

# Bush: The compassionate dynasty?

*There are several scandals waiting to explode, as Texas Gov. George W. Bush's Presidential bid gets under way. Anton Chaitkin reports.*

Texas Gov. George W. Bush, speaking June 12 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, announced, "I am running for President . . . and I intend to be the next President of the United States."

Bush, the son of former President Sir George Herbert Walker Bush, has chosen a distinctive label for himself: the "Compassionate Conservative." To emphasize the point in Cedar Rapids, Bush used the words "compassion" or "compassionate" 12 times, and "conservative" or "conservatism," 10 times.

The crowd-pleasing conservatism of which he boasts is typified by being tough on welfare recipients (welfare reform was mentioned three times) and prison inmates. The compassion is "to take the side of charities and churches that confront the suffering which remains" after throwing people off welfare; and for offenders, "discipline and love go hand in hand."

While moralizing about churches ministering to the poor and the imprisoned, he explained that "government can create an environment where businesses and entrepreneurs and families can dream and flourish." He said, "We'll be prosperous if we embrace free trade."

But, in his speech, as in real life, Bush is oblivious to the economic disaster that his constituents are suffering. As Harley Schlanger reported in the March 22 *New Federalist* (the weekly newspaper of the LaRouche movement), two biggest industries in Texas, oil and gas, and agriculture, are collapsing. In the oil industry and allied work, tens of thousands have lost their jobs, wells are being plugged, bankruptcy is spreading fast. Denied revenue from oil employment, schools and hospitals face closure, and county governments are forced to dismantle public services. With cotton, wheat, and cattle prices at historic lows, banks will not renew farmers' loans, and Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs has estimated that 15% of the state's farmers may go out of business this year.

In this environment, the savage minimization of payments to Texas welfare recipients must lead to greatly increased death rates. The state's barbarism toward prison inmates—constant rapes, beatings, and the trafficking in de facto slaves—caused U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice to rule, last March 1, that the entire Texas prison system is in violation of the U.S. Constitution's prohibition against cruel

and unusual punishment.

Bush shares with Vice President Al Gore, his fellow "welfare reformer," the delusion of the post-industrial utopia, in which the physical economy is replaced by the Internet, or, in the Dallas area, the flourishing community of Ferrari-driving designers of Satanic murder video games for teens. Hey, why can't the lazy economic losers just get with this future?

## Guru Marvin Olasky

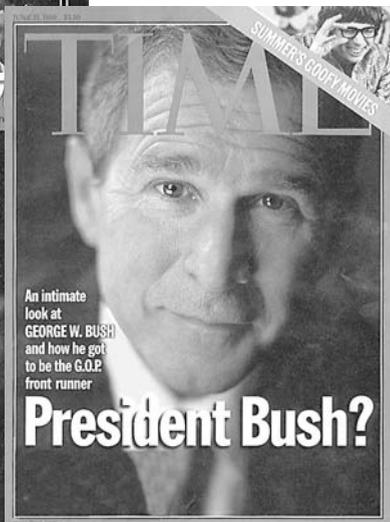
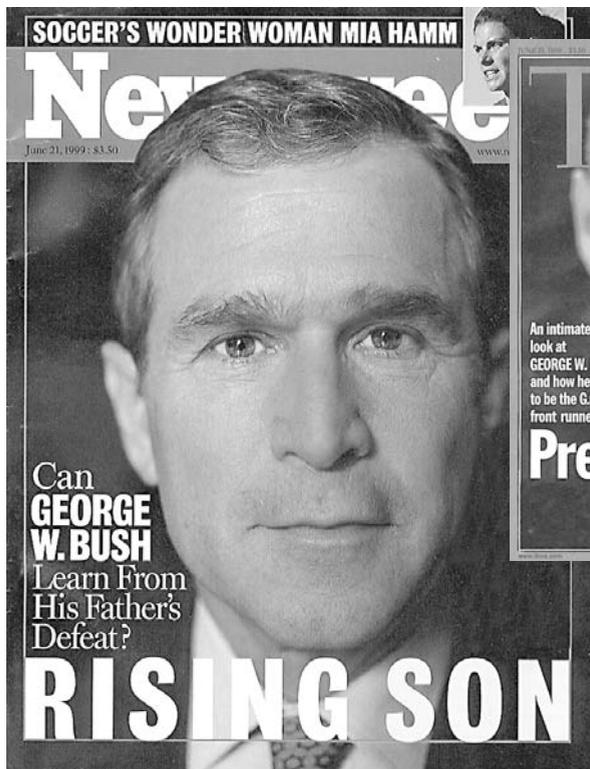
"Compassionate Conservatism" was embraced by Newt Gingrich and Arianna Huffington before George W. Bush made it his Presidential campaign slogan. The great popularizer of this New Age rightist mantra is a bizarre University of Texas journalism professor, Marvin Olasky, the good friend and compassion teacher to Governor Bush. Olasky's core message, as quoted by Michael King in the May 14 *Texas Observer*, is that "today's poor in the United States are the victims and perpetrators of illegitimacy and abandonment . . . but they are not suffering from thirst, hunger, or nakedness, except by choice, or insanity, or parental abuse."

