



## Letters to the Editor

### Missed Opportunity

After reading Jack Kenny's review of George W. Bush's autobiography, *Decision Points*, I can't help but think, "What an opportunity lost." In the evaluation, there was no mention of "enhanced interrogation," a.k.a. "waterboarding" — this despite the President's admission to authorize this heinous act. Why?

If we as a nation are to live up to the highest ideals we proclaim to uphold, we *must* hold our leaders to the same standard that we demand of other regimes. If we can't overcome this hypocrisy, by what authority do we demand others abide by any "code of conduct"?

This is not an issue of the Right or Left, but of international justice and accountability.

Wayne Taylor  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

### Why Conservatives Are Not Attractive

"We're right, they're wrong" is the slogan repeated frequently by Andrew Wilcow on the Wilcow Majority radio show. Let's forget how childish this sounds and instead consider that it is bound to get the opposite reaction than it is intended to get. Surely Wilcow hopes that his listeners will be inspired to be on the right side of the issues, but this expression is really a challenge, a line drawn in the sand that is more likely to promote defensive rhetoric, at best, and, at worst, feelings of disgust.

On the political Right, our understanding of economics may be superior, our representatives may be better leaders, and our policies may be more effective for America, but our presentation is just as ugly as the other side's.

When I was looking for a job, I was counseled that the most important factors to consider were presentation, presentation, and presentation. Though I wish all Americans evaluated every issue and prominent conservative figure carefully by looking at history and records, I am certain that most do not. Political pundits and politicians are judged by their personas. It is difficult to get past the delivery in order to evaluate the content.

Let me share some examples:

- Mark Levin said on the air "our society was founded on respect for the individual" (Jan. 30, 2011 Sirius XM Patriot radio show), yet he has called his callers idiots and rudely hung up on them with the explanation, "You are giving me a headache."
- I listened to the State of the Union Address — not because I admire our present President, but because I love my country, and this demands that I follow important events. I began listening to the speech broadcast on Cam and Company. They kept on making rude comments as Obama spoke, distracting from the speech. I found another radio station that would air this speech respectfully. Despite the political party of the President, all sides should give respect to the process by which our country is governed.
- Sarah Palin, whom I admire greatly, lost a little of my respect when she responded to the President's speech by making fun of an expression he used, "Winning the Future."



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I could list several more examples of conservatives poorly presenting themselves, but in the interest of brevity, I will not.

Conservative thought is tainted because of appalling representation by its adherents. In my humble opinion, there is a clear and simple fix: Just ask yourself if your presentation is respectful or not.

The President gets brownie points for calling for civility. Everyone who heeds that admonition definitely scores because they are choosing to take the high road. You can still report the news, be factual, be humorous, expose the problems on the Left, inform and educate on the issues, retain your character, and entertain an audience. But you can also look at yourself in the mirror and see a person of integrity, someone whom you can be very proud — and to whom others may look up.

Renee Scheuerlein

*Sent via e-mail*



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