

Carnival of the Vanities 62

We have done our best to include every entry we have received, including the ones that our spam filters put in the Junk Mail box. Sadly, we did not receive any **pornographic ones**, or they would have had pride of place in the carnival. If your entry is missing, it is not surprising. This is a huge job for which we were quite ill-prepared. So if you are in this unlucky(?) position, instead of leaping to the conclusion that it is a plot to deprive you of your rightful place in the carnival of the vanities, realise that it is just a technical glitch or a mistake, and that we will be mortified to learn that we have missed a further opportunity for editorial fun. And don't despair, simply write to carnival -at- settingtheworldtorights [dot] com, giving us the details again, and we will add your entry in an extra special UPDATE section. (So everyone, just in case our carnival-posting systems turn out to have been fallible – and in case one or two naughty bloggers use this opportunity to slip another post in – be sure to visit the carnival again in a few days to catch any entries that you may have missed the first time.)

Bigwig has set up a list for Carnival announcements. You can subscribe to it by sending an email message to cotvanities-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. But we can tell you that the next carnival will be hosted by **Begging to Differ**. Get your entries in now! Don't wait until the last minute!

If you haven't read our post, **Richard Dawkins, George W. Bush, and Morality**, read it now!

Enough of this! Let's get to **The World Carnival** without further ado:

Have you ever wondered if parenting has to be such a ghastly battle? Whether there could be a better way to interact with children? A way that would be better for you too? Then read **this post about Taking Children Seriously**.

And to understand why **Sarah Fitz-Claridge** thinks that the future of liberty depends on **taking children seriously**, read **this post**.

Jolly good stuff from fellow optimist, Bruce Hill. Bring the Revolution home!

White Pebble sits in **Memory Street** and tells a touching little story

of chemistry, childhood, and the moment when she ceased to be an omniscient mommy. And she **muses** on the sharing of national tragedy through live television.

In **Amnesty International and Britain...Silly, Overwrought...and Sad**, Solomon unlawfully detains Kate Allen of Amnesty International UK, and, without any regard for her human rights, gives her a jolly good fiscing on the subject of why being nice to terrorists is probably not the best way to avoid another 9/11.

Pete of The Smarter Cop **amusingly fisks** a comment by a member of TruthOut, a group having the dubious distinction of using a 10-foot-tall burning pair of pants as a visual aid.

As James **struggles hilariously with a laptop that was presumably manufactured somewhere in the deeper recesses of hell**, we cannot help but wonder if he was thinking, "If only Apple made a **reasonably-priced range of user-friendly machines** that I could be using instead."

Do you enjoy domestic violence discipline? Blush explains how **regular beatings can be the cornerstone of a healthy relationship**, helping him unwind after a hard day in the office.

Unbillable Hours has a **long essay** on how wrong Kim Du Toit is about something or other. Oh yes – it was about his position on women and homosexuals. Did we mention it was long?

Chuck has some advice about what not to say out loud to a woman: **Did I Say That Outloud?** It's a guy thing, he says. So, um ... it's OK for a woman to turn to her best friend Joe, and say "You know I love you, Fred", is it?

BoiFromTroy, the gay, Republican sports fan, is in favour of gay marriage but expects to be "reamed for not being politically correct". Why? Because of his **rather queer reason** for taking that view.

Bill Wallo asks whether suicide bombers are really avenging angels – or just morally reprehensible: **Suicide Bombers and Moral Legitimacy**.

PC Watch says that in Australia, Muslim criminals were allowed to **go free** after stealing, intimidating police officers and destroying police property. Clearly a severe case of victimisation of Muslims. After all, some of the property they stole probably had sharp corners, and shouting that they were going to kill police officers and "fuck their girlfriends" might give them sore throats.

Jack Cluth exposes a shocking case of apathy in regard to the importance of traditional education. A child shuns schooling in favour of frivolous pursuits whilst the parents mock the efforts of dedicated social workers to put the child back on track.

Bryan is **furious** that a Christian music download service is stealing Apple's **iTunes idea** and that they have not yet made it possible for **Mac people** to use the service. The question is: why would we

want to?

Madeleine Begun **suspects** that Bush has security in order to shoot protesters. Little does she know that the real target is unruly *bloggers* bwahahahaha...

Riverbend **explains** why America shouldn't bomb Tikrit – because he knows some of the people there and they certainly aren't terrorists. In fact, it is America's brutal treatment that has turned these people into suicide bombers. Erm...

