberties. You can count on me to continue fighting to protect the constitutional rights of my constituents and my fellow Americans.

Please continue to contact me about the issues that concern you, as I both need and welcome your thoughts and ideas. As a service to my constituents, I maintain a website which contains valuable resources and information on Congressional activities. Please feel free to visit the website at <http://www.house.gov/inslee> for information on recent issues and to learn more about the services my office provides.

I encourage you to contact me via email, telephone, or fax, because security measures are causing House offices to experience delays in receiving postal mail. My email address is: Jay.Inslee@mail.house.gov. Please be sure to include your full name and address, including your zip code, in your message.

Very truly yours,
 JAY INSLEE
 Member of Congress
 JRI/ch
 Confirmation # 2013005

DISCLAIMER

I cannot guarantee the integrity of the text of this letter if it was not sent to you directly from my Congressional Email Account: Jay.Inslee@mail.house.gov. If you have any questions about the validity of this message, please email me at: Jay.Inslee@mail.house.gov or call my Washington, DC office at: 202-225-6311. If you would like to be removed from my email update list, please email me your name and address at: Jay.Inslee@mail.house.gov and type "REMOVE" in the subject line.

That is the most information I've seen from a politician ever. It's probably more information than I've gathered from any & all politicians in a decade. I had no idea that politicians (or their staff members) could put that much thought & effort into anything.

I wish David G. Reichert would send me a similar reply.

1.15 Saturday, January 28

1. "Sympathy for the Devil". By Matt Helgeson in Game Informer. [120]
2. News from ACLU about the illegal surveillance authorized by George W. Bush: [332], [333], [303]
3. More news about the illegal surveillance: [77], [44], [289], [256], [255]
4. *Desperate Remedies*. Thomas Hardy. 1971. [113]

1.16 Sunday, January 29

1. "podcast" at Wikipedia.org
2. Bush's illegal NSA surveillance: [326], [165], [298], [71]

1.17 Monday, January 30

1. Impeach Bush. [72], [287], [32], [224], [262]
2. The author of [383] misunderstands the significance of warrant-less surveillance. The complaints about the warrant-less surveillance at not about keeping us safe from outside threats.
3. Muslims Denounce Danish cartoon caricature of prophet. At Muslim American Society. [329]

1.18 Tuesday, January 31

1. Impeach Bush: [190]

Chapter 2

2006 February

2.1 Wednesday, February 1

1. President Bush authorized illegal surveillance. He broke the law. [18], [399], [310], [330]

2.2 Sunday, February 5

1. “Bush spying defense: Politically bright, legally dim”. By James Klurfeld. [152]

2.3 Monday, February 6

1. “Patent spat forces businesses to upgrade Office”. By Ina Fried. [90]
2. “Tomorrow’s games, designed by players as they play”. By John Borland. [37]

2.4 Tuesday, February 7

1. “President Bush, America’s jokester”. By Molly Ivins. [136]

2.5 Tuesday, February 14

1. Enron trial: [325], [301]
2. .hack // G.U.
3. .hack Timeline

2.6 Wednesday, February 15

1. Bush's illegal warrant-less surveillance: [215], [400], [324]

2.7 Friday, February 17

1. Here Comes a Google for Coders. [413]
2. "Why wait until 2008? Impeach Bush now". [213]

2.8 Saturday, February 18

2.8.1 Bush's un-warranted, illegal surveillance

1. Senate Panel Decides Against Eavesdropping Inquiry, for Now. [385]
2. Sen. Roberts breaks with Bush over surveillance program. [128]
If this second news story is believed, then Senator Roberts caved to the criticism that he had caved. That's good. That's almost too good to be true.
3. Court should monitor Bush spy program: Roberts. [292]

2.9 Sunday, February 19

1. *The Last Templar*, by Michael Jecks. [139]
2. "Knights Templar (military order)" at Wikipedia

2.10 Monday, February 20

2.10.1 President Bush's illegal surveillance

1. Republican Sues Bush, Cheney, NSA, TSA for Illegal Surveillance, Wire-tapping. [108]
2. EFF Sues AT&T to Stop Illegal Surveillance. [129]
3. Why the government spying is illegal: a reply to the US Department of Justice. [124]
4. US Congress prepares legal sanction for spying program. [144]

2.11 Tuesday, February 21

1. US intelligence agencies reclassify historical documents. [369]
2. Thousands of documents reclassified. [243]

2.12 Sunday, February 26

1. *Physically Based Rendering*. [212]
2. Essay about *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* at disinformation

2.13 Monday, February 27

1. Why DRM is Bad for Everyone. [63]

2.14 Tuesday, February 28

1. “Cabinet (cab) File Overview” at MSDN

Chapter 3

2006 March

3.1 Wednesday, March 1

1. Illegal, warrant-less surveillance authorized by Bush: [239], [252], [7]
2. “When Democracy Failed: The Warnings of History”. [115]

3.2 Wednesday, March 8

1. Senate agrees to ignore Bush’s warrant-less, illegal surveillance: [349], [150]

Here’s the body of the letters I sent to my senators & my representative:

Regarding the decision on 2006 March 7 of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence not to continue investigation of the illegal, warrant-less surveillance which was authorized by President Bush:

This is outrageous. This may be the worst possible outcome because, with the establishment of a seven-member subcommittee, the Senate is legalizing the surveillance AND keeping it secret.

The surveillance is illegal & the perpetrators should be on trial in a criminal court. And if the surveillance is to be legalized, it must be controlled through the FISA court.

The Senate has given away our 4th Amendment rights. Maybe the members of that Senate committee were not so concerned with justice & legality as with being in on the action.

The Senate has betrayed us.

3.3 Thursday, March 9

1. Freedom of Information Act¹ at United States Department of Justice
2. The Freedom of Information Act 5 U.S.C. section 552, As Amended By Public Law No. 104-231, 110 Stat. 3048. It isull text of the Freedom of Information Act in a form showing all amendments to the statute made by the “Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996”.
3. FOIA² at National Security Agency³.

Take note of “Joules”, NSA’s own cute cartoon character. I’ve visited half a dozen government web sites today, & I’ve seen only one cute, cuddly cartoon character (or attempts at one). The NSA has the only one. Could it be their attempt to change their image as the favorite tool of a fascist Big Brother?

3.4 Saturday, March 11

1. *The Adventures of Inspector Lestrade*. By M.J. Trow. [411]

3.5 Sunday, March 12

1. *Chaos and Order in the Capital Markets*. By Edgar E. Peters. [211]
2. *Component-Based Software Engineering*. Edited by George T. Heineman and William T. Councill. [117]
3. “Silver bullet” milestones in software history. By Robert L. Glass. Commun. ACM. 2005 August. [101]
4. WiFi attack vectors. By Hal Berghel and Jacob Uecker. [30]
5. Is the thrill gone?. By Sanjeev Arora and Bernard Chazelle. [17]
6. Spyware was inevitable. By Steve Gibson. [99]
7. Why spyware poses multiple threats to security. By Roger Thompson. [407]
8. What do consumers really know about spyware?. By Xiaoni Zhang. [435]
9. The deceptive behaviors that offend us most about spyware. By Neveen Farag Awad and Kristina Fitzgerald. [19]
10. Is spyware an Internet nuisance or public menace?. By Qing Hu and Tamara Dinev. [130]

¹<http://www.usdoj.gov/04foia/>

²<http://www.nsa.gov/foia/index.cfm>

³<http://www.nsa.gov/>

11. Spyware: a little knowledge is a wonderful thing. By Mark B. Schmidt and Kirk P. Arnett. [240]
12. Web browsing and spyware intrusion. By Sudhindra Shukla and Fiona Fui-Hoon Nah. [259]
13. Busting the ghost in the machine. By Kirk P. Arnett and Mark B. Schmidt. [16]
14. Spyware: a view from the (online) street. By Robin Poston and Thomas F. Stafford and Amy Hennington. [217]
15. Competitor analysis and its defenses in the e-marketplace. By Yihua Philip Sheng and Peter P. Mykytyn, Jr. and Charles R. Litecky. [246]
16. Software as art. By Gregory W. Bond. [36]
17. Sharing research in the 21st century: borrowing a page from open source software. By Donald E. Hardaway. [112]

3.6 Monday, March 13

1. “Congress folds on Bush spying”. [288]

Most important paragraph in that article, in my opinion, is “This is a frightening moment in U.S. history that transcends partisan politics. Fundamental checks and balances to the power of the executive are being trampled.”

The only detail in which I disagree with the author is that, in her final paragraph, she suggests that the Democrats would fix the problem if they held the majority. I used to believe that, but now I’m sure that the Democrats are thoroughly impotent. Freedom will find no saviour among the Democratic members of Congress.

