

# Web (& Print) Log (2007 C.E.)

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created Sunday, 2007 January 1  
updated Wednesday, 2007 December 26

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# Chapter 1

## 2007 January

### 1.1 Monday, January 1

1. “Gerald Ford Speaks From The Grave, Criticizes Bush On Iraq”. [109]  
After summarizing Ford’s criticisms, the author says “Id point out that it is very easy for Ford to say something like this some 17 months after the invasion of Iraq was complete”. The invasion was not complete in 2004, when Ford spoke. It’s now 2006, & the invasion still is not complete.
2. “U.S. shipment of beef shows contamination”. [121]
3. “Former leader was against Iraq invasion”. By Bob Woodward. [145]
4. “Buffalo gores wedding guests in rampage”. At Boston Globe. [105]
5. “U.S. urges vigilance against terrorism”. At Boston Globe. [122]
6. “Men served fries doused in oven cleaner”. By David Dishneau. At Boston Globe. [22]
7. “Bush brings faith to foreign aid”. By Farah Stockman, Michael Kranish, Peter S. Canellos, Kevin Baron. At Boston Globe. [135]
8. “Interior officials’ ties to oil probed”. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [111]

### 1.2 Wednesday, January 17

1. “Trying to stamp out unwanted junk mail”. By Phuong Cat Le. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [56]
2. “Scientists may have found Medici murder”. By Maria Sanminiatelli. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [90]

3. “ACLU Condemns Administration Attack on Guantanamo Lawyers”. At American Civil Liberties Union. [98]
4. “ACLU Report Shows Widespread Pentagon Surveillance of Peace Activists”. At American Civil Liberties Union. [99]
5. “Blog: Report Reveals Wider Reach of Financial Spying”. At American Civil Liberties Union. [102]
6. “Military Expands Intelligence Role in U.S.”. By Eric Lichtblau and Mark Mazzetti. At New York Times. [60]
7. “Iran invites IAEA envoys to visit nuclear sites”. By Mark Heinrich. [39]
8. “11-year-old girl from Roanoke writes poem on diversity”. [97]
9. “Poem stirs memories of Campbell County bar”. By Chris Mayhew. [66]
10. “Her words’ worth”. By Matthew Burke. At Boston Globe. [13]

### 1.2.1 Bush does not cross his Rubicon today

1. “Secret court to oversee domestic spying program”. [117]

Primary facts (or claims) from this news story:

- “The Bush administration has agreed to let a secret but independent panel of federal judges oversee the governments controversial domestic spying program”.
- The “secret but independant panel of federal judges” appears to be the FISA court. (“Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court will have final say in approving wiretaps placed on people with suspected terror links”)
- A judge in Detroit judged that Bush’s unwarranted surveillance program was unconstitutional.
- A judge in Cincinatti judged that the program could continue while the government appealed the decision of the Detroit judge.

2. “Secret court to approve domestic spying program”. By Lara Jakes Jordan. At Seattle Times. [47]

Some of those new stories about the heretofore illegal unwarranted spying led me to imagine this question:

Move your mind into Fantasy Land with me. In Fantasy Land, let’s say that the speech of terrorists contain an indicator which can be used to identify terrorists with total accuracy. In other words, all terrorists say it & no one who is not a terrorist says it. Maybe it’s a particular word, such as “avocado or “patriot”. Whatever. Furthermore, let’s say that a human being can’t detect it. A machine has to detect it.

To rephrase: We have some indicator in the speech of terrorists which always works & never gives a false positive, & we have to use wiretapping to detect it because no human can detect it just by engaging the person in a conversation.

Given this, ask yourself these two questions:

1. Would wide-spread, unwarranted wire-tapping be acceptable? (Remember: No one will be falsely accused because only terrorists use this indicator in their speech.)
2. Would the average politician think that un-warranted wire tapping is okay?

Let's change the scenario a little:

It turns out that the terrorism speech indicator is not 100 percent accurate. All terrorists use it, sure, but it can give false positives for a small group of non-terrorists. That group is politicians.

To summarize this updated scenario: We have an indicator which is in the speech of all terrorists & of some politicians. So it identifies 100 percent of all terrorists, & it mis-identifies only some politicians.

Given this, ask yourself those same two questions.