Charles Hill exposes **Wal-Mart as a wicked capitalist company** that forces people to work for wages lower than those offered by other shops. Evidently Mr Hill doesn't approve of plentiful cheap food and thinks that non-English-speaking illiterates and the like should starve rather than be allowed to do honest work paid at the rate they are worth.

In **American Beauty meets The Surrendered Wife**, MamaKat says that “for controlling women, ... there is help.” Let's hope she is right!

Gordie is gravely worried about hunger in.... Oregon. No really! That's not a joke!

Jon Henke sets the record straight on the **Resume of George W Bush**.

Tim Dunlop cheerily declares that “Nothing says *fuck you* more plainly to Islamofascist terrorists than a couple of men or women publicly and with liberal-democratic state sanction declaring their love for each other and then going off and living nice, normal, middle class lives.”

Carey Gage says: “Somehow I don't think that the ‘laws and customs of war’ include driving a truck filled with explosives into a clearly marked Red Cross building and pushing the detonator, or the use of marked ambulances to transport weapons and personnel.” Quite.

Fringe battles a fellow radio enthusiast over Israel and Palestine. It's a doozy.

Priorities and Frivolities wonders whether Al Qaeda's decentralisation, brought about by the War on Terror, has **made it more vulnerable** or not.

Blackfive - The Paratrooper of Love has a perceptive discussion of the nature of the Muslim, Arab and European *humiliation* which is the reason why many people hate America: **The Cost of Humiliation**.

Supergenius has written about the **resignation** of Eduard Shevardnadze, now ex-President of the ex-Soviet state of Georgia, following a large and impressive demonstration of people power.

Bill Adams reveals a number of bizarre facts about Kyrgyztan, not

least of which is that their unit of measurement for human corpses is the metric ton. The question of why they cannot make do with a simple headcount is perhaps answered by the works of Prof. Gunther Von Hagens, whose artwork challenges traditional ideas of where human limbs and organs should be located in relation to the rest of the body.

If you are fat, oops, sorry, 'have a weight problem', Dean Esmay suggests that you might want to **try the Atkins diet** or one of the other low-carbohydrate diets.

Here is an amusingly politically correct version of **Winter Wonderland**.

There is an interesting parallel between **this post about hunting** and our old post about **George Mikes**.

In her **Political Update**, Lynn says: "If you want my vote, don't just tell me what Bush is doing wrong; tell me what you would do right. And I'm sorry but if you compare Bush to Hitler you invalidate anything you say after that."

John Rosenberg writes that the Democrats like talking about states' rights but don't actually mean it.

Feste provides **pictures and a little good news from Iraq**. These kids, she says, are the hearts and minds we must win to bring real change to the region.

Michael Kantor on how he **passed** the New York Bar Exam. Anyone who has taken an exam will sympathise with his plight. We know someone who has also passed the bar exam – and been awarded the distinction of Beermeister: Almighty King of the Bar.

Wicked Thoughts has the first Christmas joke of the year – but it is short and did raise a smile.

Many were surprised at President Bush's reference to the Puritans in his recent Whitehall speech. For Mark Pierce it triggered a long but interesting series of thoughts on Thanksgiving, and about the similarities between the situation of the first Pilgrims at Plymouth Colony and that of Iraq today: **A Puritan Idealism In Iraq**.

For reasons best known to himself, Steven Taylor gives a **roundup** of the democratic nominees by comparing them to different types of toast. Just remember folks, you heard it here first...

If it's true that in hell the punishment fits the crime then we can only wonder what exactly it is that **Josh Fielek** thinks Michael Jackson has been *doing* to trees. Ugh!

Dustin Frelich explains how two approaches to Conservatism have led to a Republican split on the vote to expand Medicare: **Conservatives debate Medicare**.

Dodgeblogium points out that "the Iraq war has had at least one salutary effect, and that is in smoking out the outright dishonesty and bias of much of the Western media". Did that *need* smoking

out?

Interested Participant tracks the origin of **doctors' waiting rooms** to Heidelberg, Germany in the 19th century.

OTB announces a rival to the Carnival: the **Beltway Traffic Jam**. Yes, what today's blogosphere readers really need is a place to find more links to more blogs.

And if that wasn't enough, **Sean Hackbarth** provides links to some old stories on his site.

Harvey says that **this** is the relationship advice he *wishes* his father had given him. God help him!

Patriot Paradox on the silliness of claiming that the police are prosecuting Michael Jackson for child molestation because he's black rather than because their current best theory is that he's actually a child molester. Besides, Michael Jackson hasn't been black for a while now.

How to adapt to the breakneck pace of technological and social **change**.

King of Fools focuses on the inconvenience of bizarre and irrational laws in Arkansas that require children to **wear shoes** while shopping.