2. “Wiretaps require warrants”. [378]
3. “Domestic spying: Still in the dark”. [297]
4. “Democratic senator Feingold plans speed on Bush censure”. [294]

3.6.1 What warmongering Bush says about Iran

1. “Bush blames Iran for some bombs in Iraq”.
2. “Nuclear expert: Too late to stop Iran”. At Aljazeera.net. [353]
3. “Tyan brings supercomputing to the desktop”. By Charlie Damerjian. [56]
4. “Bush defends Iraq policy, points finger at Iran”. At Reuters. [278]

5. “Bush says some Iraqi bombs made in Iran”. At Reuters. [284]
6. “After Iraq, Bush Will Attack His Real Target”. By Eric Margolis. 2002 November. [181]
It’s amazing that Margolis’s essay was published in 2002.
7. “History of Iran: Arming Iraq: A Chronology of U.S. Involvement”. By John King. [149]
8. “International Terrorist George W. Bush”. By Kersplebedeb. [147]
9. “Bush the Infallible”. By Jeffrey A. Tucker. [412]

3.7 Tuesday, March 14

1. “Blair warns Iran over Iraq bombs”. At BBC News. 2005 October 6. [264]
This was on 2005 October 6, & it says that some British diplomat originated the accusations the day before. So Bush’s accusations yesterday were not original.
The news story says that Iraqi President Talabani doubts the accusations.
2. “Exclusive: Iraq Weapons – Made in Iran?”. By Brian Ross. 2006 March 6. [229]
Notice that ABC News’s information came from “U.S. military & intelligence officials”.
3. “US ‘pushing for Iran regime change’”. At Aljazeera.net. [371]
4. “Israeli Forces Lay Siege to Palestinian Jail”. By Steven Erlanger and Greg Myre. At The New York Times. [83]
The British & U.S. governments removed their monitors from the prison in fear for the safety of the monitors.
I would think the fears were inspired my knowledge that Israel was about to raid the prison, but Israel says it raided the prison because the monitors were removed, & that removal broke the agreement to imprison Mr. Arafat & the other prisoners.
Israel wants it their way or no way. Absolut Israel.
5. “UN Council members still divided over Iran crisis”. At Reuters. [361]
6. “UN impasse on Iran”. [362]
7. “Russian, Iran hold nuclear consultations in Moscow: official”. [343]
8. “Sure, Let’s Vote on That Censure Resolution, Republicans Say”. By Melanie Hunter. [134]

9. “Supporting Feingold”. By Stephen Elliott. [79]
10. “Feingold in Cheney’s sights”. [305]
11. “Flavia Colgan: The Republican Guard Protects the President”. By Flavia Colgan. [45]
12. “Note to Moronic Democratic Senators: Americans Can’t Stand George Bush”. By Cenk Uygur. At Huffington Post. [415]

3.7.1 Too much information

Here at work, we’re noticing that if you give a technical person too much information (& not just on technical topics), he is at worst bored for a few seconds while you talk, & he’s probably at little interested. In other words, no harm done whatsoever.

However, if you give too much information to a non-technical person, you can ruin their day. Seriously. They are like “You told me more than I wanted to know. You hurt me. You really hurt me.” It’s like using their brains even the tiniest more than they wanted to use it causes them great pain. “You hurt me, man. I’m going to cry.”

3.8 Wednesday, March 15

1. “Powell: Iraq hiding weapons, aiding terrorists”. [336]
2. “Iraq Denial and Deception: U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell Addresses the U.N. Security Council”. By White House. [127]
3. “US: Saddam had no weapons of mass destruction”. By Neil Mackay. [178]
4. “Iraq and Weapons of Mass Destruction”. By Jeffrey Richelson. [225]
5. “CIA’s final report: No WMD found in Iraq”. [265]
6. “Federal habeas corpus pending in publisher’s case”. [304]
7. “Bush censure: Democrats tempted”. By David Lightman. [168]

Representative John B. Larson “could be persuaded” to vote to censure or impeach Bush if he had more information? More information? More informatoin?!?!

Bush himself says he authorized the un-warranted surveillance which violates FISA & the 4th Amendment of the Constitution, & he says he will keep authorizing it. Jezus H. Krist what more information do they need?

The Republicans are almost fascists, but the Democrats are spineless pussies.
8. “Congress won’t defend us”. [290]

3.9 Thursday, March 16

3.9.1 United States launches major offensive in Iraq

It's the largest air assault since the US invaded Iraq.

It's target is a resistance stronghold north of Baghdad.

The US military predicts the operation will last several days.

1. "US and Iraq forces launch major offensive". [364]
2. "U.S. begins large air assault in Iraq". [365]

3.9.2 Iran

President Bush said today that Iran is the greatest threat that the United States faces.

Bush says that a diplomatic solution is important, but he repeats that he may resort to military action.

Iran says it would be happy to discuss & negotiate about Iraq. Two news stories ([282] & [315]) say that the US has responded to Iran's invitation to talk with a reminder that Bush's first strike policy is still an option. A third story ([241]) says that the United States would like to talk to Iraq.

Which version is correct? Is it possible that the first two stories were released before the United States had replied to Iran's invitation, & the third story was released after the United States accepted Iran's invitation?

I notice that even with their acceptance of Iran's invitation, the United States implies that it will reject the offer if the discussion topic is limited to Iraq. Sure, it would be nice to discuss Iraq & nuclear disagreements, but discussion must start somewhere. If the United States demands some kind of all-or-nothing, our-way-or-the-highway (which it has demanded for the past six years), diplomacy will never begin. Then both sides will claim that the reason diplomacy hasn't begun is that the other side won't cooperate.

Even while saying it would like to accept Iran's offer to talk, the United States continues economic sanctions against Iran. [281]

1. "Bush identifies Iran as major challenge to security". [282]
2. "Iran ready to talk with US about Iraq". [315]
3. "U.S. willing to talk with Iran about Iraq". By Bary Schweid. [241]
4. "Bush extends U.S. economic sanctions against Iran". [281]
5. "L.A. Times rewrites history of Bush incompetence on Iran". By Nico. [201]

3.10 Friday, 2006 17

1. “Recursive Conditional Schema Theorem, Convergence and Population Sizing in Genetic Algorithms, local copy”. By Riccardo Poli. [216]
2. “An Upper Bound on the Convergence Rates of Canonical Genetic Algorithms”. By Yong Gao. [95]
3. “Adaptive Reservoir Genetic Algorithm: Convergence Analysis”. By Christian Munteanu and Agostinho Rosa. [195]
4. “Not all linear functions are equally difficult for the compact genetic algorithm”. By Stefan Droste. [68]

3.11 Sunday, March 19

1. *Rogue Berserker*. By Fred Saberhagen. [235]
2. “Why DRM is bad for everyone”. By Cory Doctorow. [64]

3.12 Monday, March 20

1. “The Surprising Truth About Ugly Websites”. By Mark Daoust. [57]
Though the title implies that ugly web sites sell, the Mr Daoust concludes that simple, functional web sites sell.
Simplicity & functionality is more important than initial appearance? Big shocker.
2. “CIA Officers Warn of Iraq Civil War, Contradicting Bush’s Optimism”. By Warren P. Strobel and Jonathan S. Landay. 2004 January. [388]
Summary: In 2004 January, the CIA warned President Bush that Iraq was heading towards civil war.
3. “US senators warn of Iraq civil war”. By Justin Webb. At BBC News. [420]
Summary: In 2004 April, the two party-leading senators warned President Bush that Iraq could be heading for civil war.
4. “US envoy warns of Iraq civil war”. At BBC News. [368]
5. “Civil War in Iraq?”. By William S. Lind. 2004 July. [169]
Summary: Mr Lind makes the case that civil war was in progress in Iraq in 2004.

6. “President Addresses Nation, Discusses Iraq, War on Terror”. 2005 June. [266]
In 2005 June, President Bush said “The terrorists – both foreign and Iraqi – failed to stop the transfer of sovereignty. They failed to break our Coalition and force a mass withdrawal by our allies. They failed to incite an Iraqi civil war.”
7. “Fact: Up in the air”. By Seymour M. Hersh. 2005 November. [122]
8. “Bush downplays Iraq civil war fear”. [279]
9. “Impeach Bush chorus grows”. By Sarah Baxter. [24]
10. “Push to impeach Bush deserves Congress’ time”. By Rick Senften. [242]
11. “GOP senators introduce bill on surveillance”. By Katherine Shrader. [253]

3.13 Wednesday, March 22

1. “Security Council tries to end Iran impasse”. At Aljazeera.net. [345]
2. “Afghan convert’s trial put in doubt”. At Aljazeera.net. [271]
3. “Iraqi civil war threatens region”. At Aljazeera.net. [319]
4. Shi’a Islam at Wikipedia
5. Sunni Islam at Wikipedia
6. P3D: a Lisp-based format for representing general 3D models. [425]

3.14 Monday, March 27

1. “Senate Struggles to Craft Immigration Reform Compromise”. By Johanna Neuman. [198]

Aren’t you glad that our senate is spending it’s time with the very important, urgent issue of illegal emmigrants? It’s not like there’s anything nearly as important which they could address instead.

