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SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2004

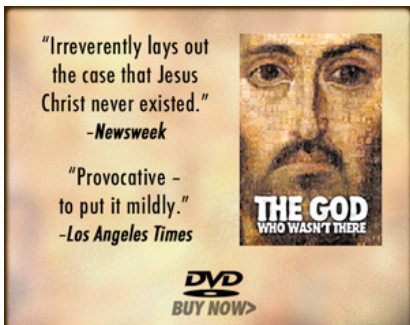
Hurricane A Blessing For Bush?

by Michael in New York on 8/15/2004 03:44:00 PM

This is deeply cynical -- and I have many friends in Florida who worried their homes might be destroyed -- but I can't help thinking the natural disaster Hurrican Charley is **a blessing for Bush**. It comes right before the election and he gets to tour the state, hang with his brother Jeb and pour oodles of money into the state. He's certain to do a better job than **his dad, who famously dragged his feet** in getting support to Florida after the devastating Hurricane Andrew. So Bush gets to hand out cash and look Presidential? That could be a deciding factor there.

Note to Kerry: laud Bush for acting promptly and then damn him for backtracking on his promises to New York -- New York has never gotten the funds Bush promised and his national plan to defend the country has been turned into pork barrel, with states that face little or no threat getting a LOT more money per capita than obvious targets like New York and Los Angeles and DC that are still desperately underfunded, have virtually open ports, etc.

Note to bloggers: I address one blogger's complaints at length in the comments. But let me restate the obvious: I'm noting an uncomfortable but real political fact, just like all the commentators who talk about the "bounce" Bush might get if there was an attack on American soil before the election. That isn't politicizing a terrorist attack; that's discussing the political ramifications of a real or potential tragedy. If I had suggested Bush had engineered the hurricane to gain political points, that would be politicizing something beyond his control. (We all know only Pat Robertson can control the weather.) Politically, all I did was say Kerry should continue to point out the many times when Bush has *not* responded rapidly in a time of national tragedy.



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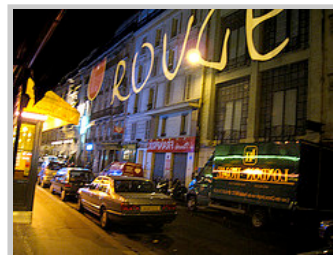
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