



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2005

Bush's Final Exam: Will He Flunk?

by Michael in New York on [9/01/2005 08:40:00 PM](#)

The New York Times makes clear this is **Bush's biggest test since 9-11**, one that in many ways is more complicated. (No countries to invade, at least as far as we know.) One very annoying passage:

It is reminiscent of how Mr. Bush has argued that progress is being made in Iraq. But as the administration has learned in Iraq, the imagery of violent chaos, repeated over and over, can undercut even the most frequently cited statistics. And so Mr. Bush's biggest risk may be an inability to control circumstances that are beyond his ability to shape from Washington.

This is wrong on about eight different levels. It implies Bush's progress in Iraq is undercut by "the imagery of violent chaos." No, Bush's refusal to FACE FACTS in Iraq is undercut by the daily news of worsening conditions, increasing deaths, a stronger insurgency and no FACTS to back up Bush's claim that things were peachy.

Bush's risk in dealing with Hurrigan Katrina is NOT "an inability to control circumstances that are beyond his ability to shape...." No one is holding Bush accountable for the storm striking land. Bush is accountable for what he CAN control -- his indifference and politics-as-usual attitude even AFTER the storm had struck; Bush's refusal to cut his vacation short until the last moment -- and spending ANOTHER night in Crawford rather than going straight to DC while the waters were rising and people were dying; the slashing of funds devoted to shoring up the levees; the reduced level of National Guard available; the possible lack of amphibious vehicles because they've been sent to Iraq; the sluggish response; the incompetent lack of coordination that MUST come from the federal government and on and on. The facts about all these issues will become clear as soon as the MSM starts demanding the relevant details.

All of these factors are under Bush's control and he can and should be held accountable for how he performs. Listing blocks of ice and a few generators on their way won't make people ignore the facts staring them in the face.

This is Bush's final exam. So far, he gets an "F."



MORE POSTS ABOUT: [KATRINA](#)



JOHN'S PHOTOS



HOT OFF THE WIRE

Daily Kos
Cheers and Jeers: Rum and Coke FRIDAY! - From the GREAT STATE OF MAINE... *Loud and Tumultuous Late Night Snark* (With a generous assist from Dan's place) "Yesterday, to commemorate the 40th an...
12 minutes ago

HuffPost Politics
Playboy's Barbi Twins Target GOP Rep. Hastings Over Wild Horses - The U.S. House recently passed the "Restore Our American Mustangs Act," which would protect wild horses in 10 western states by providing additional land and...
19 minutes ago

Firedoglake
Barofsky Report: What Happened to All That TARP Money? - The special inspector general for TARP says Treasury should demand information about what the banks did with the money they got from TARP. Treasury didn't ...
40 minutes ago

Plum Line
Happy Hour Roundup - *** Ben Smith kind of agrees with me about Obama not really offering a traditional apology for criticizing the Cambridge cop, and Ben puts it well:
42 minutes ago



Crooks and Liars

Dude, Where's My \$500,000,000,000? - From an emailer: This is Democrat Alan Grayson asking Chairman Ben Bernanke where the Federal Reserve sent \$500,000,000,000 last year. And Chairman Berna...

Show All

1 hour ago

AMERICABLOG TV



Southern Poverty Law Center calls on CNN to



A two minute explanation of the warped and cynical



The economy is better. But...



Judge order San Diego to get rid of the seals



Massive brawl in South Korean parliament



Mormons may have secretly baptized

Next 6

I collect with vodpod

see all 329 videos >

Visit our AMERICAblog TV site.

GAY POLITICS



Visit our new gay politics section, [AMERICAblog Gay](#).

FEEDS

- [Blog RSS](#)
- [1,487 readers](#)
- BY FEEDBURNER
- [AMERICAblog TV RSS](#)
- [Twitter RSS](#)
- [Twitter Feed](#)
- [Mobile Version](#)
- [Google](#)

Get the blog by email:

[Subscribe me!](#)

The Coming Natural Gas Boom

Obama's "Repower America" initiative will pour billions into new energy projects – creating an estimated 5 million NEW U.S. jobs!