- It’s not like we’re at war with Iraq.
- It’s not like we’re in a sticky diplomatic situation with Iran.
- Or North Korea.
- It’s not like the president has authorized wiretaps without warrants, ...
- admitted to authorizing them, & ...

- said that he'll keep doing it.

Nope, our diligent senators have chosen to address the most important issue it can: a few thousand wetbacks who are trying to make ends meet.

2. "Iraq recruitment centre blast kills 40". At Aljazeera.net. [317]
3. "Baghdad buries mosque raid victims". At Aljazeera.net. [276]
Note: The article claims that US troops may have killed the Shia.
I know that you're thinking "America is the freest country the world has ever known, & I know this because I have such good access to information". With such a sophisticated communications network & such a toothless press, how can you be sure? If you read newspapers from other countries instead of drinking the cool-aide, you wouldn't be so sure.
4. "30 beheaded bodies found in Iraq". At Aljazeera.net. [268]
5. "Moussaoui admits to White House plot". At Aljazeera.net. [328]
6. "American unease over Iraq grows". At Aljazeera.net. [273]
7. "OR ... why every city council needs at least one geek". By hughesjr. [132]
8. "Virtual Virus is First Simulation of an Entire Life Form". By Ker Than. [404]
9. "Windows is so slow, but Why?". By Steve Lohr and John Markoff. At The New York Times. [174]

3.15 Tuesday, March 28

1. Ratpoison window manager. <http://www.nongnu.org/ratpoison/>

3.16 Wednesday, March 29

1. "EBay case goes before Supreme Court". By Bambi Francisco. [88]
2. "Supreme Court hears arguments on Guantanamo tribunals". [355]
3. "Supreme Court justice scolds reporters over interpretation of gesture". [357]
4. "Supreme Court judge says civil rights for Guantanamo inmates 'crazy'". [356]
5. "Guantánamo's day of reckoning in Supreme Court". [309]
6. "Man gets 30 for Bush assassination plot". By Matthew Barakat. [22]

Chapter 4

2006 April

4.1 Monday, April 3

1. “U.S. Supreme Court rejects appeal from Jose Padilla”. [374]
2. “Unchecked power can be dangerous”. By Sara Fritz. [91]
3. “Failure to impeach Bush a dereliction of duty”. By Joseph Cranney. [47]
4. “Appropriate to impeach Bush”. By Howard Hanson. [111]
5. “Dem agenda is impeach Bush at any cost”. By Sam T. Johnson. [141]

Sadly, he’s wrong about the Democratic agenda. They aren’t trying to impeach Bush. They are too worried about keeping their seats in government to bother with impeachment. Sure, they raise a stink in response (always in response) to Republican words & actions, but it’s always a short-lived, impotent stink. They don’t follow through.

It’s ironic that Johnson claims the Democratic Party has no “moral compass’ & is concerned only with gaining more power. It may be true, but it’s an ironic complaint coming from a die-hard Republican.

6. “State party to consider impeach Bush resolution”. [352]
7. “City should resolve to impeach Bush”. By Ruben S. Garcia 3. [2]
8. “Impeach Bush chorus grows”. By Sarah Baxter. [25]
9. “The Art of War for the anti-war movement”. By Scott Ritter. [228]

4.2 Tuesday, April 4

1. “America’s Long War”. By Simon Tisdall and Ewen MacAskill. [408]

2. “Rumsfeld offers strategies for current war”. By Josh White and Ann Scott Tyson. [426]
3. “Analysis: Last stand or long war”. By Paul Reynolds. At BBC News. [222]
4. “Is your freedom in danger”. By Jarret B. Wollstein. [428]
5. “Key Enron witness lied in court”. At BBC News. [323]
6. “U.S. releases more Guantanamo files”. At BBC News. [372]
7. “Guantanamo man tells of torture”. At BBC News. [308]
8. “U.S. court rejects Padilla appeal”. At BBC News. [367]
9. “Ruminations¹” at The Taj Official Fan Site of Fred Saberhagen’s Berserker Univers

4.3 Friday, April 7

1. Are virtual-machine monitors microkernels done right? [119]

4.4 Sunday, April 9

4.4.1 Definition of intelligence

I am fully aware that, in my life time, there will never be a definition of “intelligence” which pretty much everyone accepts, & that even if I do see such a definition, it will not have originated in my mind. Nevertheless, plenty of people have suggested definitions of intelligence, & every programmer interested in artificial intelligence, plus every fuckwit with a mouth, have parroted whichever of those definitions they’ve most recently heard. Therefore, I have the right to suggest yet another definition.

intelligence : The ability to achieve goals by employing information processing (& possibly other techniques).

I’m tempted to append “and minimizing the use of physical force”.

Example

For example, Wordsworth, my cat, was snooping around my cup of coffee. I didn’t want him to stick his nose in it, so I put a CD box on it. The CD box weighs little enough that Wordsworth could have pushed it off the cup, but as far as he was concerned, the cup was sealed.²

¹<http://www.berserkerfan.org/ruminations.htm>

²A problem with estimating intelligence is that we must estimate motivations. For this discussion, please assume that my estimate of my cat’s motivation is correct.

At another time, my other cat, Suizette, was nosing around my cup of tea. Again, I covered the cup with a CD box. Unlike Wordsworth, Suizette did push the CD box off the cup & stick her nose in the cup.

So Suizette displayed more intelligence than Wordsworth.³

Example

Another example: If the dike springs a small, persistent leak, then:

- The politician who sees the leak & runs in circles, flapping his arms, displays very little intelligence because he doesn't achieve the goal of plugging the leak.
- Superman, who sees the leak, quickly stacks tons & tons of earth in front of that section of the wall, thereby stopping the leak. Superman displays more intelligence than the politician because he achieved the goal of stopping the leak.
- The child, seeing the leak, calmly sticks his finger in the hole. The child's information processing abilities allowed him to plug the leak by exerting less effort than did Superman. So the child displayed more intelligence than Superman.

Example

Some guy named Hiro, living in a cyberpunk universe, uses his computer to solve really amazing problems, like designing life-saving vaccines & figuring out who dunnit before Holmes does. So Hiro with his computer is very intelligent.

If Hiro is separated from his computer, he's less intelligent. In a world where peeps spend more time without their computers than with them, maybe Hiro isn't all that intelligent, but in a world where peeps spend more time with their computers (maybe by using wearable computers), Hiro is effectively very intelligent. In a world where Hiro's computer is surgically implanted in his body, his intelligence is even more difficult to dispute.

Example

The other day, a coworker showed me Google Sets (or something like that). With that service from Google, you may enter a few terms, press a button, & some software at Google figures out what set describes those terms, obtains some more elements of that set, & displays those new elements.

I think one of the examples my coworker showed was an input of "red, green, blue" which fetched an output of "yellow, brown, orange" (or something like that) as well as the original "red, green, blue".

³Recall my previous footnote, which says "A problem with estimating intelligence is that we must estimate motivations. For this discussion, please assume that my estimate of my cat's motivation is correct."

We also did a few examples with the names of entertainers & political activists.

When I saw this, I was impressed with the intelligence of the software. And it *is* damned smart... within the world of extrapolating sets from information on the web. After a moment of thought, when you consider the things it can't do, such as drive a car, find food, hold down a job, & scratch an itch, you realize it isn't intelligent at all.

Similar stories describe everyone's first experiences with chess-playing programs, NPC opponents in computer games, & expert systems. As any book about artificial intelligence will tell you, programs like these are very intelligent in a microscopically narrow domain.

My definition works with these programs as well as does any other, including one's own ability to detect intelligence by being amazed at it. All these definitions of intelligence will tell you that the chess-playing program, the AI opponents in games, & expert systems are intelligent in a microscopic domain & stupid in the domain of every-day life.