Raised an observant Jew, Olasky turned atheist, then Communist. He went to Moscow, and attended Communist Party U.S.A. meetings in the Detroit region. Then, he turned "Christian rightist," finally becoming a clown prince of the Gingrich Conservative Revolution.

The editor of the "evangelical" *World* magazine, Professor Olasky wrote in a 1996 column on his conversion, "The steps down that path were hesitant and included activities such as watching classic westerns (with their strong sense of right and wrong) and reading Christian existentialists."

From 1989 to 1991 Olasky worked at the Heritage Foundation. His 1992 book, *The Tragedy of American Compassion*, was a Heritage Foundation project. The book carries an introduction by professional racist Charles Murray, co-author of *The Bell Curve*.

Candidate Bush's chief domestic policy adviser, Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, is known for radical privatization schemes and slashing the wages of the workforce. In pressing such policies under cover of Professor Olasky's blasphemous "Christianity," Bush repeats a family tradition:



*Texas Gov. George W. Bush has now begun his run for the throne in Washington, crowned in advance by an adoring media.*

During the Great Depression, when his father and grandfather were driving in the family limousine past the broken-down homes of the unemployed “rabble,” grandfather Prescott Bush would explain that the poor were only so because they failed to properly manage their money.

### The empty vessel . . .

Though Bush has been anointed by the media as the Republican front-runner, there is great tension among his sponsors about how the rather dull-witted fellow will do in the inevitable public fights over ideas.

A pro-Bush campaign piece, published in the June 1999 *Texas Monthly*, carries quotes from Bush’s friends who approach the “no-brains” issue gingerly.

Robert McCallum says, “People didn’t think of George as an intellectual policy wonk or anything. [In college,] George spent a lot of time learning from other people. Those who were book-oriented would think he wasn’t a serious student, but he was a serious student of people.”

*Texas Monthly* bravely defends him: “Bush is not a policy wonk. He prefers ideas to plans; his concept of a leader is someone who sets the agenda with a few broad policy statements and delegates the specifics to the legislature.”

A classmate of Bush’s at the Harvard Business School, Al Hubbard of Indianapolis, who coordinated Bush’s preparatory Presidential campaign meetings, said, “He wasn’t a great student. But he’s the most conscientious politician I’ve ever worked with.” Bush’s chief national economic adviser, Law-

rence B. Lindsey, a former Federal Reserve Board governor, described Bush as “a very good and patient student.” Former Secretary of State George Shultz, now with the Hoover Institution, as are many of the campaign’s advisers, said, “Nobody knows everything about what goes on in the world, so you’ve got to find out.”

At Yale, in the Skull and Bones Society and the DKE fraternity (as his father had been), Bush was interested only in beer, football, girls, and hazing underclassmen. His friend Clay Johnson says, “It was a very manly existence.”

