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MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2004

Bush TV Ads Getting Smarter

by Michael in New York on [8/16/2004 09:44:00 PM](#)

USA Today details two new ads unveiled by the Bush campaign that are **effective and smart**. The less damning one ties in to the Olympics by saying "this Olympics...there will be two more free nations." That highlights the one unquestionable good of those twin invasions -- the possible self-rule of Afghanistan and Iraq after suffering years of horrible dictatorships. Afghanistan features its first female athletes and the Iraqi soccer team is enjoying an unexpected string of victories.

The one targeted directly at Kerry scores a direct hit; Kerry's team has done a poor job of responding.

"It charges that when he was a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee in the mid-1990s, Kerry missed most of the panel's open hearings...."

The weak response from Kerry's team was that this was based only on the 65 open meetings and didn't include attendance for the more than 329 closed hearings. But the committee's Republican chairman Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas immediately called on Kerry to let him release those attendance records as well. Kerry's people didn't offer attendance figures for the hearings that aren't public record, so we can only assume they aren't good either.

They need to come up with a better response -- how does his attendance compare to other members at the time or some such reasoning -- or Bush will wisely bring this up again and again.



JOHN'S PHOTOS



HOT OFF THE WIRE

Daily Kos

Goons at Cincinnati "tea party" bullied, intimidated media - WKRC-TV, the CBS affiliate in Cincinnati, reports that in March one of their reporters was forced to leave a so-called "tea party" protest after a small ... *10 minutes ago*

Think Progress

Senate Should Ignore Nutty Glenn Beck Conspiracy Theories And Appoint Harold Koh - Our guest blogger is Henry Fernandez, a Senior Fellow at the Center For American Progress Action Fund. As ThinkProgress recently noted, a small number of c... *14 minutes ago*

HuffPost Politics

ZP Heller: Why Dr. King Would Break the Silence on Afghanistan - We must invest in our own economic recovery and in fixing Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis. *18 minutes ago*

Firedoglake

Operation Stonewall Stalls Johnsen and Koh - While we wait for the last ballot count in the Franken-Coleman contest, I thought I'd tie in Operation Stonewall to the Republicans' bizarre and seemingly ... *20 minutes ago*

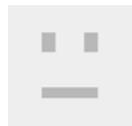
Paul Krugman

One more time - Brad DeLong is, rightly, horrified at the great Ricardian equivalence misunderstanding. It's one thing to have an argument about whether consumers are perf...

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