4.5 Monday, April 10

1. "ACLU Letter and Memo to the Senate Judiciary Committee Outlining Major Concerns With S.2453, the National Security Surveillance Act of 2006". [269]
2. "Attorney General Must Stop Stonewalling Congress on NSA Spying, ACLU Says; Lawmakers and the Public Deserve Disclosure on Warrantless Program". [275]
3. "U.S. Domestic Callers Face Warrantless Surveillance". By Dan Eggen. [78]
4. "White Houses warrantless surveillance violates the law and tramples the Constitution". By Dan Stupka. [389]
5. "Skilling tells his side of story". By Tom Fowler and Mark Babineck. [87]

4.6 Tuesday, April 11

1. "Enrichment is only a first step for Iran". At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [299]
2. "Skilling denies leading Enron conspiracy". By Kristen Hays. [116]
3. Predicting Convergence Time for Genetic Algorithms. By Sushil J. Louis and Gregory J. E. Rawlins

4.7 Wednesday, April 12

1. “Bush statement on Iraq WMD later debunked”. By Nedra Pickler. [214]
2. “White House shelved Iraqi trailers report”. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [376]
3. “Moussaoui Jury Pauses For Query, Resumes”. By Jerry Markon and Timothy Dwyer. At The Washington Post. [182]

4.8 Thursday, April 13

1. “Another Ex-general rumbling against Rumsfeld”. By John Yang. At ABC News. [432]
2. “Move to censure Bush takes small steps forward”. By Z. Byron Wolf. At ABC News. [427]
3. “Bush not apologetic of surveillance policy”. [283]
4. “Sentiment is rising toward impeaching President Bush”. [123]
5. “In Our View: Leaky Logic”. [313]

4.9 Friday, April 14

1. “EFF Has Evidence Of AT&T, NSA Spying”. By David Utter. [414]
2. “AT&T Wants Its Spy Docs Back”. By Matt McKenzie. [187]

4.10 Monday, April 17

1. “string-to-string correction problem” at Wikipedia
2. “A redisplay algorithm”. By James Gosling.

4.11 Tuesday, April 18

1. Enormous Meat-Loving Dinosaur Found

In days when peeps are making nifty discoveries like that, let’s not forget our brothers on the other side of the fence, who strive to raise the rest of us from the ignorance which makes us believe dinosaurs really existed:

1. “Did dinosaurs exist”. [296]
To be fair, that writer’s claim that “evolution is a faulty theory based on a faulty premise” is more defensible, less ludicrous, than the standard claim that “evolution is just a theory”. The “just a theory” morons don’t seem to know the definition of scientific theory.
2. “Jesus, Dinosaurs, and More”. [321]
From the article: “Neanderthals: The Biblical Patriarchs Neanderthals are true humans made in the image of God / Neanderthals lived to be hundreds of years old / Age related changes in the head and face explain Neanderthal morphology”. Damn, but that link is broken. Sounds like a fun & interesting piece of fiction (I’m serious), but the link is busted.
3. “How does the Bible deal with the *demonstratable* fact the Dinosaurs existed”. [311]

4.12 Wednesday, April 19

1. WS Finder, the Wiki for finding Web Services & Open APIs
2. “Finding Web Services”. By K. Scott Allen. [9]
It’s nice to know that I’m not the only one who can’t find anything useful in the UDDI registries, & that maybe it’s not my fault. (Mister Allen says they aren’t comprehensive, anyway.) WS Finder is a notable exception.
3. “ITV aiming to net new market with web service”. [320]
4. “Calling a Web Service using VB6 with SOAP 3.0”. By Jayaram Krishnaswamy. [155]

4.13 Friday, April 28

1. “The Sound of Impeachment”. By Jan Frel. [89]
2. “Political dirty-tricksters are using Wikipedia”. By Shannon McCaffrey. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [185]
3. “Wal-marts Wikipedia War”. By Richard Demsyn. [60]
4. “Update 3: House Weighs Boost in Spy Chief’s Budget”. By Katherine Shrader. [257]
5. “Security Expert Slams Bush’s Surveillance Program”. By William Sweet. [398]

Chapter 5

2006 May

5.1 Friday, May 5

1. “Republicans backtrack on gasoline proposals”. By James Kuhnhenh. [156]
2. “Capitalism”. By Drifty. [67]

5.2 Tuesday, May 9

1. “Republicans backtrack on gasoline proposals”. By James Kuhnhenh. [156]
2. “Capitalism”. By Drifty. [67]

5.3 Wednesday, May 10

A coworker sent me this pic. It's too cute.

5.4 Friday, May 12

1. “Lawyer: Ex-Qwest Exec Ignored NSA Request”. By Katherine Shrader. [254]
2. “Federal Agents Search CIA Official’s House”. By Mark Sherman. [249]
3. “Report on NSA Brings Surveillance in Focus”. By Brian Bergstein. At The Washington Post. [31]
4. “More Domestic Spying”. At The Washington Post. [327]
5. “Data on Phone Calls Monitored”. By Barton Gellman and Arshad Mohammed. At The Washington Post. [97]

5.5 Saturday, May 13

1. “Prozac for Republicans”. By Howard Kurtz. At The Washington Post. [157]
2. “NSA has massive database of Americans’ phone calls”. By Leslie Cauley. At USA Today. [40]
3. “Supreme Court faces summer deadline to resolve potential blockbusters”. At USA Today. [354]
4. “NSA secret database report triggers fierce debate in Washington”. By Susan Page. At USA Today. [207]

5.6 Monday, May 15

1. “Life After the Video Game Crash”. By David Wong. [429]
2. “PS3 is Doomed”. By Gundeep Hora. [126]
3. “It’s all about me: Why e-mails are so easily misunderstood”. By Daniel Enemark. [80]
4. “Scan This Book”. By Kevin Kelly. At The New York Times. [146]
5. “Bush Aide Defends Acts by N.S.A.”. By Stephen Labaton. At The New York Times. [158]
6. “Details of Two Surveillance Programs”. At The New York Times. [295]
7. “Bush Is Pressed Over New Report on Surveillance”. By Eric Lichtblau and Scott Shane. At The New York Times. [166]
8. “A Seamless Surveillance Culture”. By William M. Arkin. At The Washington Post. [14]
9. “The NSA Warrantless Domestic Surveillance”. [334]

5.7 Thursday, May 18

1. The Content-type Saga

5.8 Monday, May 22

1. “Bush’s Wicked Iraq Lies”. By Ron Fullwood. [92]

5.9 Wednesday, May 24

1. “Update 20: House Leaders Demand FBI Return Papers”. By Laurie Kellman. [145]

5.10 Saturday, May 27

5.10.1 The Taliban were our allies

In summary: As recently as 1998, UNOCAL Corporation was negotiating with the Taliban to construct a Central Asia Gas pipeline from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan.

UNOCAL is an American corporation with headquarters in California.

The Taliban was called “Afghanistan’s Islamic fundamentalists” & was a business ally of UNOCAL, possibly of other American oil companies, & (since the oil industry includes lots of money) probably of at least some parties in the United States government.

1. “Afghanistan, the Taliban, & the Bush Oil Team”. By Wayne Madsen. [179]
2. “Taliban in Texas: Big Oil hankers for old pals”. By Pepe Escobar. [84]

This news story goes so far as to say “Between the Taliban taking over Kabul in September 1996 and the Group of Eight (G-8) summit in the summer of 2001, neither the administration of president Bill Clinton nor that of his successor, President George W Bush, ever designated Afghanistan as a terrorist or even a rogue state: the Taliban were wined and dined as long as they played the Pipelineistan game in Central Asia (see Pipelineistan revisited, December 24-25, 2003).”

Here’s one more paragraph from that news story: “The Taliban didn’t want to play ball: every time, they wanted more money and more investments for the roads and the infrastructure of their ravaged country – until an exasperated Washington decided to finish them off. This was discussed in Geneva in May 2001, at the G8 summit in Genoa in July 2001, and finally at a Berlin hotel, also that July, a meeting involving US, Russian, German and Pakistani officials. Asia Times Online later learned in Islamabad that the US plan was to strike against the Taliban from bases

in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan before October 2001. Then the terrorist attacks of September 11 happened, providing Washington the perfect excuse to go it alone.”

3. “Oil barons court Taliban in Texas”. By Caroline Lees. 1997 December. [162]

Notice that this news story was written in 1997, before 2001 September 11.

5.10.2 We’re screwed

What I concluded from my notes in the previous section (Section 5.10) is:

1. If UNOCAL & others were romancing the Taliban in the 1990s & President Bush was able to invade Afghanistan & Iraq by convincing people that the Taliban was pure evil & that Saddam Hussein was connected with them, then we live in Orwell’s 1984. For example, “Taliban is a terrorist organization” is just the real world’s way of saying “We have always been at war with Eurasia”.
2. If this stuff is false, if the Taliban really is pure evil & Saddam Hussein was connected with them, if our way of life could not continue unless we invaded Afghanistan & Iraq, then we live in a world that is precariously close to being 1984. What the government tells us is real, but other organizations are able to manufacture fake news & conspiracies, so convincing, that soon you will not be able to know the truth.

I have for a long time suspected that it is almost impossible for a commoner these days to know the truth about what’s happening in the world or even what his own government is doing to him, so I suspect that the first possibility is already the reality.

Either way, we live in 1984, or we live in 1984.

5.11 Monday, May 29

1. “Congressman alleges Marines covered up killings”. By Thomas E. Ricks. [226]

5.11.1 An original quote

The man who believes he speaks for god is a fool.
The man who believes him is that fool’s fool.

