

**April, 2004**

**Stevie Wonder**

Stevie Wonder singing "In the City," on New York City," just like I pictured it...skyscrapers and everything!" My eyes, my eyes?

**Back Brace**

I see a man with a white jeep, big black tires and a big black top on that jeep. I see a muscular man with a muscular girlfriend. I see an interior decorator with a vacant white front room. I see a man with a sun starved woman wearing black lace.

**The "Mogadishu" Effect**

There has been much discussion about the mutilation of ex-SF security contractors this week in Iraq. Speculation about whether the American public would suggest we cut and run was rampant. In today's Washington Post, Lawrence F. Kaplan, states in an article "Tolerating Casualties, from the Top Down" that public officials are less likely than the general public to show tolerance for casualties and that their military counterparts are even less likely to do so. Apparently, public opinion polls have shown this to be true.

However, let us be realistic. The average person is likely to want revenge for those casualties and the closer to the incident the more vehement they may be in saying so, additional casualties not withstanding. I believe that in private, the average public official or military flag officer would want the same thing. The rub is that no public official or military flag officer is going to say so publicly because their constituency or their troops, respectively, would crucify them!

Please ignore any unintended references to "The Passion of the Christ."

**Laid Off**

Regrettably, today was my last day at Canam Steel. I was a victim of the business plan...cut one where you can. I have no ill feelings, only good memories of my time there and the people I worked with.

**I had my eye on my dinner...then my eye was my dinner!.**

**Speaking of Bush**

Bush's ears are so big he keeps having to stick his tongue out to prevent his head from falling over backward.

**Brutal It Is**

Working on the web site is burning me out. New Format...Static to Dynamic. I am slowly but surely changing my site to one that is mostly static to one that is at least partially dynamic. I am also generating these entries to test my blog.

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**Postage Due**

Must express my thanks!

**What Are Our Schools Coming To?**

According to a Washington Post article on 22 April, "'No Child' Law Leaves Schools' Old Ways Behind." School administrators and teachers are having to sacrifice the arts, home economics, etc., in order to focus on the tests and guidelines for proficiency in the basics mandated by the Federal government. I am all for focusing on the basics, but things such as arts, foreign languages, home economics, and vo-ag round out the student. In some cases, they make the student who doesn't necessarily have the aptitude for reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Understand that this article focuses on at least one school which has a high proportion of disadvantaged children. They are already behind the curve with the basics but now they have minimized alternatives which could have unforeseen benefits for the students. As one teacher notes, she is teaching grammar to children that can hardly read when she could be teaching them basic life skills.

I think that it is time for President Bush to realize that "one size does not fit all." And not only in education but in politics, international relations, religions, and cultures.

Multimillion Dollar Memorial for 9/11 at Pentagon Big Waste of Money

According to a Washington Post article on 22 April "\$30 Million Goal Set for Memorial At Pentagon," The Pentagon Memorial Fund seeks to raise \$30 million for the memorial at the Pentagon. This certainly is a worthy cause but the money seems like it would be better spent on our budget deficit or specifically targeted toward homeland defence. As usual, corporate sponsors will probably benefit most from this when they publicly proclaim they have made a huge donation to a "worthy and highly visible cause" and then write off the donation on their taxes. The individual will get screwed, albeit not obviously, again.

### **Grandiose!**

Time to call my grandmother. She knows the deal!

### **The SCO Linux Licensing Saga Continues**

According to the Linux Pipeline Newsletter, investors Baystar are requesting the return of their \$20 million investment in SCO for breach of contract. The details of the breach are sketchy. SCO is in deep kimchi in my estimation. Ironically, the payment agreement with their lawyers includes 20% of SCO stock. Not a smart move!