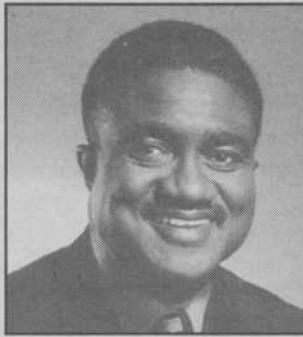


C O M M E N T A R Y

Bush's Waffle House: His flip-flopping egregious

By George E. Curry
Special to Sentinel-Voice

When I first heard George W. Bush's handlers call John Kerry a flip-flopper, the charge had a familiar ring. Then, I remembered that it was the first President Bush who was tagged a flip-flopper. Actually, he was called a waffler. Supporters of



GEORGE CURRY

creating a cabinet office doesn't solve the problem. You still will have agencies within the federal government that have to be coordinated..."

However, President Bush told the nation on June 6, "So tonight, I ask the Congress to join me in creating a single, permanent department with an overriding and urgent mission: securing the homeland of America and protecting the American people."

On October 10, 2000, Bush said: "If we don't stop extending our troops all around the world in nation-building missions, then we're going to have a serious problem coming down the road." On March 6, 2003, Bush expressed support for nation-building when he stated, "We will be changing the regime of Iraq, for the good of the Iraqi people."

On September 17, 2001, Bush, in a reference to Osama bin Laden, proclaimed, "...I want justice. And there's an old poster out West, I recall, that says, 'Wanted: Dead or Alive.'" By March 13, 2000, Bush had gone from wanting Bin Laden "dead or alive" to not caring about whether he was either. "I don't know where he is," Bush said at a news conference. "You know, I

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former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, his Democratic opponent in 1988, circulated "Waffle House" menus that showed how George H.W. Bush had frequently equivocated on important issues.

At the time, I was a Washington correspondent for the Chicago Tribune and rotated between the Bush and Dukakis campaign planes. It's interesting that George W. Bush is trying to depict Kerry as a flip-flopper when he is the one who has flipped and flopped on everything from the creation of a Homeland Security Department to the establishment of an independent commission to investigate the terrorist events of September 11, 2001.

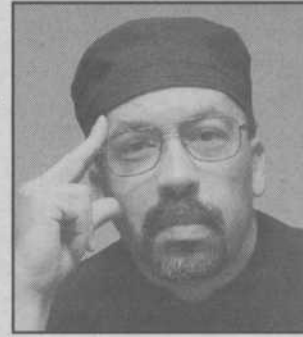
Let's examine some of George W. Bush's Greatest Flips.

Ari Fleischer, Bush's press secretary at the time, said on March 19, 2002 that the president opposed the creation of a Homeland Security Department. He said, "...So,

Republicans engaging in politics of fear, loathing

By Bill Fletcher Jr.
Special to Sentinel-Voice

"...the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same way in any country." — Nazi



BILL FLETCHER JR.

war criminal Herman Goering at the Nuremberg trials

Speech after speech at the Republican National Convention, followed by remarks by both President Bush and Vice President Cheney, have together underscored one point: fear remains a palatable political weapon that can suppress any genuine discussion.

The Republican Convention, while certainly engaging in repeated Kerry-bashing, more than anything else played on the issue of 9/11 and the fear of another terrorist attack. Using this fear, and playing upon the uncertainties and confusions of so many people of the United States, the Bush campaign has been quite successful in obscuring any real debate about serious issues, both domestic and foreign.

Let's take the question of the Iraq war. Again, in a method that would make the Sophists of ancient Greece quite proud, the

Bush team linked the war against Iraq — to the extent to which it was mentioned at all — with the need to fight terrorism. Despite the lack of any demonstrable connection between the Saddam Hussein regime and the Al Qaeda terrorists, the Bush team continues to repeat and imply such a connection. Thus, we are

treated to round after round of tribute to the alleged leadership of the President in taking on Saddam Hussein and conducting the so-called war against terrorism, irrespective of the lies, half-truths and manipulations of the facts by the administration used to justify a war of naked aggression.

Playing again and again to our fears, the Bush team presented itself as war-time leadership that should be reaffirmed. Yet, while this band played on, issues such as the actual lies that led to the Iraq invasion; the troubled state of the U.S. economy; the increasing poverty; and the lack of a comprehensive and genuine approach to education reform were all ignored. In the interests of national security, apparently, we are all suppose to hunker down and ignore or forget that we are worse off, domestically and internationally, than we were

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Spreading economic gospel vital to Blacks' salvation

By James Clingman
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The summer of 2004 will always hold fond memories for me. I was blessed to visit many cities and meet more of my "lost" relatives across this country.