5.12 Wednesday, May 31

1. “Iran Calls U.S. Talks Offer Propaganda”. By Anne Gearan. [96]
The USA’s earlier position was “We won’t talk to Iran until they stop enriching uranium”.
The USA’s new position is “We’ll talk to Iran if they stop enriching uranium”.
Yes, I can see that the “dramatic change” in the USA’s position toward Iran – *not!*
2. “Dramatic change in U.S. foreign policy towards Iran”. By Warren P. Strobel. [387]
3. “Bush gives in - but the end of diplomacy is in sight”. By Laszlo Trankovits. [410]
4. “Rice presents US stance on Iran”. At Aljazeera.net. [342]
5. “US-Iran: The truth is way out there”. At Aljazeera.net. [370]
6. “U.S. Urges Punishment For Iran Nuclear Work”. By Dafna Linzer. At The Washington Post. [170]

Notice the similarities between the USA-Iran problem & the USA-Iraq problem:

1. USA says Iraq/Iran is making nuclear weapons.
2. Iraq/Iran says it isn’t making nuclear weapons.
3. Weapons inspectors say that Iraq/Iran is not making nuclear weapons.
4. USA is unable to present evidence that Iraq/Iran is making nuclear weapons, but continues to insist Iraq/Iran is making nuclear weapons.
5. USA demands that Iraq/Iran stop making nuclear weapons & do so in a way that is verifiable.
6. If it is true that Iraq/Iran is not making nuclear weapons, & if the USA rejects the reports of their own weapons inspectors, it will be difficult for Iraq/Iran to stop making them in a verifiable way.
7. USA warns that if Iraq/Iran does not stop in a verifiable way, USA will take action.

It’s a setup. This is now the USA’s pattern of setting-up a small country for invasion.

I’m ashamed to be a citizen of the USA.

Chapter 6

2006 June

6.1 Wednesday, June 7

6.1.1 Titanic blast from the past

From: gene Sun Jan 11 11:48:15 1998
Return-Path: <gene>
Date: Sun, 11 Jan 98 11:48:07 -0800
From: gene m. stover <gene>
Subject: Cup O Stuff: A Titanic Repost
Cc: gene@gangrene.CyberTiggyr.com

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----

All,

At popular request (well, one request, which was made at my suggestion), I'm re-sending the article I wrote about the Titanic a couple of years ago. If memory serves, it was the first Cup O' Stuff article, even before I called them Cup O' Stuff. Seems appropriate, given the recent movie.

And remember: The movie is fiction.

I could have sworn I wrote two or three articles about the Titanic, but I could find only this one, & it tells everything I think I would have thought of telling, all told.

--- begin ---

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 95 23:29:42 PST
From: gene@CyberTiggyr.com
Subject: The Collosal Titanic

THINGS THEY DON'T TELL YOU ABOUT THE TITANIC
ON
THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Forgive me if my typing is crappy; I just stepped on my glasses. That's the last time I interrupt dinner to answer the phone for a telemarketer. I think I'll pipe bomb the telemarketing sales office of the New York Times.

Most of these facts are from the special section about the Titanic disaster in a book I'm reading, 'The Ocean Almanac' by Robert Hendrickson.

First, here's a directly quote from an article in the book. Note that the Titanic sank in the wee hours of the morning on Monday, 15 April 1912.

THE OTHER TITANIC

There is a remarkable precedent for the Titanic sinking--in fiction. Back in 1898 Morgan Robertson had written a popular novel entitled Futility, which told of a great 'unsinkable' luxury liner named the Titan that sank on her maiden voyage after hitting an iceberg and lost almost all her passengers because there weren't enough lifeboats aboard. The amazing similarities between the Titan and Titanic disasters, called by some a near-perfect example of 'promnesia' ('memory of the future') on Robertson's part, are best shown in the chart below:

	TITAN	TITANIC
Ship length	800 feet	882.5 feet
Ship tonnage	75,000	66,000
Propellers	3	3
Speed at impact	25 knots	23 knots
Number of passengers	3,000	2,207 (capacity of 3,000)
Number of lifeboats	24	20
Month of sinking	April	April

The rest of this message is an original work. (That is, it's a bunch of very unoriginal facts (as facts tend to be) in my own words.)

The Titanic cost \$10 million to build. Her keel was laid in 1909 in Belfast, and she was completed in February 1912. She was 882.5 feet long and 92.5 feet abeam. (By comparison, a modern aircraft carrier is usually about 1,000 feet long, give or take a dozen feet.) She had a sister ship, the Olympic, which was ever so slightly smaller, but she was the much more luxurious of the two. (I'll betcha the difference in their

sizes was due to a shorter flagpole and smaller breasts on the masthead of the Olympic.)

The Olympic was in service on that fateful day, and was not destroyed, (it was a long way off). From what I can gather, she went on to live the life of a happy ship and die of old age as good ships do.

The Titanic was conceived to be the queen of the ocean. She was...for 4.5 days. During those 4.5 days, many of the passengers spent much of their time talking about how great it was to travel on a completely safe, unsinkable ship.

We all know the big T had 16 separate compartments that could be individually sealed for your protection in the event of a rupture. The compartments were front-to-back in single file down the center of the body of the boat. In other words, the boat was built on, around, and of 16 compartments that had been lined up. I'm going into this detail (unsuccessfully) to point out that each compartment was as wide as the boat. Scratching either side of the boat at a given distance from the bow flooded a given compartment. Remember that (if you understand what I'm trying to say, that is).

A compartment would seal when a heavy door on each end was automatically and more or less immediately lowered, with exactly the same functionality as those manually closed and locked doors you see on submarine movies and, presumably, with much the same look and feel of a hallway door on the Death Star. What was in those compartments besides air or sea water (take your pick)? The boilers, the engines. The crew. The third class passengers!

Those automatic doors on the compartments worked flawlessly, sealing some crewmen nicely for their trip 14,000 feet down.

Up to four compartments could completely flood and the ship still wouldn't sink. The iceberg took out six.

A direct collision with the iceberg was narrowly avoided and turned into a side-swipe in which the six compartments were ruptured. One must wonder if it would have been better in the long run to go ahead and hit the iceberg head-on, possibly taking out only the single compartment in the bow.

The Titanic carried 20 lifeboats which together had the capacity for 1,178 of its 2,207 passengers. She had space for 48 lifeboats, which would have been more than enough room to save all passengers and crew.

Most of the design for the Titanic was done by Thomas Andrews, one of the most respected men in the world in the shipbuilding industry. He also managed her construction and saw to it that no expense was spared: the best and latest riveting methods, the best steel, and the best materials and techniques

for every other part of her construction. He was on the Titanic for her maiden voyage because he wanted to see, personally, any and every flaw in the boat so he could personally devise and oversee their fixes later. During the 4.5 day voyage, passengers and crewmen came to him with complaints, and he considered each and every one worthy of his attention. From what I've read in this and other books, I believe that Thomas Andrews truly wanted his ship to be the most luxurious and safest work of man of all time. He loved the boat and cared for the people who would have been her passengers. He believed he had created the unsinkable boat, and in this, he represented his society, which believed man would both master and improve nature, if it hadn't done so already.

Thomas Andrews went down with the ship without making any effort to save himself. In fact, he refused help. The look of dejection on his face must have been worth seeing (if you didn't have to go down with the ship to do so) because this man, like the age in which he lived, had never seen the world through the realistic eyes of cynicism.

Just the other day, Scott Horton declined my invitation to go ocean kayaking because, as he put it, sitting in a 7-foot-long boat directly on a body of water large enough to swallow the moon would drive home his significance in the universe all too well. Thomas Andrews, with passengers screaming and drowning in the night all around him, shook off the simpleton's optimism of his age and realized his true significance less than five minutes before he breathed the 31 degree water of the north Atlantic and road his masterpiece to the bottom, 14,000 feet down.

And lest I end this dubiously philosophical and definitely depressing message on a low note: The Titanic had a two-story post office. Five minutes after the collision with the iceberg, the workers on the lower level were up to their knees in salt water. They hauled the full bags of mail to the upper level for safe keeping. (Heh heh heh. I'm still chuckling about it, fully an hour after reading it.)

gene

--- end ---

gene

- - - -

gene m. stover (gene@CyberTiggyr.com)

For any madness of their kings, it is the Greeks who take the beating.

-- Horace

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----

Version: 2.6

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6.2 Monday, June 12

1. Kode Vicious: Gettin' Your Kode On. [200]

For ages & ages, I've used a strict *if-success / else-failure* style. Some people (none of them programmers whom I respect) have said it's lame. Some other programmers, all of them I respect, have said it's a good style though it's not for them. At last, I have vindication in print by an independent authority, someone who doesn't even know me, that it's good style. Ha!

