

Michael Moore – Dude, Where's My Country?

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Meanwhile, in faraway Washington, D.C., life is changing too. Taking advantage of our grief, and our fear that "it" may happen again, an appointed president uses the dead of 9/11 as a convenient cover, a justification, for permanently altering our American way of life. Is that why they died, so that George W. Bush can turn the country into Texas? We've already conducted two wars since 9/11, and an upcoming third or a fourth is not all that unlikely. If this is allowed to continue, then all we will have accomplished is to dishonor those 3,000-plus dead. (XI)

... I'm not into conspiracy theories, except the ones that are true or involve dentists. I believe that all dentists must have gotten together at some point and decided that the real money was in root canals and full sets of x-rays every time you go in. No other mammal in the animal kingdom has to go through this. (2)

... the very formation of [September 11] commission was opposed by the Bush administration and the Republicans in Congress. Reluctantly, they finally agreed – but then they sought to block the investigative body from doing its job by stonewalling them on the evidence that they sought. (2)

In the first days after the terror attacks on New York and Washington, Saudi Arabia supervised the urgently evacuation of 24 members of Osama bin Laden's extended family from the United States... (4)

Question #1: Is it true that the bin Ladens have had business relations with you and your [Bush] family off and on for the past 25 years? (6)

It has been reported in *The New Yorker* that not only has the family *not* cut ties to Osama, but they have continued to fund him as they have been doing for years. It was no secret to the CIA that Osama bin Laden had access to his family fortune (his share is estimated to be at least \$30 million), and the bin Ladens, as well as other Saudis, kept Osama and his group, al Qaeda, well funded. (9-10)

... it turned out that one of bin Laden's brothers – Shafiq – was actually at a Carlyle Group business conference in Washington, D.C., the morning of September 11. The day before, at the same conference, your [George W. Bush] father and Shafiq had been chatting it up with all the other ex-government Carlyle bigwigs. (10)

Question #2: What is the "special relationship" between the Bushes and the Saudi royal family? (11)

When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990, it was really the Saudis next door who felt threatened, and it was your father, George Bush I, who came to their rescue. (11)

When White House aide Oliver North needed money to buy arms for Iran in the Iran-Contra Affair, it was the Saudis who provided the \$30 million in secret cash. When the CIA needed funds to help destroy the Italian Communist Party in 1985 and finance its opponents in elections, it was your good friend the Saudis who happily put \$10 million in

an Italian bank. (12)

A major chunk of the American economy is built on Saudi money. They have a trillion dollars invested in our stock market and another trillion dollars sitting in our banks. (13)

Question #3: Who attacked the United States on September 11 – a guy on dialysis from a cave in Afghanistan, or your friends, Saudi Arabia? (15)

If fifteen of the nineteen hijackers had been North Korean, and they killed 3,000 people, do you think the headline next day might read, "NORTH KOREA ATTACKS UNITED STATES"? (17)

Question #4: Why did you allow a private Saudi jet to fly around the U.S. In the days after September 11 and pick up members of the bin Laden family and then fly them out of the country without a proper investigation by the FBI? (19)

Question #5: Why are you protecting the "Second Amendment rights" of potential terrorists? (22)

Using the instant background check files for gun purchases created under the Brady Bill, the FBI immediately found two of the [September 11] suspects had indeed purchased weapons. When your attorney general, John Ashcroft, heard about this, he immediately shut the search down. He told the FBI that the background check files could not be used for such a search and these files were only to be used at the time of a purchase of a gun, not to find out information on law-abiding gun-toting citizens. (22)

Instead of protecting the country from events like the one that was about to take place, the attorney general was busy trying to dismantle the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. He said that the government should not be keeping a database on gun owners and wanted the law changed so that the files were kept for only twenty-four hours! (23)

... in July 2002 [...] the General Accounting Office released the Justice Department's *actual* legal opinion on the matter, dated October 1, 2001. [...] the Justice Department's legal advisers had ruled that [...] *there was nothing wrong with using the gun background files to check if a suspected terrorist had purchased a gun.* (25)

[Bush] administration talks of the "phantoms of lost liberty"? Tell that to the men and women who were thrown in jails, not because they were terrorists, but because they were Muslims. And tell me why you think you have the right to find out what books a suspected terrorist is reading, but not what guns he might be packing. (26)

Question #6: Were you aware that while you were governor of Texas, the Taliban traveled to Texas to meet with your oil and gas company friends? (26)

According to the BBC, the Taliban went [to Texas] to meet with Unocal, the huge oil and energy giant, to discuss Unocal's desire to build a natural gas pipeline running from Turkmenistan through Taliban-controlled Afghanistan and into Pakistan. (27)