### 1.3 Tuesday, January 23

1. "Gilgamesh Contribute, a cyber mystery". By D. Ezra Sidran. [94]



## Chapter 2

# 2007 February

### 2.1 Thursday, February 1

1. “Specter: Bush not sole decision-maker”. By Laurie Kellman. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [51]
2. “PlayStation hard to sell”. By Leo Lewis. [59]
3. “Insidious Tight Coupling”. By Bil Lewis. At Dr. Dobb’s. [58]
4. “Hoax triggers Boston security scare”. By Jason Szep. At Reuters. [140]
5. “US commander denies Iraq failure”. At Aljazeera.net. [119]
6. “Palestinians killed in Nablus raid”. At Aljazeera.net. [114]
7. “Israel looks to expand barrier”. At Aljazeera.net. [112]
8. “US must ‘engage’ China”. At Aljazeera.net. [120]
9. “Toll rises in Gaza clashes”. At Aljazeera.net. [118]
10. “Devices Found In Seattle Did Not Cause Concern”. [107]
11. “Wal-Mart pays itself rent, gets large tax breaks”. By Michael Roston. [86]
12. “Editorial: Breaking the law”. By Michael Roston. [85]
13. Pretty pictures of an abandoned building which sprouted streams. <http://englishrussia.com/?p=636>

## 2.2 Monday, February 5

1. “In which my words will be misinterpreted as proof that I am a pharma shill”. By Orac. [78]
2. “Rules expand scope of forensic DNA sampling Immigration lawyers call new law ‘so broad, it’s scary’”. By Julia Preston. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [82]
3. “States challenge nat’l driver’s license”. By Leslie Miller. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [72]
4. “News media cheer ruling on Libby tapes”. By Hope Yen. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [146]
5. “ Soundoff: Move to impeach Bush gets local push ”. By J. Random. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [83]

## 2.3 Monday, February 19

1. “Darwin Day puts spotlight on intelligent design”. By Aubrey Cohen. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [15]
2. “Uniform handling of exceptions in a stack based language”. By Paul Rutter. 1977. [88]
3. “Ada, C, C++, and Java vs. the Steelman”. By David A. Wheeler. 1997. [144]
4. “Xanalogical structure, needed now more than ever: parallel documents, deep links to content, deep versioning, and deep re-use”. By Ted Nelson. [76]
5. <http://xanadu.com/>
6. “The D Programming Language”. By Walter Bright. [8]
 

Interesting, but while reading it, I kept thinking that someone could just use Java, C-Sharp, or Ada. They enforce or encourage all the features I saw in D. Eiffel does, too. I think all of those have most of the features of D. Eiffel & Ada also has contracts & constraints. I’d say D is most important as an argument against C & C++.
7. “The Perils of Fiber Mode”. By Ken Henderson. [40]
8. “Malicious Code Injection: It’s Not Just for SQL Anymore”. By Bryan Sullivan. [139]

Someone sent me this image.

`center; jimg src="../img/ATT000177.jpg" ; i/center;`

# Chapter 3

## 2007 March

### 3.1 Saturday, Marh 3

You know that claim “You can’t prove a negative”? It always irritates me when people use it in an argument. Seems like fake logic.

I just realized that it is a paradox exactly like “This sentence is a lie”. I even suspect that “You can’t prove a negative” was created as a joke, & people who believe it & use it in discussions are victims of the joke. It’s so obvious now that I can hardly believe I’m not the last person on the planet to realize this.

If you think I’m wrong, please prove “You can’t prove a negative”.<sup>1</sup>

- *Foucault’s Pendulum*. By Humberto Eco. [23]

### 3.2 Wednesday, March 14

1. “9/11 mastermind confesses in Guantanamo”. By Lolita C. Baldor. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Also here. [5]
2. Transcripts of the confession of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed & others are here.
3. Excerpts from the confession of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed
4. “Key 9/11 suspect confesses guilt”. At BBC News. [113]

Some observations:

- Khalid Sheikh Mohammed is a member of al-Qaeda. He claims that he was the third highest ranking member before he was captured in 2003.
- Since the hearings were not open to the press or any other non-government observers, & because sections of the confession are blacked-out, we cannot be sure what actually happened in the hearings.

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<sup>1</sup>By the way, “you can’t prove a negative” is easily disproved, if you hadn’t noticed.

- In particular, we do not know that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was not tortured.
- Khalid Sheikh Mohammed confessed to planning or otherwise participating in 28 acts of terrorism, but some of the acts never occurred or have not yet been scheduled to occur (did not reach that stage of planning). So Khalid Sheikh Mohammed has to confessed to at most 28 acts of terrorism for which he could be prosecuted in a court of law.
- The hearings were not a court of law, so we cannot be sure the confessor is actually or legally guilty.
- The status of other prisoners at Guantanamo is unchanged. They are still being held without due process. That means they are held prisoner illegally.

### 3.3 Saturday, March 17

#### 3.3.1 Success in Iraq – Not!

A friend sent me an e-mail in which he quoted one of his other friends (whom I don't know). Here's what the quoted person (the one I don't know) said:

... one month after the commencement of the U.S. troop surge in Iraq and the enactment of a new plan to secure Baghdad, American troop deaths are down by 60 percent. Areas of the city previously controlled by militias and insurgent groups, especially Sadr City, Al-Azamiyah and Al-Doura, are steadily coming under the control of the U.S.-Iraqi combined force.