2. Hidden in plain sight. [39]
3. Performance anti-patterns. [261]
4. It isn't your father's realtime anymore. [161]

6.3 Tuesday, June 13

1. "Senate Judiciary Committee To Blindly Consider NSA Legislation, Fails to Challenge White House Claims of Unlimited Executive Power". [348]

6.4 Wednesday, June 14

6.4.1 Internet Printing Protocol

1. Search for RFCs in PDF form containing "internet print protocol" in their title at the RFC Editor: <http://www.rfc-editor.org/cgi-bin/rfcsearch.pl>
2. RFC 2567: Design Goals for an Internet Printing Protocol (PDF). [436]

6.5 Thursday, June 15

1. "Bush's pick to head CIA tells Senate warrantless surveillance program is legal". By Katherine Shrader. [251]

2. “Senate Judiciary Committee Approves Flag Amendment, ACLU Urges Full Senate to Reject Limits on First Amendment Rights”. At American Civil Liberties Union. [346]
3. “ACLU Slams Bush Administration for Ejecting Journalists from Guantanamo”. At American Civil Liberties Union. [270]

6.6 Friday, June 16

1. “Play mechanics that make gaming great”. By Jess Ragan. [220]
2. “Emerging Technologies: War and Peace: The New Spreadsheet World”. By Guy Creese. [48]

Note this new feature of Excel 2007 according to the article: “Office SharePoint Server Excel Services enable employees to view and edit that spreadsheet through a Web browser. All of a sudden, workers don’t need to email spreadsheets around the office - they can all work on the same spreadsheet.”

Then notice a paragraph from one of my own horror stories: “Let’s say you are editing a monthly budget spreadsheet that is, for whatever reason, stored in a database instead of a file. At the same time, another user is editing that same spreadsheet. If you make a change to the spreadsheet that improves the monthly budget, the program displays that change on the other user’s screen. If the other user makes a change that improves the budget, that part of your spreadsheet magically changes to reflect that change. When cells on your spreadsheet apparently change on their own & without warning, for how long will you remain sane?” [386]

3. “Police State USA”. By Norman D. Livergood. [173]
4. “America 2006 is Germany 1930”. By Norman D. Livergood. [171]
5. “The Criminal High Cabal”. By Norman D. Livergood. [172]

6.7 Saturday, June 17

1. “Income inequality trend continues” at SustainableMiddleClass.com. [263].
Be sure to look at Graph 2. It shows that our economy is doing exactly what Marx observed & predicted for capitalist economies. ([247], page 71, first full paragraph, which begins “The radical or Marxist position...”)

6.8 Monday, June 19

1. “Tune in next week for gaming fun”. By Norman Clive Thompson. [406]

I've discussed this with friends for ages. None of us care much for massively multiplayer games, but we mostly agree that a single-player game could download new content on a regular basis, like weekly or whenever you finish the current stage. That would allow you to have games with story (which massively multiplayer games don't do so well), but you could also have new content regularly (which massively multiplayer games do well).

2. "Pentagon Documents Reveal Details of Suicide Attempts at Guantánamo". At American Civil Liberties Union. [335]
3. "Senate Judiciary Committee Approves Flag Amendment, ACLU Urges Full Senate to Reject Limits on First Amendment Rights". At American Civil Liberties Union. [347]
4. "Court Hears Arguments on Legality of NSA Spying Program for the First Time Ever". At American Civil Liberties Union. [291]

6.9 Wednesday, June 21

1. "What's the Secret Sauce for Innovation?". By Meg Mitchell Moore. [193]
2. "Bush tries to repair battered US image". [285]
3. "North Korean rocket serves the US very well". By Gwynne Dyer. [74]
4. *Radical Political Economy*. By Richard Sherman. 1972. [247]

6.10 Thursday, June 22

1. *The Foxes of Warwick*. By Edward Marston. 1999. [1]

6.11 Thursday, June 29

Good news. At least five people in the US government are still sane.

1. "Supreme Court Says Guant'anamo Bay Military Commissions Are Unconstitutional; ACLU Calls Decision a Victory for the Rule of Law". At American Civil Liberties Union. [358]
2. "Supreme court rejects Bush terror powers". By Suzanne Goldenberg. [102]
3. "Bush pledges to obey, analyze court's ruling". By Don Gonyea. [103]
4. "Hamdan v. Rumsfeld: Legal issues & ramifications". [?]

5. "Decision raises questions over fate of prisoners". By Patti Waldmeir and Demetri Sevastopulo. [418]

Here's a paragraph from the news story:

This almost certainly means that the CIA's interrogation regime is unlawful, and indeed, that many techniques the administration has been using, such as water-boarding and hypothermia [and others] violate the War Crimes Act [because violations of Common Article 3 are deemed war crimes], wrote Mr Lederman.

If Lederman is correct, then the CIA, under orders from President George W. Bush, has committed war crimes.

Chapter 7

2006 July

7.1 Monday, July 3

1. astrology.ca¹. A source for astrology glyphs, including wallpaper.

7.2 Monday, July 10

1. “What they’re dying for: oil, lily pads, & puppets”. By Nicolas J S Davies. At Aljazeera.net. [59]

7.2.1 Data cubes

1. “A temporally oriented data model”. By Gad Ariav. [13]
2. “Data Cubes”. By Russell Kay. [?]
3. “Implementing data cubes efficiently”. By Venky Harinarayan and Anand Rajaraman and Jeffrey D. Ullman. [114]
4. “Data Cube: A Relational Aggregation Operator Generalizing Group-By, Cross-Tab, and Sub-Totals”. By a whole bunch of peeps. 1997. [107]
5. “An Incomplete Data Cube”. By Curtis E. Dyreson. [75]
6. “Modeling, querying and reasoning about OLAP databases: a functional approach”. By Ken Q. Pu. [219]
7. “Requirement-based data cube schema design”. By David W. Cheung and Bo Zhou and Ben Kao and Hongjun Lu and Tak Wah Lam and Hing Fung Ting. [42]
8. “A data model for supporting on-line analytical processing”. By Chang Li and X. Sean Wang. [164]

¹<http://www.astrology.ca/art/wallpaper/gold3d/index.html>

9. “An Incomplete Data Cube - Overview: A Data Cube Tool for Missing Data”. By Curtis E. Dyreson. [75]
10. “Data Cubes: What they are , and how to create and use them”. [293]

7.3 Wednesday, July 12

1. “Dabhol and the death of Kenneth Lay”. By Dilip D’Souza. [69]
2. “In the eyes of the law, Ken Lay not a felon”. By Dan Margolies. [180]
3. “Death by Wikipedia: The Kenneth Lay Chronicles”. By Frank Ahrens. At The Washington Post. [6]
4. “Enron founder Ken Lay dies”. By Shaheen Pasha. [208]
5. “Ken Lay Dead Getting Approximately Same Amount of Respect As Ken Lay Alive”. [322]
6. “Enron ex-chief Kenneth Lay dies”. At BBC News. [300]
7. “Readers smell conspiracy in Lays sudden death”. [339]

The beginning of the article says that many readers “wanted DNA tests confirming the cause of death”. DNA tests to verify the *cause* of death? Uh, yeah, right.

7.4 Thursday, July 13

1. “Web 2.0: Stuck on a name or hooked on value”. By Tim O’Reilly. [206]
I don’t think he made his case that the term “web 2.0” is hooked on value.
2. “Living with compliance”. By Michael Swaine. [395]
3. “Infoglut”. By Peter J. Denning. [62]
4. “What road ahead for Microsoft & Windows”. By Michael A. Cusumano. [50]
5. “Sun, Java, and the middle course”. By Michael Swaine. [397]

7.5 Saturday, July 15

1. “Device trails: How Windows remembers your connections”. By Gutterman & Rosenan. [110]
2. “Discovering relationships in context”. By Celko. [41]
This essay may have been my favorite from the 2006 July Dobbs.