Cheney was the CEO of the giant oil services company, Halliburton. When not building

jails in Guantanamo Bay, ignoring massive human rights violations in order to do business with Burma, and working deals with Libya, Iran and Saddam Hussein's Iraq (which Halliburton did happily in the nineties), Halliburton build (and still builds) oil and gas pipelines. In 1998, your future co-president, Mr. Cheney, had this to say about the situation in that part of the world: "I can't think of a time when we've had a region emerge as suddenly to become as strategically significant as the Caspian. It's almost as if the opportunities have arisen overnight." And in a talk to the Cato institute the same year, he revealed this information about Halliburton: "About 70 to 75 percent of our business is energy related, serving customers like Unocal, Exxon, Shell, Chevron, and many other major oil companies around the world. As a result, we oftentimes find ourselves operating in some very difficult places. The good Lord didn't see fit to put oil and gas only where there are democratically elected regimes friendly to the United States. Occasionally we have to operate in places where, all things considered, one would not normally choose to go. But, we go where the business is." (29-30)

Question #7: What exactly was that look on your face in the Florida classroom on the morning of September 11 when your chief of staff told you, "America is under attack"? (36)

And then ... you just sat there. You sat there for *another seven minutes* or so doing *nothing*. It was, to say the least, weird. Creepy. You just stayed there in your little kid's chair and listened to children read, listening peacefully for five or six minutes. You didn't look worried, you didn't excuse yourself, you weren't rushed from the room by your advisors or the Secret Service. (37)

Maybe the reason Bush is still here is that he proved the old adage that if you tell a lie long enough and often enough, sooner or later it becomes the truth. (42)

Allow me to present to you the tasty menu the Whopper-in-Chief served up special just for you. I'll call them "The Iraq War Combo Means":

#1 The Original Whooper: "Iraq has nuclear weapons!" (43)

#2 Whooper with Cheese: "Iraq has chemical and biological weapons!" (46)

There never were any chemical or biological weapons – other than the ones we gave Saddam in the 1980s, the ones he used on the Kurds and the ones he used on the Iranians after we supplied him with the satellite photos so he could locate the Iranian troop movements. We knew why he wanted those photos and, less than a year after the U.N. Reported the gassing of the Iranians, we reinstated full diplomatic relations with this regime. [...] Here is the list from a 1994 U.S. Senate Report of the chemical agents we allowed U.S. Corporations to sell to Saddam Hussein between 1985 and 1990. We gave Saddam: Bacillus Anthracis: Anthrax, Clostridium Botulinum, Histoplasma Capsulatum, Brucella Melitensis, Clostridium Perfringens. [...] Records of U.S. Corporate sales of biological material to Iraq before 1985 were "not available." The Senate report also noted, "These exported biological materials were not attenuated or weakened and were capable of reproduction." (48-49)

#3 Whopper with Bacon: "Iraq has ties to Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda!" (53)

... before Bush had served up his 2003 State of the Union address, and Powell had presented the Saddam-Osama "evidence" to the U.N., a Knight-Ridder poll found that

half of those questioned already incorrectly thought that one or more of the 9/11 hijackers held Iraqi citizenship. Bush didn't even have to say it. [...] the biggest reason Saddam and Osama don't like each other is the same reason the Bushes stopped liking Saddam: the invasion of Kuwait. (56-57)

#4 Whooper, Heavy on the Pickles and Onions: "Saddam Hussein is the world's most evil man!" (57)

#5 Whooper with Freedom Fries (and *American* Cheese): "The French are not on our side and they may be our enemy!" (63)

During the first Gulf War, the United States had the support of an actual coalition of powerful allies. But when it came to Gulf War – The Sequel, most of those countries weren't so eager to sign up. [...] Representative Jim Saxton, R-New Jersey, proposed legislation in the House to keep French companies from getting U.S. Financing for the reconstruction of Iraq. His colleague, Representative Ginny Brown-Waite, R-Florida [...] introduced a bill to bring the bodies of World War II soldiers who had died and been buried in France back to the United States. [...] A Lebanese-owned chain of stores in California's San Joaquin Valley, French Cleaners, had one of its stores tagged with anti-French graffiti and another burned to the ground. [...] Then there's the simple jealousy factor. Most Americans know the French are more sophisticated, more intelligent, more well-read than the average American. We don't like to admit that it was the French who invented the movies, the automobile, the stethoscope, Braille, photography, and most important of all, the Etch A Sketch. They've brought us the Enlightenment, the Enlightenment paved the way for the widespread acceptance of the ideas and principles that America was founded on. Then when we find out that the French have to work only thirty-five hours a week and everyone gets at least four weeks paid vacation, all we can do is make snide remarks about their unions and how they're always shutting their country down. [...] The [Revolutionary] war ended at Yorktown with the British surrendering to Washington and the band playing "The World Turned Upside Down" - but the Brits were actually surrendering to the French. The Redcoats were boxed in by the French navy, and on that final day, there were more French troops in the ranks than colonists. (64-69)

