

On My Mind

3/07/03

Peoples' senses of humor differ. What is funny to one is not necessarily funny to another. I found the following, written by my friend Mar-Vic Cagurangan, funny enough to warrant wider distribution, so - with her permission - herewith.

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<i>Debate of the Century

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Following is a transcript of the first round of debate between US President George W. Bush and Saddam Hussein.

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Bush: "You are not complying with the UN resolution. You are keeping mass of weapons destruction." (Rumsfeld whispers: "Mr. President, weapons of mass destruction.")

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Bush: "Yes, that's right, weapons for destructive masses."

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Saddam: "What an idiot! Do you remember what Fidel Castro said about you when you became President? 'I hope he's not as stupid as he looks.' Well, we all know now. I shouldn't have called this debate. Why should I waste my time debating with a nincompoop?"

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Bush: "No, no, no. Let's get on with this, mustache man. I ain't backing out. We Texas folks never chicken out. And how dare you call me a popcorn. Condi, come here! What did he call me?" (Condi whispers: "Never mind, Mr. President, you wouldn't want to know what it means.")

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Saddam: "I'm thirsty but I don't want to drink this water in front of me. You think you can trick me, huh? I know this is poisoned. Trade your glass of water with mine, cowboy."

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Bush: "See, you're into delaying tactics again. No way will I let you drink from this glass. This is exclusive for Republicans. And don't cowboy me. Don't feel so cocky and comfortable. We're enemies, a---hole."

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Saddam: "Where is your British poodle, by the way? Why is he not around? I think people all over the world want to watch this for entertainment. You two could make a good show: The Lone Ranger and Tonto. Ha-ha-ha. I don't usually laugh, but you, guys, are comic characters."

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Bush: "Hey, leave my best friend Tony alone. He's doing a serious business with his Labor Party. What about your terrorist friend bin Laden? Where the hell is he? We're not done with him yet. We're gonna smoke him out wherever he is hiding."

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Saddam: "Oh, please. You can keep saying that I'm keeping weapons of mass destruction, and it won't bother me. What pisses me off is when you associate me with that ascetic man who lives in the cave. He doesn't bathe. I have an elegant style. I don't make friends with stinky hermits. He never removes his turban, his head must be full of parasites now."

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Bush: "For all your vanity, Saddam, you still suck in the fashion department. Style? For crying out loud. You call yourself stylish? Look at that goofy beret you're wearing. That's the type that Monica Lewinsky wears. At least Monica wears hers with style, and I'm sure this is something that Bill Clinton and I would agree on."

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Saddam: "I will never trade my beret for a cowboy hat. Eeeuw!"

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Bush: "Look at your boots. Jesus. How long does it take you to tie the laces?"

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Saddam: "These are combat boots, dumbbell. Yours are tacky!"

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Bush: "Hey, these are authentic cowboy boots. Alligator skin. Made in Texas. Nice to kick butts with. Wait a minute, let me take a closer look at you. You remind of a Hollywood actor."

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Saddam: "We don't watch your Hollywood crap."

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Bush: "Seriously. I just don't remember the name of that actor but he was on that movie Grumpy Old Men."

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Saddam: "I don't know who you're talking about and I am sure you're insulting me. Look at yourself. You look like a monkey. You know those e-mail attachments with a collection of your pictures next to gesturing monkeys? I got one of those. I thought it was only in the pictures, but you do look like a monkey in person."

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Bush: "Dick, Colin, Rummy, y'all, get this saddamofabitch outta here and send our troops to Baghdad right now!"

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The debate was adjourned when Bush began going berserk.</I>

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Yes, it's a little raunchy. But with the situation as grim as it is, it's helpful to be able to laugh at it once in a while!

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The governor's assertion, coming back from all those conferences in Washington, D.C., that President Bush personally told him that war with Iraq 'is only a matter of time,' might be worrisome, or even touching, were it not for the fact that it does not yet seem to be a "done deal." I do not find Babauta's trust in, loyalty to, Bush at all reassuring.

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While it may seem reassuring to see agencies in the CNMI working and rehearsing together in preparation for a possible terrorist attack, it is not so reassuring to think of all the money that is being spent for the equipment, for the special clothing, for the extra time that all these people are devoting to anticipating an event that is not likely to ever occur here - particularly when funding is as tight as it is nowadays.

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It has been pointed out that it would not be all that difficult for a potential terrorist to reach the CNMI, either by boat, or as an airline passenger. But the question is, what would be the point? So few people know what or where the CNMI is, much less that it is a U.S. entity, that setting off an explosion here, carrying out a suicide raid of one sort or another, would have little meaning or effect. In all likelihood, it would not make headlines anywhere in the world - except in the CNMI

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Would anyone drop bombs on the CNMI? Who? Why? What is there to bomb? Would anyone loose poison gas? With the CNMI's prevailing breezes, gas would soon be blown away even if it were loosed. So once again, there's be little to gain.

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Yes, basic precautions should be taken. There is no harm in all those emergency forces playing games. It's conceivable that an airliner with a terrorist aboard might be forced to make an emergency landing here. But let's keep things in proportion. There is no need to carry things to the same extremes that more likely targets, like large eastern U.S. cities, do.

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Short takes:

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Kudos to the House Speaker for development of a bill to revamp the NMI Retirement Fund's provisions and benefits. The reforms, as reported in the press, make good sense and are long overdue. Let us hope that the Speaker manages to gather enough support from his colleagues to get the bill passed - sooner rather than later.

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That presiding judge Edward Manibusan is retiring just when he is up for a retention vote is inauspicious. It calls into question, once again, the appropriateness of the requirement that renewal of judicial terms be subject to voter approval. His presence on the bench, the dignity, honor, and integrity he has brought to every position he has held during his government tenure, will be sorely missed.

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Keeping it simple: The controversial "under God" was only recently added to the pledge of allegiance. It's not illegal to say the pledge without those words. Isn't it simpler just to omit them, rather than going to court, seeking injunctions, and filing suits and appeals?