Since the launch of the 14 February operation, the number of civilians killed in Baghdad has dropped to 265, compared with 1,440 killings from mid-January to mid-February; a drop of 82 percent. By contrast, terrorist deaths are up in Baghdad: 94 dispatched from mid-February to mid-March, up from 19 killed in the 30 days prior. Similarly, Baghdad suffered 102 roadside bombings in the February-March period, a 37-percent decline from 163 during the January-February period.

Other statistics include: 36 car bombs in February-March to 56 in January-February (down 36 percent); 109 mortar attacks in February-March to 204 in January-February (down 47 percent); ten kidnapping incidents in February-March to 98 in January-February (down 90 percent); and 22 assassination incidents in February-March to 519 in January-February for a staggering drop of 96 percent.

It's hard to read numeric claims when they are stuffed into prose. Let's break them into a list:

1. fact: More soldiers were deployed to Iraq on 2007 February 14. (Or the plan to deploy them was enacted on that date.) This is not a claim I'm testing; it's fixme
2. claim: Number of US soldiers killed in Iraq in the 30 days since 2007 February 14 is "down by 60 percent".
3. claim: 1,440 civilians were killed in Iraq during the (roughly) 30 days preceding 2007 February 14.
4. claim: 265 civilians were killed in the 30 days since 2007 February 14.

As for the reduced number of US soldiers killed in Iraq per month, the second figure on this web page suggests otherwise. There may be a reduction in March, but March isn't finished yet, the death toll for this March is already higher (looks like double) March of last year, & the trend shown by the red line is still an increase.

## 3.4 Monday, March 19

### 3.4.1 A new era in politics!

Here's a news story: "Obama ad hints at things to come in cyberpolitics Internet video shatters mold".

Here's the first paragraph from the story: "It may be the most stunning and creative attack ad yet for a 2008 presidential candidate – one experts say could represent a watershed moment in 21st century media and political advertising".

I wondered what event, what invention could be the beginning of this amazing new era. What amazing new idea, something never before imagined, could be a "watershed moment" which "shatters [the] mold" & begins a new era in "cyberpolitics"?

An online video.

At this point, think back to "Mystery Science Theatre 3000" & insert their "wah wah wah" sound.

I haven't seen the ad, probably won't bother, not saying it is right or wrong, not saying Obama will or won't get my vote. Just noticing that what to some is a new era in ads is to others... just another ad. It's not even a brand new ad; it's a remix of the Macintosh "1984" ad.

(minutes later) Okay, I watched it just now, before sending this. The ad itself just supports my observation that some people have remarkably low standards for what qualifies as "oh my god that's a watershed moment which shatters the mold".

## 3.5 Thursday, March 22

1. "Clinton, Obama rivalry flares over Iraq". By Beth Fouhy. At Seattle Times. [30]

2. The Brights
3. “God’s dupes”. By Sam Harris. [35]
4. “Who’s watching the president”. By Ronald Brownstein. [10]

### 3.6 Monday, March 26

1. “Rat poison found in tainted pet food”. By Mark Johnson. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [44]
2. “Army miscalculated number of soldiers who deserted”. By Paul von Zielbauer. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [142]
3. “Stolen secrets would put U.S. in ‘arms race’”. By Gillian Flaccus. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [28]
4. “Rethinking the MMO”. By Neil Sorens. At Gamasutra. [95]

### 3.7 Thursday, March 29

1. “Deception in the Virtual World: A Semiotic Analysis of Identity”. By Jonathan Matusitz. [65]
2. “Income Gap Is Widening, Data Shows”. By David Cay Johnston. At New York Times. [46]
3. “The Sermon on the Tapes”. By David Pogue. At New York Times. [80]
4. “Introduction to COLLADA”. By R’emi Arnaud. At Gamasutra. [1]
5. “Playing Catch Up: Adventure’s Warren Robinett”. At Gamasutra. [115]

### 3.8 Friday, March 30

1. “British detainee ‘sacrificed by Britain, U.S. policies’”. [103]
2. “FDA finds new chemical in recalled pet food, sick animals”. [108]
3. “Looking for ways out of the subprime mortgage crisis”. [49]
4. “Artists chocolate Jesus angers Catholics”. [101]  
“My sweet lord”. Hahaha! Good one.
5. “British marine ‘apologises’ to Iran”. At Aljazeera.net. [104]
6. “Al-Sadr calls for anti-US protests”. At Aljazeera.net. [100]
7. “Saudis on U.S. in Iraq: ‘illegitimate foreign occupation’”. [116]