3. “Configuring J2EE deployment descriptors”. By Steve Taylor. [403]
4. “Quick-kill project management”. By Stellman and Greene. [381]
5. “In defense of laziness”. By Pete Becker. [27]
6. “Linux for corporations”. By Ed Nisley. [203]

7.6 Sunday, July 16

1. “Viewpoint: Principles of problem solving”. By Wegner and Goldin. [423]

7.7 Wednesday, July 19

1. “Hackers learn from open source: McAfee spots ‘bot’ danger”. By Robert McMillan. [189]
2. “Bush blocked eavesdropping program probe”. By Mark Sherman. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [248]
3. “Virtual reality gaming system tests for telepathy”. [375]
4. “Google exec challenges Berners-Lee”. By Candace Lombardi. [175]
5. “SQL injection attacks against banks on the rise”. [351]
6. “SecureWorks Finds SQL Injection Hacker Attacks on the Rise against Banks, Credit Unions and Utilities”. [344]
7. “Why CSS bugs me”. By John C. Dvorak. [73]
8. AfterDowningStreet.org

7.8 Saturday, July 22

1. *A Mind to Murder*. By P.D. James. [137]
2. “Reliable Messaging, Transactions, and Messages – oh my”. By Udi Dahan. [51]
3. “Reliable Messaging, Transactions, and Messages – take 2”. By Udi Dahan. [52]

7.9 Saturday, July 29

1. “Reliable Messaging, Transactions, and Messages – oh my”. By Udi Dahan. [51]
2. “Reliable Messaging, Transactions, and Messages – take 2”. By Udi Dahan. [52]
3. “Experts weigh prospect of full DNS control by ICANN”. By Juan Carlos Perez. [210]
4. “US to continue its control over ICANN”. By Eric Bangeman. [21]
5. “WTO talks collapse spells doom for Africa: commentary”. [379]
6. “The Human Factor”. Alexandra Weber Morales. [194]
7. “Sweet Predictability”. Watts Humphrey. [133]
8. “Protect Data, Enforce Licenses”. Mike Riley. [227]
I didn’t find any useful information in this essay, & methinks Mr Riley has drunk the DRM cool-aid. He repeatedly claims that DRM is important to revenue & standards compliance, but he doesn’t question those standards or the DRM implementations.
9. Coding for the code. [380]

7.10 Sunday, July 30

1. *Web Mage*. Kelly McCullough. [186]
2. *The World of Edward Gorey*. Clifford Ross and Karen Wilkin. [230]

7.11 Monday, July 31

1. “Column: Get That Out of Your Mouth #27”. By Chris Dahlen. [54]

Chapter 8

2006 August

8.1 Thursday, August 3

1. “Timeline: Lebanon conflict”. At Aljazeera.net. [360]
2. “THE SOFTWARE SIMPLIST: Web Services Wisdom”. By Udi Dahan. [53]
3. “No, blame whoever uses WSDL”. By steve. [382]
4. “Salesforce Web service API is crappy .. so blame the tools”. By Sanjiva Weerawarana. [421]
5. “XSLT that transforms from XSD to WSDL”. By I don’t know. [66]

8.2 Sunday, August 6

1. *Buried Deep*. Kristine Kathryn Rusch. [233]
This is a remarkably good sci-fi mystery novel.
2. “Optimized Java”. By Matt Love. [177]
Basically, he says Java performance problems come from unintended abuse of the garbage collector.
3. “Assurance & Agile Processes”. By Cliff Berg & Scott W. Ambler. [10]
4. “Threading and .NET”. By Michael Taylor. [402]
5. “Living By the Rules: Part 2”. By Pete Becker. [28].
Discusses some changes in the new, as yet unfinished, draft of the C++ standard¹.

¹<http://www.open-std.org/jtc1/sc22/wg21/docs/papers/2005/n1836.pdf>

6. “Initiating an Agile Project”. By Scott W. Ambler. [11]
7. “The Data Domain, or Folie à Deux”. By Michael Swaine. [393]

8.3 Tuesday, August 8

1. “Free Market Fraud - the myth of capitalism - Brief Article - Column”. By John Kenneth Galbraith. [93]
2. “America’s Blinders”. By Howard Zinn. At The Progressive. [437]
3. “Giant Robot Imprisons Parked Cars”. By Quinn Norton. [205]

I didn’t see any concrete mention of why the software stopped.

- Was the software aware of the contract, & when the contract ended, the software stopped working? It’s possible, but few applications do that.
- Is it possible that Robotic Parking disabled the software remotely after the contract expired? I guess, but it also seems unlikely, though the new story suggests that it’s what happened. (Search for the paragraph containing “Self Help Features”.)
- Does the robot’s software require a human operator, & the city of Hoboken did not ensure that any of its own people had that knowledge? This is more likely, & the news story suggests as much when it mentions that police escorted the employees of Robotic Parking of the premise “with its manuals & the intellectual property rights”. However, the news story
- What seems most likely from my own experience is that the software was cobbled together on-site, barely worked, & required human operators when it did work. Otherwise, why have Robotic Parking employees on site in the first place?

8.4 Wednesday, August 9

1. “A Slanted Truce and Rice’s Latest Obscenity”. By Matthew Rothschild. At The Progressive. [232]

8.5 Friday, August 11

1. “Stallman, Torvalds, Moglen share views on DRM and GPLv3”. By Shashank Sharma. [245]

8.6 Saturday, August 12

1. *A Mind to Murder*. P.D. James. 1963. [138]

8.6.1 précis

According to Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary...

précis *n, pl précis* [F, fr. *précis* precise] (1760) : a concise summary of essential points, statements, or facts

8.7 Sunday, August 13

1. *Less Than Human*. By Maxine McCarthur. 2004. [184]

8.8 Monday, August 14

1. "America adrift". By Sandy Shanks. At Aljazeera.net. [244]
2. "U.S. Military Increasingly Using Air Lifts". By REBECCA SANTANA. At The Washington Post. [238]
3. "It's (Not) All Been Done". By Herb Sutter. [391]
4. "Ant Colony Algorithms: Solving optimization problems". By Andrew Colin. [46]

8.9 Tuesday, August 15

1. "Risks relating to system compositions". By Peter G. Neumann. [199]
2. "Semantics to energize the full services spectrum". By lots of people. [250]
3. "Principles of problem solving". By Peter Wegner and Dina Goldin. [422]
4. "Ruby on Rails". By Michael Swaine. [396]
5. "OpenGL & Mobile Devices". By Richard S. Wright, Jr. [223]
6. "Heightmap terrain rendering". By Mikael Baros. [23]

8.10 Thursday, August 17

8.10.1 Some sanity at last

1. “Judge: Wiretap program unconstitutional”. By Sarah Karush. [143]
2. “NSA eavesdropping program ruled unconstitutional”. [331]
3. “Wiretap programme judged ‘unconstitutional’”. [377]
4. Judge Taylor’s memorandum opinion on the case. [401]
5. “Warrantless Wiretapping Unconstitutional”. By justaperson. [142]

8.11 Tuesday, August 22

8.11.1 Video file formats & utilities

1. “AVI Video File Formats: Resolution, Pixels, Colors and Compression”.
By Douglas Dixon. 1999 May.
Radius Cinepak for portability?
2. “AVI Overview”. By John F. McGowan, Ph.D. [140]
3. MPEG Software Simulation Group

8.12 Thursday, August 31

President Bush, Vice President Cheney, & birds of their feather are drawing analogies between the US’s current “war on terror” & the people who warned of the dangers of a fascist Germany.

Words cannot express the irony.

Chapter 9

2006 September

9.1 Monday, September 3

1. *An American Haunting: The Bell Witch*. By Brent Monahan. [192]

9.2 Thursday, September 7

The United States government now admits that it runs secret prisons which violate the rights of people. When you imprison someone, you are stealing their life. And in these cases, where there is no visibility & that civil rights are denied, you are committing further crimes. Hell, you're even lying to the American people (& the rest of the world) about it. (Apparently, only the American people believe the lies. Everyone else sees through them.)

I'm amazed that they are trying to spin these prisons into a kind of public service. Maybe I'm not amazed. We already know that the American government warps perceptions by bending definitions & mincing words.

What remains to be seen is whether the American people buy the lies, drink the cool-aide.

Whether or not you realize that the prisons are contemptible violations of sacred rights, remember: The government itself admitted yesterday that *the government has lied* about these prisons.

1. "Bush says secret CIA jails necessary and effective tools. By L. Daleel.
2. "Bush Says Terror Plots Uncovered". By Deb Riechmann. Forbes.
3. "Use of secret jails draws mixed reaction". By Rohan Sullivan.

Remember the facts:

- The government has for years denied that these prisons exist.

- The government admitted yesterday that the prisons exist. So the government was lying when it denied their existence.
- The prisoners in the secret prisons are denied due process. So the prisons violate their rights.
- You can't say "they are terrorists so they deserve to have their rights violated". None of them have been charged, much less tried, so they are not legally criminals. What's more, *everyone* has a right to due process, whether or not they are guilty.

9.3 Thursday, September 7

1. "Ray tracing soon to go real-time for 3D rendering". By Jon Hannibal Stokes. Ars Technica.
2. "A Great Leap in Graphics". By W. Wayt Gibbs. Scientific American.

9.4 Wednesday, September 13

1. "Media Control". By Noam Chomsky. [43]

9.5 Friday, September 15

9.5.1 Ludicrous

I swear to almighty god¹ that, just moments ago & in a story about President Bush's secret torture programs, I heard the reporter on National Public Radio say "The president has threatened to end the secret interrogation program if Congress does not give it legal standing".