#6 Whooper Combo, Extra Lettuce: "This is not just the United States going to Iraq. It is a Coalition of the Willing!" (70)

... just who were the motley crew of oddball nations that signed on to Bush's madness? Let's take a look at the list. It begins with... Afghanistan. Okay, stop right there. Afghanistan? What exactly was their contribution going to be? Horses? Ten sticks and a stone? Don't they have their own problems at the moment? Or did they have a warlord or two to spare to help us out in Iraq? I have asked the State Department to provide me with a list of the contributions that the nation of Afghanistan made to the war effort and so far no one has responded. Batting next for the "Coalition of the Willing" is another heavy-hitter: Albania. Is this the same Albania where the main industry is survival farming, where there's one phone for every thirty people? Let's keep going ... Australia. Now that's the real country! Except the polls in Australia leading up to the war showed that its citizens, by a margin of 70 percent, opposed the war. So how did they get on the list? Gorge W. Bush dangled the prospect of a free-trade agreement in front of Australian Prime Minister John Howard. If you can't join 'em, or they won't join you, bribe 'em. Meanwhile Aussie neighbor New Zealand, who refused to join the coalition, was then -

surprise! Shut out of trade talks. Back the the "Willing": Azerbaijan (we're coming to get their oil next to they had no friggin' choice), Bulgaria (anytime you've got Bulgaria on your side, how can you lose? Plus I got to write "Bulgaria" twice in the same book!), Colombia (taking a break from that other war we're fighting there), the Czech Republic (how embarrassing! We were going to let you into NATO anyway!), Denmark (this alone should disqualify them from membership in Scandinavia – I never thought they belong in it anyway. Let Finland in, where it belongs!), El Salvador (we didn't annex them for nothing'), Eritrea (where the hell is that?) Estonia (see, France, *some* Nazi collaborators love us!), Ethiopia (nothing like sending a squad of starving children to help!) Georgia, Hungary, Italy (that's the second real country, with 69 percent opposed to the war), Japan (no way! I don't believe this! Do the Japanese people, 70 percent of whom opposed the war, know they got put on this list?), South Korea, Latvia (more Nazi collaborators), Lithuania (even more collaborators!), Macedonia, the Netherlands (huh? Too much legalized drug use?) Nicaragua, the Philippines (maybe they should be spending their time routing out their own members of al Qaeda), Poland (didn't they hear that the pope said the war was wrong?), Palau ... Palau? Palau is a group of North Pacific islands with 20,000 citizens, barely enough to fill Madison Square Garden. They do have – as *The Washington Post* pointed out – yummy tapioca and succulent coconuts but, unfortunately, no troops. Of course not having an army is no impediment to being in the Coalition of the Willing). Other army-less members include Iceland, Costa Rica, the Marshall Islands, the Solomon Islands, and Micronesia. But hey, we don't expect them to send their kids off to die! That's our job! We just want them to be *willing* to do it! Wait! News Flash! Poland *did* offer to send 200 troops! Thank you for your willingness! And while Morocco also was short on military assistance, they did offer to send 2,000 monkeys to help detonate land mines in Iraq. But they didn't and, if you don't cough up the monkeys, you don't get to reap the benefits of being a member of the coalition of the Willing. Anyways, the Coalition of the Willing doesn't need monkeys when it's already got a more advanced simian leading it. But I'm getting out of order here. Let's see, that leaves Romania, Slovakia, Spain (only 13 percent of Spaniards were in favor of war, and that was only if it was a U.N.-supported invasion) and ... hold the phone ... Turkey. Turkish politicians refused \$26 billion for the privilege of having U.S. Troops based there. Maybe they were paying attention to polls that showed 95 percent of Turks opposed invading Iraq. Bringing up the rear is the United Kingdom (*our bestest friend in the whole wide world!*) and Uzbekistan. In the United Kingdom, only 9 percent supported military action against Iraq if it meant the U.S. and the U.K. going it alone. The Brits were split evenly on who the "greatest threat to world peace" was, with Bush and Hussein each getting 45 percent of the vote. Why would Tony Blair involve himself in this? What did Bush promise him? (71-73)

#7 Junior Whopper Kids Meal: "We are doing everything possible so that no civilian lives are lost." (73)

#8 Whopper, Hold the Mayo: "We are there to protect the oil fields of Iraq!" (76)