# Chapter 4

## 2007 April

### 4.1 Tuesday, April 3

1. “United States of Angst: Americans stressed, depressed, polls show”. [96]
2. “How bogus letter became a case for war”. By Peter Eisner. [25]

### 4.2 Friday, April 6

1. Join Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean (JISAO)
2. “Transition to Concurrency”. By Kristian Dupont Knudsen. At Gamasutra. [54]  
At last, someone who isn’t in academia is advocating functional languages because they work well with concurrency.
3. “Human Computer Interaction in Science Fiction Movies”. By Michael Schmitz. [93]
4. “Hatfield-McCoy feud blamed on rage disease”. [110]
5. “Cheney: Iraq, al-Qaeda linked pre-war”. At USA Today. [106]  
Weird: The Department of Defense says there is more evidence that Saddam Hussein had nothing to do with al-Qaeda, so Cheney renewed claims that Hussein & al-Qaeda were in bed together. Is Cheney pig-headed or a liar?

### 4.3 Saturday, April 7

1. “Spinning Into Oblivion”. By Tony Sachs and Sal Nunziato. At New York Times. [89]

## 4.4 Friday, April 13

1. “Web Apps Can Never Be Desktop Replacements”. By Matt Hartley. [36]

# Chapter 5

## 2007 May

### 5.1 Tuesday, May 1

1. “Evil (part 2 of 3): The normalization of evil”. By George J. Bryjak. [12]
2. *Socialism*, by Ludwig von Mises. 1922.

### 5.2 Thursday, May 10

1. “Exception Handling: A False Sense Of Security”. By Tom Cargill. [14]



## Chapter 6

2007 June



# Chapter 7

## 2007 July

### 7.1 Tuesday, July 10

1. “A simplified universal Turing machine”. By E. F. Moore. 1952. [73]
2. “Rethinking Design Patterns”. By Jeff Atwood. [2]

### 7.2 Monday, July 30

1. “Impeaching George W. Bush”. By Onnesha Roychoudhuri. AlterNet. 2006 March 6.

### 7.3 Tuesday, July 31

1. “A Democratic Dictatorship”. By Jacob G. Hornberger. 2006 August 31.
2. “George Bush – an Unsatisfying Dictator”. By Hilary Rosen. 2007 July 3.

She says that Bush pardoned Libby. He didn't, he “commuted” Libby's sentence, & the distinction is important. If he had pardoned Libby, Libby would not be protected from testifying about this issue by the Fifth Amendment because he could not be tried for his actions concerning this issue. We could finally hear what Libby knew about it. Since Bush commuted Libby's sentence, Libby is still protected by the Fifth Amendment, so we don't hear what Libby knew. It would have been better for the people if Bush had actually pardoned Libby.

3. “The Bush Dictatorship”. A BuzzFlash News Analysis. 2007 June 17.
4. “New presidential directive gives Bush dictatorial power”. By Larry Chin. 2007 May 21.

5. “Movement to impeach George W. Bush” at Wikipedia.
6. “Bush, Cheney and the Scarlet Letter”. By Dave Lindorff. 2007 July 6.
7. “Leaders Afraid to Lead: Empty Rhetoric in Congress”. By Walter Brasch. OpEdNews.com. 2007 July 27.
8. “Democrats Won’t Try To Impeach President”. By Charles Babington. WashingtonPost.com. 2006 May 12.  
Before she was speaker of the House, Pelosi declared that the Democrats in the House would not impeach Bush.
9. “Pelosi Says Democrats Are Ready to Lead”. By Nancy Zuckerbrod. FoxNews.com. 2006 November 8.  
After becoming speaker of the House, Pelosi says that Democrats in the House will not impeach Bush. Note that they needed 16 seats to become the majority & to be able to impeach Bush, but they gained 25 seats.
10. “Impeachment Should Be on the Table: Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN)”. By Mikael Rudolph. OpEdNews.com. 2007 April 23.  
A rambling piece about how [ImpeachForPeace.org](http://ImpeachForPeace.org) wants to impeach Bush because the military action in Iraq has taken many lives. They should seek to impeach Bush for his illegal activities.
11. “Bush-Cheney Impeachment Might Be Idle Talk, But Numbers Show True Trouble”. By Matt Towery. Townhall.com. 2007 May 8.
12. “It’s About the Rule of Law: Impeaching George W. Bush”. By Francis A. Boyle. 2003 July 25.
13. “Bill Moyers Puts Impeachment Back on the Media Table”. By Dave Lindorff. 2007 July 18.
14. “Pelosi on Impeachment and Defending the Constitution: It’s Just Not Worth It”. By Dave Lindorff. 2007 July 3.