I hope (again to almighty god) that this is both the most ludicrous & backward claim I will hear in my life. Think about it. Someone *threatens* to stop doing something Congress doesn't legalize it. Riiiiight.

9.6 Thursday, September 21

1. I was re-reading Alexandrescu's *Modern C++ Design* [8] & wondered if a custom allocator as complex as the one in the book could possibly be worthwhile. There are surprisingly few studies of custom memory allocator performance (or at least I was surprisingly unlucky in finding them on the web), but Berger, Zorn, & McKinley's "Reconsidering custom memory allocation" [29] concludes that most custom memory allocators are not

¹In case you're interested, god, almighty or otherwise, doesn't exist, but that's beside the point.

worth the while. It does not mention Alexandrescu's custom allocator specifically.

2. "Myths and realities: the performance impact of garbage collection" [34]

Chapter 10

2006 October

10.1 Sunday, October 1

1. A Small World is a Big Deal. By Jonathan Erickson. [81]
2. Software as a service. By David Dame. [55]
3. Interview of Chris Crawford: Interactive Storytelling: Is this the future of computer games?. By Michael Swaine. [394]
A good read is Crawford's book about interactive storytelling. I think it's called "Interactive Storytelling".
4. Parameterized Communication. By Per Harald Myrvang. [197]
5. Java Cryptography & Attribute Certificate Management. By Sucurovic & Jovanovic. [390]
6. AJAX & Record Locking. By David Perelman-Hall. [209]
7. Building Extensible Development Frameworks. By Mark Ramsay. [221]
Interesting case study. I wish Mr. Ramsay had had the time to write more & in more detail.
8. Application Responsiveness. By Joe Duffy. [70]
9. Illusions of Safety. By Pete Becker. [26]
This was my favorite article in the 2006 October Dobb's. Enjoyable read & informative.
10. Failure analysis. By Ed Nisley. [202]
11. Beck's Maps, Rex Barks, and Grokking the Squonk. By Michael Swaine. [392]

10.1.1 Bush changes his language

President Bush “changes his language”, so the news stories say.

Does this mean Bush will pronounce “nuclear” correctly? Is this a time of rejoicing?

Nope. Bush will stop saying “stay the course” with respect to Iraq. Oh goody.

Why the change? Because the Whitehouse doesn’t want people to believe that Bush is inflexible with respect to plans for Iraq.

Translation: We won’t be staying the course, so we are going to stop saying “stay the course” & start repeating something else (maybe “be flexible”) to prepare the minds of voters to remove our soldiers from Iraq.

1. “Bush drops ‘staying the course’ in Iraq”. By Jim Rutenberg. [234]
2. “Bush: ‘Weve Never Been Stay The Course’”. [286]
3. “Bush drops phrase stay the course”. At Seattle Times. [280]
4. “US cannot stay course in Iraq”. At BBC News. [366]
5. “US says Iraq must improve policy”. At BBC News. [373]
6. “Review Iraq strategy, says Hague”. At BBC News. [341]

10.2 Thursday, 2006 October 26

GOD! How I fucking HATE Word.

No, it’s beyond hate. It’s contempt.

And hate.

Wish I could hurt it.

If I ever go postal, you’ll know I was editing a Word doc that day.

Chapter 11

2006 November

11.1 Monday, November 6

1. “C++ and Perils of Double-Checked Locking. [12]

11.2 Friday, November 10

11.2.1 Real-time programming

I was reading some distributed, real-time algorithms last night (in [106], chapter 6, for my own programmer enjoyment). Thinking about real-time programming, I think I have Gene’s Definition of Real-Time Programming:

Real-time programming is the cost of transforming computer hardware from slightly inadequate for a task to barely adequate for that same task.

Example: Task is to perform 1,000 trigonometric floating-point operations per second (maybe so an anti-missile system can figure the direction in which to fire its missiles).

- If the hardware you must use is a 1 MHz, 8-bit processor (such as a 6502) which performs all floating point operations in software, you will need Real-Time Programming, but . . .
- if the hardware is a 4 GHz, 64-bit CPU which performs floating point in hardware, you just have to write an efficient program.

11.3 Sunday, November 17

11.3.1 Casino Royale

I'm listening to the news right now, & they are going on about *Casino Royale* (2006). They point out that this is the first James Bond movie (since the first, I guess) in which everything is different. Everything is different. Everything except the theme song, they say.

But they're forgetting one very important other way in which "Casino Royale" isn't new.

It's a remake. *Casino Royale* (1967).

Some day I will go postal. I'll go postal because I hate Microsoft Word, but I'll go postal at people with short memories.

11.4 Tuesday, November 14

1. "Web 3.0". By Jeffrey Zeldman. alistapart.com. [434]

Chapter 12

2006 December

12.1 Monday, December 12

1. “Can Office 2007 Prevail In A Web 2.0 World?”. By Barbara Darrow. At Dr. Dobb’s. [58]
2. “As Microsoft looks ahead, will Vista be the end of an era?”. By Rhys Blakely. [35]
3. “Streaming Presidents”. By Amin Ahmad. [5]
4. “Streaming Architecture”. By Amin Ahmad. [4]
5. “The psychology of a killer”. At BBC News. [337]
6. “Bush faces pressure to act on Iraq”. By Nick Miles. At BBC News. [191]

12.2 Friday, December 22

Any program you can walk away from is a good one.

12.2.1 Precedence for cloning

A *parent* is an organism which donates tissue which becomes a new organism. A father is a parent which donated sperm; a mother is a parent which donated one or more eggs.

A *clone* is an organism with exactly one parent.¹

¹A more common definition is “a clone is grown from a single cell”, but this is equivalent except that it implies technique. Another common definition is “clone is an identical copy of its parent”. This is also equivalent though it focuses on effect. See “clone” at MSN’s Encarta or see your local dictionary. Also see “cloning” at Wikipedia.

Turn your thoughts to mythology from the Bible. Think of Adam. Think of Eve. Who were Eve's parents? She was created from the tissue (a rib) of one donor, Adam. So Eve was a clone.

Adam & Eve had children (first Cain, then Able, then more). Adam was Eve's father. So Eve parented a child with her father. Adam & Eve were incestuous.

12.3 Tuesday, December 26

12.3.1 Open source windows

A friend sent me a link to "A Cost Analysis of Windows Vista Content Protection", by Peter Gutmann. [109] It's a good read. Here are some thoughts it inspired.

This is further evidence that the Windows monopoly has outlived its usefulness to mankind. Notice that I said Windows monopoly, not all monopolies & not the Microsoft monopoly. Microsoft has many monopolies which may or may not still benefit mankind.

Monopolies exist with the consent of society while they benefit society. The Windows product may still benefit society, but the direction in which future releases will take us won't, & the most recent release is evidence of that.

What benefits does the latest Windows offer?

- Vista is pretty, but any window manager can be pretty, & all the open source window managers are so customizable that they don't need a new release to change their look.
- Vista claims to be more resistant to viruses & worms. but many of the new security features are just pop-up windows which ask the user whether she approves of some action. These features were probably created with good intentions, but without a knowledgeable user, they do not increase security.

What detriments does the latest Windows offer?

- According to the essay [109], Vista's Digital Restrictions Management² (DRM) features limit even the legal capabilities of the computer which the user bought & owns, increase the cost of hardware & software, and decrease the reliability of hardware & software. What's more (& again according to [109]), they create the potential for massive Denial of Service attacks.
- Vista's performance is less than XP's performance on equivalent hardware (& XP's performance was nothing to be overjoyed about). A useful new feature might be worth the cost of some performance, but what new features did the user get from Vista? Other window managers can be prettier

²<http://www.fsf.org/campaigns/drm.html>

without a performance cost, its anti-virus security features are questionable, & its Digital Restrictions Management features are detrimental. I pay performance for this?

A friend of mine has said that a monopoly has out-lived its usefulness when it can no longer improve its product. Vista shows that Windows has reached that point. Society should reclaim Windows & make it open source.

By the way, “Trusted Computing: An Animated Short³” is worth watching.

12.4 Friday, December 29

12.4.1 Google PDF

Why does Adobe PDF’s installer insist on installing Google Toolbar? (It does not allow you to reject Google Toolbar. I had to un-install Google Toolbar specifically after installing PDF.)

Does “Adobe PDF” somehow imply “I love Google Toolbar”? Is PDF an acronym for “Toolbar” or “Google”?

By bundling Google Toolbar with the free PDF viewer, does Adobe hope to trick people into believing that Adobe is as cool as Google? Coolness by association?

How could the inventor of Post Script have fallen so low?

³<http://www.lafkon.net/tc/>

Appendix A

Other File Formats

- This document is available in multi-file HTML format at <http://cybertiggyr.com/gene/tae2006/>.
- This document is available in Pointless Document Format (PDF) at <http://cybertiggyr.com/gene/tae2006/tae2006.pdf>.

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