

(Kerry Rally) *warm up crowd*

This has been an extraordinary week in the history of our nation and of our state. For every trick-or-treater at our door this weekend, there are ten canvassers reminding us to vote in the biggest trick or treat moment in our nation's history.

Also this week we were treated to another videotaped installment from that cave in Afghanistan. If it was a political commercial designed to get Americans to vote for Mr. Bush, so that Osama bin Laden might have his Great Recruiter retained in the White House, there were some serious miscalculations as well as technical errors. If it was a political commercial, it was missing the required tag: "I'm Osama bin Laden and I approved this message."

I am sensitive to these silly requirements of campaign reform law, because I helped pass them.

For those who think the Osama tape was Mr. Bush's October Surprise, I assure you that Karl Rove, whose full page picture, by the way, appears in this week's New Yorker Magazine—ten pages after mine—a small satisfaction in my difficult campaign—would never allow Osama to refer to Mr. Bush's kindergarten moment if it were a put-up deal. I can hear the phone call. Mr. Rove is adamant. The kindergarten thing is out. "But it's just a joke," Osama would plead. No deal. The neo-cons are never amused by jokes, only by the destruction of their true enemies, the responsible people of the world.

I do not make light of the real threats facing our nation. I take exception, however, to Mr. Bush as a person who might help us in any way. He is like the ^{big} ~~troubled~~ brother who says he will protect ~~you~~ ^{his troubled younger brother} from the bully down the street. He does so by throwing a rock through the bully's window and leaving for camp. In Crawford. It then comes to your attention that he even hit the wrong house, and they are mad at you now, too. Thanks, George, stay away at camp.

I am a member of the so-called Greatest Generation. Mr. Brokaw could get away with that book title only because the generation who took us through the American Revolution were not around to sue.

But my generation has done some remarkable things. We worked with great coalitions to bring peace to a world ravaged by the most coldhearted fascism imaginable. It was beyond imagining, really, and so was the heroism of so many men and women who went out to stop it. They established the United States of America as the leading light of freedom and fairness in the world, and that legacy has been squandered by this troubled and disrespectful and disobedient little brother in the past four years.

My generation created Social Security and a move toward racial and gender fairness and equality—a great advance for the American dream—and this mean-spirited little boy has

tortured and abused these accomplishments as if by an uncontrollable mean streak.

My generation created a middle class that was the envy of the world, and he has undermined it and exported it at every opportunity. The family treasure, like the budget surplus, has been raided as if he found his father's car keys and credit cards and went on a wild spree in Las Vegas.

Well, the family takes action on Tuesday. On Tuesday the family returns to its proper rules of respect and responsibility and thrift and caution. We stop swatting hornets' nests abroad. We stop pulling the tails off of our social programs. We stop giving special advantages to our friends. We stop the bullying behavior and the rudeness. We get the adults back. We get our Bill of Rights back. We get our self-respect in the world back. And we get the American Dream back for our people who work and make this country great.

I am old enough to remember a radio on the kitchen table ~~and~~ Franklin Delano Roosevelt
with the family gathered around listening to

telling us that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.

Today we have fear to fear, but also the products of fear—the terrorism and economic ruin that feed fear.

We are in danger of falling into a difficult downward spiral. When our people fear for their lives and their futures, ^{such as John Kennedy} they gravitate toward a strong, warrior king to protect them. When they give their political support to a destructive and divisive anti-leader, conditions worsen and fear builds. As fear builds, the anti-leader power builds. We are seeing the beginning of that terrible cycle now. Tuesday is our next opportunity to cut it short. You will be amazed how quickly the American people will respond to ^{the} positive leadership. ^{John Kennedy} All this will seem like a bad dream, except for the graves in cemeteries, here and abroad, and all the broken hearts that go with them.

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Tuesday is the first battle in the war for the 21st Century, which is the struggle between the

not the present

human scale of democracy and corrupt institutions, public and corporate. Talk to your neighbors. Tell them that you are really worried about the future of our nation and, if they aren't that interested in politics themselves, would they please do you the great favor of going to vote with you. Let's all double our votes on Tuesday, if we can. And if the election is stolen, then our democracy is stolen; Let's not roll over and take it this time--not for ^{one} a minute.

Thank you.