### 7.3.1 President or Dictator

Maybe the USA’s presidency isn’t a dictatorship yet, but it’s undeniably closer than before, & I think it’s a short distance away from a dictatorship.

It took just one lunatic (or “extremist”, if you prefer) to return to the criminal behaviour of Nixon’s presidency & to introduce rights-violating indefinite imprisonment, torture, & contempt of Congress & the people (with Bush’s excessive exercise of “executive privilege”). One lunatic did all that in a few years.

I hear people asking “What’s the harm?” If we have wise, benevolent presidents in the future, maybe there’s no apparent harm, but if we had one lunatic, we can have another. What if the president ten years from now wants to expand the presidential powers he inherited from Bush the same way that Bush

& Cheney wanted to expand the presidential powers they inherited? What if that new president decides that marshal law is in order? What if he decides that people can't be allowed to compare his presidency to a dictatorship?

In theory, if enough people bitched about the current state of things, we could roll back the powers of the president to a more Constitutional level. I'm not hopeful because, after people bitch about it, Congress has to do something about it. Congress won't. Not Republicans & not Democrats. I'm not sure why. Maybe they, as individuals, agree that the president should have all these new powers. Maybe they are afraid (which would mean they are even more gullible & fearful than the average American). Or maybe they are looking out for the interests of their party (it doesn't matter which party). Parties would love to have these new powers. Maybe our Senators & Republicans are looking out for their parties, not for the people.

Do you know the history of Rome & how Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon & how their senate did nothing about it? If not, you should read about it.



# Chapter 8

## 2007 August

### 8.1 Wednesday, August 1

1. “Analysis: Obama Talks Tough on Terror”. By Nedra Pickler. Guardian Unlimited. 2007 August 1.

Obama’s talk of terrorist hiding in Afghanistan & how they plot to attack again sounds a lot like a Republican. He doesn’t sound balanced enough to be a president.

2. “Murdoch wins Dow Jones in \$5bn deal”. Gulf Daily News, Bahrain. 2007 August 1.
3. “Antitrust rules pose little threat to Murdoch’s proposed acquisition of Dow Jones”. International Herald Tribune, France. 2007 August 1.
4. “Suddenly They’re All for Impeachment... of Gonzales”. By Dave Lindorff. OpEdNews.com. 2007 August 1.

This is example of how the Democrats are (a) unconcerned with the Constitution, (b) unconcerned with the rule of law, (c) somewhat interested in sticking it to the Republicans, & (d) mostly interested in using the illegally expanded powers of the president to their own ends after the next election. The Democrat politicians are loyal to the Democrat party, not to the people. It’s a frightening realization.

5. “Gonzales, Pelosi, and the Survival of Congress”. By David Swanson. American Chronicle. 2007 August 1.
6. “The Los Angeles National Impeachment Center: It’s the People’s Revolution”. By Linda Milazzo. The Huffington Post. 2007 August 1.
7. Las Angeles National Impeachment Center

## 8.2 Thursday, August 2

1. “United we stand: Is the party over?”. Seattle Times. 2007 July 30.

## 8.3 Friday, August 3

1. “A Push to Rewrite Wiretap Law”. By Ellen Nakashima. Washington Post. 2007 August 3.

Notice that, yes, the Bushies want to expand the un-warranted surveillance program & the Democrats oppose that expansion, but the Democrats still want to expand the program. They want to expand it less, but they want to expand it, nonetheless.

To summarize this whole un-warranted spying program: The Bushies want it, which is no surprise, but *Congress wants it, too*. They just can’t agree on the details. (Yeah, Congress wants it: When the shit hit the fan a couple of years ago, did Congress stop the program? Nope, they allowed it to continue after some arguments. Then they expanded it at least once (in 2006 August, if I remember correctly).

No one in Congress represents me. Or you.

## 8.4 Friday, August 10

1. “Bush talking tough to Iran”. By Strobel, Walcott, and Youssef. [138]
2. “Impeach Bush, Cheney”. By Hank Curtis. [19]
3. “Congress needs to pursue impeachment”. By Burt Cohen. [17]

## 8.5 Saturday, August 11

1. “Toward nature-inspired computing”. By Jiming Liu and K.C. Tsui. Communications of the ACM. [62]
2. “Building objects out of Plato: applying philosophy, symbolism, and analogy to software design”. By Ray Giguette. Communications of the ACM. [33]
3. “A critical programmer searches for professionalism”. By Robert Schaefer. Communications of the ADM. [91]
4. How to make your L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X documents look like Word documents. From the Typographer’s Inn column by Peter Flynn, in TUGBoat, volume 25, number 2, as a PDF. [29]