I visited St. Louis twice and had the pleasure to work with Brother Curtis Faulkner, the organizer of the Heritage Jazz Juneteenth event, as well as a group of brothers and sisters who understand and practice cooperative economics via their business association. Brother Curtis brings the Juneteenth event to St. Louis each year and does a wonderful job, involving other groups such as the Missouri Black Political Caucus, as he did this year. The business association was a joy to behold, and if you read this column regularly you already know why.

We have been promoting the formation of small business associations for years now, and it was great to see a group of Black business owners — all in the same business — working cooperatively at the Missouri Black Expo.

On behalf of the St. Louis Association of Black Book Sellers, Brother Marcus Watson, owner of Ujamaa Maktaba book store, where I had the pleasure of doing a book signing on my first visit to the Gateway City, and Gregory Reed, owner of Topaz Books in East St. Louis, Ill. invited me to the Expo.

Their three book stores, in conjunction with First World Books and Legacy Books & Café, comprise the association. They work together and leverage their collective re-

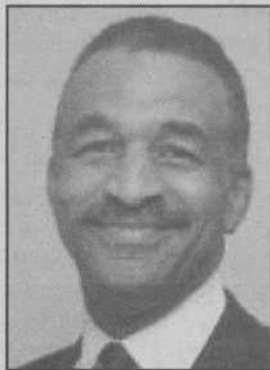
sources to purchase and sell Black books at various events.

They worked at the Expo in the same venue, pooling their inventories, selling, and managing the authors they invited, all in a cooperative and mutually respectful manner. These brothers and sisters think "abundance" rather than "scarcity," and they know something about economies of scale too.

If more of our businesses would practice cooperative purchasing, advertising, and the like, our prices would be more competitive and our futures would be more secure. It matters not that they are all in the business of selling books; in a city the size of St. Louis there are plenty of customers to go around. They understand they are in competition with one another, but they also understand the higher level of working together for the benefit of the group.

Do you remember the latest statistics regarding Black spending? While all other consumer segments were cutting back on their expenditures during the period 2002-2003, Black consumers were busy increasing our spending.

There was only one category of products in which our expenditures decreased: You got it. Books! That's why I was so excited about seeing the five Black book stores working together. With many Black book stores going out of business across the country, it is important for them to implement business



JAMES CLINGMAN

practices that will help them survive.

I strongly encourage the folks in St. Louis to support these stores when you are in the market for a particular book, regardless of the title — they can order it for you.

It is vital to the Black economy and it is essential to the proper education of our children. Black book stores are the repositories of our history, our culture, our progress; they tell Our-story. Are we not obligated to see that they are around for us and our children? Are we really saving anything by driving past a Black book store to buy a book at one of the big-box stores? What price are we paying for expediency? Please support the St. Louis Association of Black Book Sellers!

I could not write this article without also mentioning another person of whom I have become a big fan. Also a resident of St. Louis, this dynamic sister's name is Madeline Long. I met Madeline over the Internet via the Blackonomics Million Dollar Club. She arranged my book signing in St. Louis as well. This sister is an energetic, intelligent, positive, go-getter, who is determined to accomplish even more in the world of youth entrepreneurship. Madeline is the founder of Edunomic Village International, Inc. (www.edunomicvillage.org), among her other business ventures. She and her husband also have a beautiful talented daughter named

Chanel.

During a phone conversation, Madeline introduced me to her minister, Pastor Alvin Smith, St. Paul A.M.E. Church, who invited me to speak at the church's Sunday morning service. Feeling a bit tentative about it at first, the members of St. Paul, the oldest Black church west of the Mississippi, made me feel at ease, welcomed, and most importantly, they made me feel loved and appreciated. I was deeply humbled by their support and their confidence in what I had to say.

All in all, I have had an excellent summer. From Los Angeles, at the Black Book Fair, to the east coast, throughout the Midwest, and even right here in dear old Cincinnati where Vanessa Enoch, local Black MBA Chapter President, gave me the opportunity to speak at the regional Black MBA conference, with George Fraser, one of my mentors.

In all of you who read this column and invite me to your cities, I continue to find reasons for doing what I do. "Thank you," to all whom I have met, for your encouragement and inspiration.

I will continue my odyssey, moving about the country discussing my new book, "Black-O-Knowledge, Stuff We Need to Know," and spreading the economic gospel. I hope to see you soon.

Next stop Dallas, Texas, in September, with Brother Detrick DeBurr, Sister Ester Davis, and company. I look forward to it.

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