Domestic oil and natural gas production is projected to surge... handing profits hand over fist to a leading manufacturer of oil and natural gas pipelines and drilling equipment. Find out this company's name and why it's **The Motley Fool's Top Pick for 2009** in a new FREE report called "The Only Energy Stock You'll Ever Need!"

[Click here for instant access to this FREE report](#)

PRESENTED BY THE MOTLEY FOOL
[www.Fool.com](#)
[Ads by Google](#)

Top Ad

[Advertise in this spot.](#)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Ezra Klein
Tab Dump
40 minutes ago

Wonk Room
F-22 Killed By Seven-Meme Voltron
1 hour ago

Daily Dose
Will Doctors in the House, Senate Influence Debate?
2 hours ago

The Treatment

SEARCH

AMERICAblog
 Web

Search

SEND US TIPS & COMMENTS

americablog@starpower.net

BLOG ARCHIVE

Blog Archive

SITES WE LIKE

- [Air America Radio](#)
- [Alan Colmes' blog](#)
- [Ari Melber \(The Nation\)](#)
- [Ben Smith](#)
- [BicycleMark's blog & podcast](#)
- [Bilerico](#)
- [BradBlog](#)
- [Bring It On](#)
- [Carrie Fisher](#)
- [Crooks and Liars](#)
- [DailyKos](#)
- [Dan Savage's "Slog"](#)
- [Daou Report](#)
- [Democratic Underground](#)
- [Eschaton](#)
- [Ezra Klein](#)
- [Fire Dog Lake](#)
- [FiveThirtyEight.com](#)
- [Freeway Blogger](#)
- [The Gavel \(Speaker Pelosi's blog\)](#)
- [Good As You](#)
- [Glenn Greenwald](#)
- [Holy Bullies and Headless Monsters](#)
- [Huffington Post](#)
- [Hullabaloo \(Digby\)](#)
- [Jack and Jill Politics](#)
- [Jed Report](#)
- [Jesus' General](#)
- [Kenneth in the 212](#)
- [Margaret and Helen](#)
- [Matthew Gross](#)
- [Media Matters](#)
- [Mike Signorile's "The Gist"](#)
- [Mudflats](#)
- [MyDD](#)
- [Open Left](#)
- [Plum Line](#)
- [Political Punch \(Jake Tapper\)](#)
- [Political Wire](#)
- [Politics 1](#)
- [Pop Surfing](#)
- [Progressive Blog Digest](#)
- [Queers United](#)
- [RawStory](#)
- [Rex Wockner](#)
- [Rude Pundit](#)
- [Smirking Chimp](#)
- [Talk Left](#)
- [Tapped](#)
- [Taylor Marsh](#)
- [Think Progress](#)
- [TowleRoad](#)
- [VetVoice.com](#)
- [Washington Note](#)
- [WayneBesen.com](#)
- [Wonkette](#)
- [Worth Repeating](#)



NEWS LINKS

- [US](#)
- [Washington Post](#)

PLEASE SUPPORT AMERICABLOG

One-time donation

\$

Donate

Recurring monthly donation

\$

Donate

Donations are not tax-deductible.

LABELS

Select a label

LAST 100 VISITORS

Recent Visitors

[Click to Get FEEDJIT](#)

ABOUT AMERICABLOG

Why AMERICAblog?

Because a great nation deserves the truth.

What issues do you cover?

US politics overall with a particular focus on the Obama Administration, the radical right, and civil rights.

Who are you?

John Aravosis
Editor
Washington, DC

Joe Sudbay
Deputy Editor
Washington, DC

Chris Ryan
Associate Editor
Paris, France

Robert Arena
Contributing Editor
Baltimore, Maryland

Jacki Schechner
Contributing Editor
Washington, DC