Here’s how you make your L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X document look like a toy document, like a Microsoft Turd document:

```

\documentclass[12pt]{article}
\usepackage[margin=1in]{geometry}
\usepackage{pslatex,sectsty,parskip}
\setcounter{secnumdepth}{0}
\allsectionsfont{\sffamily}
\makeatletter
\renewcommand{\maketitle}{%
  \section{\@title}%
  \subsection{\@author}%
  \subsubsection{\@date}}
\makeatother

```

That didn't work for me. I suspect it's because my L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X installation is old. I had to modify it. Here's what worked for me:

```

\documentclass[12pt]{article}
\usepackage[margin=1in]{geometry}
% I removed "sectsty" from the next line.
\usepackage{pslatex,parskip}
\setcounter{secnumdepth}{0}
% \allsectionsfont{\sffamily}
\makeatletter
\renewcommand{\maketitle}{%
  \section{\@title}%
  \subsection{\@author}%
  \subsubsection{\@date}}
\makeatother

```

With that prefix, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X produces a decent approximation of Microsoft Turd documents. They look like toys. I'm sure my manager at work will love it & believe that I finally switched to Microsoft Turd.

In case you're wondering why I dislike Microsoft Turd so much, search for "word processor" in [136].

5. "Perl<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub>: Defining L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X macros using Perl". By Scott Pakin. TUGBoat, volume 25, number 2. [79]  
Awesome.
6. "The Uneasy Relationship Between Mathematics and Cryptography". By Neal Koblitz. [55]

## 8.6 Sunday, August 12

1. Old American Century
2. "9-11: They let it happen". By Tj Templeton. 2006 August 5. [141]

## 8.7 Thursday, August 16

### 8.7.1 Memoization & dynamic programming

I thought memoization & dynamic programming were the same, or maybe that memoization was the ultimate form of dynamic programming. Not so.

1. Some teacher's homework assignment about dynamic programming versus memoization. [18]
2. "Recursion and dynamic programming". By Eric Lippert. 2004 July 21. [61]

## 8.8 Friday, August 17

1. "U.S. expands access to spy satellite imagery and data to border control, other agencies". [132]  
Says domestic & criminal law enforcement won't access the data *yet*. Actually, says they will access it eventually.  
A department of the Office of Homeland Defense will manage "domestic requests" for the information. Why? Why wouldn't the court system?  
Mentions the privacy & *illegal* problems in the last three paragraphs only.
2. "Domestic Use of Spy Satellites To Widen". By Joby Warrick. At Washington Post. [143]
3. "Snooping comes closer to your home". [128]
4. "Subpoena Watch: Will the White House Answer Congress' Demands?". [129]
5. "Letters to the Editor: Congress, Bush put liberty in jeopardy". By staffCharles Metzger. [134]

## 8.9 Saturday, August 18

1. *American Fascists: The Christian right and the war on America*. By Chris Hedges. 2006. [38]  
The essays are interesting in that "these people really piss me off" sort of way, but not very useful because it isn't reflective.
2. *We the People: A call to take back America*. By Thom Hartmann. 2004. [37]  
In spite of the silly title, the comic book (graphic novel) format, & the "grass roots" look of the cover, this book is excellent. It's interesting,

informative, & introspective. It's also depressing (because of what it explains about government) & uplifting (because it confirms everything I feared about government). I highly recommend it.

## 8.10 Tuesday, August 21

1. "CIA at fault according to report on Sept. 11 attacks". By Sari N. Kent. [52]
2. "Leahy: Time is up for White House to produce surveillance opinions". [125]
3. "Washington: Cheney's office acknowledges it has surveillance documents". [133]
4. "Blinders on the right". By Jesse Jackson. [42]

## 8.11 Friday, August 24

1. "Are Bush & Co. gearing up to attack Iran?". By Ray McGovern. [68]
2. "Beware of Fox News and their Siren Calls For War". By Rick Moran. [74]
3. "Sanders launches Fox News attack". By Evan Lehmann. [57]
4. "How to challenge Iran's militancy without using arms". By Marc Gopin and Gregory Meeks. [34]
5. "Is US preparing to attack Iran?". By Omid Memarian. At Huffington Post. [69]



# Chapter 9

## 2007 September

### 9.1 Tuesday, September 4

1. Pagan Origins of the Christian Myths web site. Excellent!

### 9.2 Tuesday, September 11

1. “Federal judge strikes down part of Patriot Act”. By Richard B. Schmitt. [92]
2. “Judge Strikes Down Part of Patriot Act”. By Larry Neumeister. [77]
3. “Patriot act: Heartening news”. At Seattle Post-Intelligencer. [126]
4. “Just smacks down Patriot Act record seizure”. [123]
5. “Totalitarianism: Fact or Fiction?”. By Normal Markowitz. [64]
6. “Interview - Ecopolis”. By Christophe Bruno. [11]