Daisy argues that you should **throw out any house rules that might be causing resentment**. That is, rules for your wife! We say: while you're at it, throw out the rules for your children too.

Brian Noggle is worried that the **computers** in his doctor's office are going to get hacked, or something.

Richard Baker is a physicist who thinks that "Physics is not the search for truth. Instead, it is the search for useful theories." Judge whether that theory is itself either true or useful by reading his **Maps of Physics**.

Dissecting Leftism says that GWB's relative inarticulateness may be one of his biggest assets.

In days of old/When knights were bold/And paper weren't invented/They wiped their arse/On a blade of grass/And walked away contented. Well, now at last we have reached the age of the next giant advance in wiping technology, and in **Wet Vs. Dry**, Joe Kelley bravely investigates. Or does he?

Attaboy righteously flattens criticises an uninformed letter writer to his local newspaper, who made the unfortunate mistake of **comparing Jessica Lynch to Rachel Corrie**.

Peaktalk explains how crime and homelessness have become a political playball between the left and right in the nuclear-weapon-free city of Vancouver: **Wrong Point, Wrong Time**.

Gunther, in an **update** on a boycott going on in Austin Texas,

where anti-abortion activists have stopped construction of a Planned Parenthood clinic, takes a disturbing look at who is behind the action.

Patterico, a conservative himself, takes on some pet conservative beliefs with which he disagrees: **RIGHT-WINGERS** (you may have to scroll down to find it).

Curiosity **expresses solidarity with Jews**.

Admiral Quixote on the problem of compulsory unionism.

Sorge is worried about his sanity. And so he should be.

Reviewing the Bush Administration's record both domestic and foreign, Arthur Silber finds it "almost impossible to comprehend how completely and consistently destructive a single administration could be in less than three years." Test *your* comprehension skills **here**.

Wed, 11/26/2003 - 11:07 | [digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [permalink](#)

Sorry about the length of the...

Sorry about the length of the post; I'm a lawyer, we aren't exactly trained for brevity. - TPB, Esq. <http://unbillablehours.typepad.com>

by a reader on Wed, 11/26/2003 - 18:29 | [reply](#)

Length

Long doesn't mean bad. One of our **favourite bloggers** writes posts that are so long that by the time one has read his masterful analysis of, say, an impending war, it has already started, ended, and been the subject of outrageous revisionist histories. Obligatory reading nevertheless, but it's nice to be forewarned, so that before clicking the link one can put out the cat, the wine, a cigar ... and install broadband.

Update: He's planning to **invent a 72-hour day** (warning: long!) to cope with this very problem. Excellent news! The only trouble is, it'll be 2104 before the Patent Office reaches the end of his application.

by **Editor** on Wed, 11/26/2003 - 19:02 | [reply](#)

Harsh

Gee, some of your comments are a little harsh. Is that the right spirit for the carnival of the vanities?

by a reader on Wed, 11/26/2003 - 19:43 | [reply](#)

Thanks & Re: Harsh

1) Many thanks for hosting - I know it takes a lot of work.

2) I had to laugh at your comment on length - I knew you were linking to the USS Clueless before I clicked on the URL.

3) The last person to comment has a point that this COV was more critical than the others. This is not a bad thing - since bloggers most commonly post their own opinions anyway, there is nothing wrong with posting your opinions, but it was different. For my part, I am OK with it, but prepare for people to comment on it. I will probably be remarking on one of your slams myself at [Admiral Quixote's Roundtable](#) ;-)

by [Admiral Quixote](#) on Wed, 11/26/2003 - 21:07 | [reply](#)

Comment question

BTW, how should we post URLs in your comments? I believe I used standard HTML for my above post, but the URL goes back to your site instead of to www.solport.com.

by [Admiral Quixote](#) on Wed, 11/26/2003 - 21:09 | [reply](#)

Re: Comment Question

Standard HTML is correct for URLs. You omitted the "http://" at the start of the URL. We've inserted it now.

by [Editor](#) on Wed, 11/26/2003 - 22:03 | [reply](#)

Re: harsh

You may well be right.

The thing is, the Carnival is supposed to be the Carnival of the *Vanities*, and people may be reluctant to post to it if they think the host is going to comment less than enthusiastically their work. But on the other hand, if the Carnival is just a lifeless list of links, with only bland content added by each host, it's that much less fun to read (and to host). We did discuss this issue and tried to find the right balance with a very small amount of added spice. Maybe we still didn't get it right.

by [Editor](#) on Wed, 11/26/2003 - 22:18 | [reply](#)

Thanks

OK - good to know your site requires that. I'll try to remember for next time. BTW, I did go ahead and post about [one of your minor digs](#).