Bush says that after graduating, “I was rootless. I had no responsibilities whatsoever.” It was what he calls “my so-called wild, exotic days. . . . Maybe I did [use drugs], maybe I didn’t.”

Bush learned a public relations lesson from a losing 1978 Congressional bid: Voters don’t like transatlantic elitists like his father, so the younger Bush presented himself as a man of the people, and made a virtue of his “non-intellectuality.”

After he gave up drunkenness in 1986, at age 40, Bush served in the 1988 Presidential election campaign as his father’s “consigliere,” personal representative, and hatchetman. Papa Bush won because the Democrats ran radical post-industrialist Michael Dukakis. The younger Bush would later win two terms as Governor, a gift from the Gore-style leadership of the Texas Democratic Party.

. . . with cosmic connections

Governor Bush’s 1991 insider-trading sale of stock in Harken Energy company, which drills for oil in Bahrain, in the midst of his father’s quiet preparations for the Iraq War, made him a huge sum. He was saved from prosecution at the Bush family-run Securities and Exchange Commission. A larger fortune came from windfalls in the financing of the Texas Rangers baseball team with Bush’s partner, gambling casino owner Richard Rainwater.

In light of the fact that all of his wealth and power derive from his father’s international plutocratic and spook networks, Governor Bush’s “self-made-man” philosophy ranks among the all-time examples of *chutzpah*. *Texas Monthly* quotes him: “Everybody has been given free will, and everybody has a chance to succeed. If someone has failed economically, that does not mean that the rest of us should be judged differently.”

Three of the four sons of the former President, George W. Bush, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, and former Colorado savings-and-loan intriguer Neil M. Bush, were up to their eyeballs in money-laundering for the George Bush-Oliver North "Contras" adventures. While all three have so far escaped prosecution, time-bombs are ticking, which the campaign season is bound to detonate. The Bush family's Texas was the center of the 1980s savings-and-loan looting on behalf of covert wars and arms- and drug-trafficking. Jeb Bush's Contras money-laundering partner, Miguel Recarey, is still today a fugitive from justice for theft of \$100 million from the Federal government. Recarey has his wanted poster on the U.S. Information Agency Web site, as does fugitive financier Marc Rich, reputedly Governor Bush's investment partner in South America.

Beyond any scandal as such, the reality of the family's power cartel is the most serious consideration for anyone contemplating George W. Bush in the White House.

George Herbert Walker Bush was the only American President whose family were international bankers. The family's "cosmic" connections arose when Averell Harriman (partner of grandfather Prescott Bush and of great-grandfather George Herbert Walker), merged his bank with London-based Brown Brothers, controlled by former partner Montagu Norman, then the Governor of the Bank of England.

The resulting Brown Brothers Harriman firm was a hub in a transatlantic fascist ring, running through Buckingham Palace, and Royal Dutch Shell, into Wall Street allies J.P. Morgan, Kuhn Loeb, and Standard Oil, and into such Dark-Ages cults as the Harriman and Bush families' Skull and Bones Society at Yale. This transatlantic combine sponsored and financed Adolf Hitler's takeover of Germany in 1932-33, as well as the post-World War II British reorganization of America's military and intelligence apparatus.

George H.W. Bush, the protégé of Henry A. Kissinger, became CIA director in 1976. As Vice President, Bush ran the Reagan administration's Afghanistan and Contras covert operations and directed the targeting of opponents to the London-New York tyranny. It was at this point, during Bush's 1987-88 scramble for the Presidency, that son George W. Bush swore off drink and entered Dad's global machine as a player, and potential heir.

The airhead younger Bush has now begun his own run for the throne in Washington, crowned in advance by an adoring media. The looming political question is whether the Democratic Party will supinely deliver the White House, through the nomination of sure loser Albert Gore. In a time of global financial and war emergency, the Bush dynasty and its desperate London sponsors would use the office with anything but "compassion."

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