### 9.3 Sunday, September 16

1. “Antiwar Protest Ends With Dozens of Arrests”. By David Johnston. [45]
2. “Anti-war, in your face—that’s Code Pink”. By Gabrielle Russon. [87]
3. “More than 180 arrested at protest against Iraq war”. By Boorstein, Haynes, and Klein. At Seattle Times. [7]
4. “Protest in Washington demands end to Iraq war”. [127]
5. “Thousands protest war”. By Tina Marie Macies and Jordy Yager. [63]
6. “Thousands of anti-war protesters march in Washington”. [131]

I notice that estimates of the number of demonstrators range from 5,000 in [131] to 100,000 in [7]. Estimates of the number arrested are consistently 189, with the exception of [127] which reported that 190 were arrested. That's close enough to count as consensus.

## 9.4 Monday, September 17

1. "Fascism, anyone?". By Laurence W. Britt. [9]
2. "What is fascism?". By Chip Berlet. [6]
3. "Blackwater Critics Jump on Iraq Shootout". By Mike Baker. [4]  
Interesting detail: Blackwater has 1,000 employees in Iraq. I'm surprised because, with all the talk about Blackwater in the past few years, I expected that it had more people in Iraq.
4. "Will Iraq kick out Blackwater?". By Adam Zagorin and Brian Bennett. [148]

### 9.4.1 Blackwater

Here are the details:

1. On Sunday, 2007 September 16, in Baghdad there was a shoot-out between some Blackwater employees & some Iraqis. [148] [4]
  - (a) 8 Iraqis dead
  - (b) 13 Iraqis wounded
  - (c) possibly started with a road-side bomb [148]
  - (d) Blackwater says their enemy was armed. [4]
  - (e) The Iraqi government says the Iraqis were civilians. [148] [4]
2. So the Iraqi government has revoked Blackwater's permit to do business in Iraq.
3. It is unknown at this time whether the revocation is permanent, temporary, total, or conditional. [148]

This is *great news* for everyone involved! And "No", I'm not being sarcastic. Check it out:

- The Iraqi government has taken another step towards sovereignty. Good for them!
- It's also a smart move for the Iraqi government because it uses business, not violence, to remove some mercenaries from Iraq, thereby raising the morale of the Iraqis. All this with business, not violence. Brilliant!

- Bush keeps saying that we can't withdraw our soldiers from Iraq until the Iraqis can stand on their own feet (& probably meet some other goals, too). There may be a long way to go yet, but the Iraqis have taken a step. Bush could use it as an excuse to placate his political opponents by withdrawing some soldiers without losing face.
- The Democrats, who demand a timeline for a withdrawal beginning now, could consider the 1,000 Blackwater soldiers as a beginning of the withdrawal. Further, they can count this Iraqi step towards independence as one step closer to the total withdrawal they demand. (In other words, the Democrats in Congress, if they have a brain (which they don't), won't push back against the Iraqis. They'll just let the Iraqis have their way on this issue.)
- If you, like me, believe that the military action in Iraq is illegal from first premises<sup>1</sup>, you can count this as a first step towards rectifying the crime. Sure, there's a hell of a long way to go to the war crimes trials, but it's a big step in the right direction.

Notice that the USA's State Department (i.e., Condoleeza Rice) is already telling the Iraqi government that they should reconsider the decision because the State Department cannot function without all those valuable Blackwater mercenaries<sup>2</sup>. This shows that the State Department isn't smart enough to figure out that the Iraqi's decision to revoke Blackwater's business license is a win-win all around.

All around, that is, except for Blackwater. But they've made millions from the military action in Iraq already, so I'm sure they can afford to lose that source of revenue & focus on their other 49 sites around the world. [4]

## 9.5 Sunday, September 23

1. *The Essential Galbraith*. By John Kenneth Galbraith. 2001. [31]

It's a collection of essays by Galbraith. I believe all were previously published in other collections. Most of them expose deficiencies in the ideas of current economists.

Two of the best of the bunch are "The Myth of Consumer Sovereignty" and "The Founding Faith: Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations*".

It's a reminder that when people (but especially libertarians) say that economics are solved, they're forgetting that they had to make assumptions, & they're only remembering half of what Adam Smith said. (They remember the half which, by itself, appears to support their beliefs.) It's refreshing to know I'm not the only one who sees that it's not all solved & that "free markets" can't do everything.

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<sup>1</sup>USA attacked a country which did not attack it.

<sup>2</sup>Note that Blackwater has a mere 1,000 soldiers in Iraq. [148] How could 1,000 soldiers make or break the entire State Department?