Despite my comments on that particular bias, I think your style of hosting is quite interesting.

by [Admiral Quixote](#) on Wed, 11/26/2003 - 22:22 | [reply](#)

Commentary

The commentary on the links makes the Carnival worth reading, instead of just scrolling down and looking for post titles that are interesting.

It may deter some people from sending links, but this is Carnival of the Vanities, not The Carnival of Ego-Stroking, surely nobody in the blogosphere is REALLY trying to please everybody... and I don't see a problem with it... there was no ridicule, just some pointed and tongue-in-cheek comments.

Great read... future hosts should take pointers.

by a reader on Wed, 11/26/2003 - 23:50 | [reply](#)

Looks good

I didn't notice anything too bad here. Just enough to give some spice as mentioned. Great job, and it must have been a lot of work just reading all the submissions. Maybe I'm biased, though. I was amused by my blurb and am enjoying the mini avalanche of hits - is that an Instalanche once removed?

by [Solomon](#) on Thu, 11/27/2003 - 00:37 | [reply](#)

Has everyone lost their sense of humour?

I know our sense of humour is a bit English and dry but really, lighten up, people. As my fellow editor said, we were just trying to make it a bit more fun to put together and a bit more fun for the reader. And surely, allowing our biases to show in our comments gives more information about the posts than the titles alone would give.

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Sarah Fitz-Claridge

<http://www.fitz-claridge.com/>

<http://www.settingtheworldtorights.com/>

by [Sarah Fitz-Claridge](#) on Thu, 11/27/2003 - 14:23 | [reply](#)

Remarks...

I don't think any of the comments here were too harsh. Very nice round-up as well. Thanks so much for hosting.

[Andrew Ian Dodge](#)

by a reader on Thu, 11/27/2003 - 17:09 | [reply](#)

Digs Deeper

Following Admiral Quixote's link, I read that Apple has only 3% of the personal computer market. Interestingly, our web server logs show 16% of identifiable hits come from Macs. Perhaps MS Windows owners are unwilling or unable (in either case quite

understandably) to actually use their computers as much.

by **Kevin** on Thu, 11/27/2003 - 19:47 | [reply](#)

Or, perhaps...

Or, perhaps since PC owners have so many other applications to choose from, they're more likely to be using their computers for something other than surfing the web.

Gil

by **Gil** on Thu, 11/27/2003 - 20:24 | [reply](#)

PC nonsense and “anti-Christian bigotry” (WTF?!)

Or, perhaps since PC owners have so many other applications to choose from, they're more likely to be using their computers for something other than surfing the web.

Personally, I'd rather spend my time actually doing something useful than spend it going through thousands of applications trying to find ONE that will actually not crash the system, work, and do what you need it to do, and not take days and days to learn. But if you like that kind of thing, obviously, stick to Windows. 8-)

Oh, and about us being “anti-Christian bigots”, Admiral Quixote -- you don't think that that is a teensy bit of an over-reaction to a little joke? Yes, we are **atheists**, but all we did was make a little joke, and one that was actually more about Christian music than Christianity per se (though what would be wrong with a little joke about that too?!). It is the same kind of joke one might make about, say, Country & Western music, if one dislikes that (as indeed, we do). Goodness! Whatever will we be accused of next?!

(Gil may be a PC type, but at least he has a good sense of humour. Of course being a PC type, he *needs* that. ;-)

--

Sarah Fitz-Claridge

<http://www.fitz-claridge.com/>

<http://www.takingchildrenseriously.com/>

by **Sarah Fitz-Claridge** on Fri, 11/28/2003 - 02:11 | [reply](#)

You People are Mean - take two

I tried posting this before and somehow my comments are no longer here. I'll try once again.

I agree with the first critic and disagree with the Admiral. Your attempts to spice things up failed and are indeed harsh. Not only are you mean, you are hypocrits. I noticed this is a group blog and

your posted links to your other sites at the top - without any

sarcastic comments.

Life is too short to waste time with crude writers - especially when there are so many decent blogs out there. The COV lets me see a lot of new blogs, but it also allows me to rule out revisiting hypocrits like you. Good-bye.

by a reader on Mon, 12/01/2003 - 18:39 | [reply](#)

logic is neat

if the policy is to criticise blogs the authors think are wrong, then not criticising their own stuff isn't hypocritical, it fits the policy perfectly.

- Elliot Temple
<http://www.curi.us/>

by a reader on Tue, 12/02/2003 - 00:39 | [reply](#)