## 9.6 Tuesday, September 25

1. “Where Friedman went wrong”. By Antal E. Fekete. [27]
2. “Why SOA does not deliver” By *EditorsChoice*. [24]

## 9.7 Wednesday, September 26

1. “Seattle home values hottest in U.S.”. By Aubrey Cohen. [16]

## 9.8 Thursday, September 27

### 9.8.1 Men playing female characters in virtual worlds

I hear that at least one virtual world will outlaw men playing female characters. They won't allow a customer to create a female character unless she uses a webcam to demonstrate that she's a woman.

Far more interesting than the flawed method of demonstrating one's sex is the *perception that men should not be allowed to play female characters*.

# Chapter 10

## 2007 October

### 10.1 Monday, October 1

1. “US, not Iran, is the terrorist”. By Ed Kinane. [53]
2. “Iran: Turn on, tune in, speak out”. By Connor Mendenhall. [70]

### 10.2 Wednesday, October 3

1. *Shroud for a Nightingale*. By P.D. James. [43]

### 10.3 Monday, October 8

As long as businesses & politicians make money from it, you will have war.

<http://cybertiggyr.com/gene/img/shameless150.jpg>

I got that picture from the 2007 October 8 entry on The Best of the Left<sup>1</sup> web site.

### 10.4 Tuesday, October 9

1. *A Short History of Christianity*. Edited by Archibald G. Baker. [3]
2. *Death March*. By Edward Yourdon. [147]
3. “Computing is a natural science”. By Peter J. Denning. [21]
4. “The changing labyrinth of software pricing”. By Michael A. Cusumano. [20]

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.bestoftheleftpodcast.com/>

5. "Public vs. private interest on the internet". By Abbe Mowshowitz and Nanda Kumar. [75]
6. "Using storytelling to motivate programming". By Caitlin Kelleher and Randy Pausch. [50]
7. "Games for science and engineering education". By Merrilea J. Mayo. [67]
8. "Using storytelling to motivate programming". By Caitlin Kelleher and Randy Pausch. [50]

# Chapter 11

## 2007 November

### 11.1 Monday, November 12

1. “Will Iraq kick out Blackwater?”. By Adam Zagorin and Brian Bennett. [148]
2. “Islamofascism or Ironic Fascism?”. By Corey James Prachniak. [81]
3. “Beyond Congress”. By Shea Howell. [41]
4. “In a Time of War: On the Absurdities of Non-Impeachment”. By Paul Street. [137]
5. “The Courage Of Kucinich In Pelosi’s House Of Wacks”. By Linda Milazzo. [71]
6. “IF YOU WOULD NOT IMPEACH GEORGE BUSH WHO WOULD YOU IMPEACH?”. By Sherwood Ross. [84]  

Lots of bluster, like a politician on a soap-box in the middle of the nineteenth century, maybe like a snake oil salesman. Though I agree with the sentiments, it contains little fact. Might be useful for making a case to those who don’t already understand the need to impeach & can be convinced.
7. “Tell Nancy to Impeach Dick Cheney”. [130]  
Excellent.

### 11.2 Saturday, November 17

1. “Kucinich’s Cheney Impeachment Resolution Stays Alive in House, Moved to Committee”. [124]
2. “PELOSI, FEINSTEIN BETRAYING DEMS”. By Bill Gallagher. [32]

3. "Cheney Impeachment Resolution Sent to House Committee". By Paul Kane. At Washington Post. [48]
4. "Impeach Vice President Cheney". By Bruce Fein. [26]

# Chapter 12

## 2007 December

### 12.1 Wednesday, December 26

#### 12.1.1 Cascaded style sheets or old-style tags?

Someone looked over my shoulder as I typed some HTML text into an essay. I used the `CODE` tag around a few words of example code, like this: “`<code>defun myfunc</code>`”.

The person was surprised at the `CODE` tag; she had never heard of it. What’s more, she said I should use cascaded style sheets (CSS). She suggested a `FONT` tag with a `CLASS` attribute.

I say she’s wrong. Here’s why:

1. The `CODE` tag conveys more semantic information than a `FONT` tag. Yes, a `FONT` tag with the appropriate CSS attributes can produce the same image in a browser that a `CODE` tag would, but information about how to draw something is not necessarily the same as information about what something is or what it means.

If you wanted `FONT` tags to convey the same information as `CODE` tags, you’d need to define a standard set of CSS classes. But someone has already done that with the standard old HTML tags.

2. You can attach CSS attributes to a `CODE` tag as well as you can to a `FONT` tag or many other tags.



## Appendix A

# Other File Formats

- This document is available in multi-file HTML format at <http://cybertiggyr.com/gene/tae2007/>.
- This document is available in Pointless Document Format (PDF) at <http://cybertiggyr.com/gene/tae2007/tae2007.pdf>.



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