#9 Double Whopper with Cheese and a Coke: "The American media has brought you the truth about Iraq!" (76)

Accompanied by round-the-clock patriotic, march-to-war music and flag-inspired graphics on the sorry-excuses-for-news channels, the images were relentless: Tearful farewells from proud families as brave soldiers headed overseas; heroic American girls rescued by daring American guys' smart bombs doing their brilliantly destructive work; grateful Iraqis toppling the Saddam statue; a united America standing by Our Resolute and

Determined Leader. (76)

#10 Triple Whopper, biggie Size: "We didn't lie. And we're not lying now to cover up the lies we told you before." (81)

They call it a war on "terror." How exactly do you conduct a war on a noun? Wars are fought against countries, religions, and peoples. They are not fought against nouns or problems, and any time it has been attempted – the "war on drugs," the "war on poverty" - it fails. (96)

Fear is so basic and yet so easy to manipulate that it has become both our best friend and our worst enemy. (98)

The Project for a New American Century (PNAC), [...] argued that America should have but one goal: an unchallengeable, military-imposed, U.S.-run world. They took their first step on January 26, 1998, in a open letter to President Clinton. PNAC neoconservatives Paul Wolfowitz and William Kriston, along with Donald Rumsfeld and Richard Perle, warned that the policy of containing Iraq was "dangerously inadequate" and the aim of U.S. Foreign policy must be "removing Saddam Hussein and his regime from power." (101-102)

Immediately after September 11, bush was able to enact into law his USA PATRIOT Act (an actual acronym that stands for "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001"). The Act gives the government unprecedented freedom to collect information with little regard to civil rights or privacy concerns. The Senate voted 98 to 1 in favor of the act. Wisconsin Democrat Russ Feingold was the only true patriot in the Senate that day, casting the sole dissenting vote. (103-104)

The Patriot Act also allows the attorney general's office to demand and receive whatever information it wants from anyone just by issuing what is called a "national security letter." (108)

Why have we never read a headline saying, "3000 Killed by Multi-Millionaire"? It would be a correct headline, would it not? No part of it is untrue – Osama bin Laden has assets totaling at least \$30 million; he is a multi-millionaire. (116)

We need protection from our own multi-millionaires, corporate terrorists, the ones who rip off our old-age pensions, destroy the environment, deplete irreplaceable fossil fuels in the name of profit, deny us our right to universal health care, take peoples' jobs away whenever the mood hits them. What do you call a 19 percent increase in the homeless and the hungry from 2001 to 2002? Are these not acts of terrorism? Do they not cost lives? Is it not all part of a calculated plan to inflict pain on the poor and the working poor, just so that a few rich men can get even richer? (116)

Bush's program of homeland security is providing us with no security at all. If you want real security, I suggest you consider my ideas that will definitely make America a safer country: (119 – 127)

1. Catch Osama bin Laden.
2. When staging a coup and overthrowing the democratically elected leader of

- another country, do it right.
3. Propping up existing dictators does not endear us to the people living under the rule of those dictators.
  4. When attempting to prop up a Latin American dictator, try to do it without killing too many nuns or archbishops.
  5. When attempting to assassinate the president of Cuba, make sure you get the right kind of exploding cigars.
  6. It might be good to find out why hundreds of millions of people on three continents, stretching from Morocco on the Atlantic to the Philippines in the Pacific, are so pissed off about Israel.
  7. Five percent of the world's population (that's us) use up 25 percent of the entire world's energy resources, and the well-off 16 percent, mostly the U.S., Europe, and Japan, use up 80 percent of the world's goods.
  8. We need to offer the world a drink of water.
  9. People should be able to buy the products they are making.
  10. No child must be a slave laborer.
  11. When we kill civilians we shouldn't call it "collateral damage."
  12. When declaring your "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED" make sure it really is.
  13. One sure-fire way to make us REALLY safe would be to destroy the weapons of mass destruction still in the hands of the nation that has killed more people with them than all other nuclear nations combined.
  14. We must immediately disavow Bush's preemptive war policy.
  15. Stop acting like a thief who says "stick 'em up, hand over your weapons, and okay, now hand over your oil."
  16. Stop terrorizing our own citizens with the Patriot Act.
  17. Start bombing the hell out of people with WHITE skin.
  18. And finally ... let's set a good example.

The "War on Terror" should not be a war on Afghanistan or Iraq or North Korea or Syria or Iran or whatever place we'll end up invading. It should be a war on our own dark impulses. (127)

... no more of this "God Bless America" crap. What makes you think you get to be blessed and no one else does? I don't play favorites. You don't hear anyone in Djibouti saying "God Bless Djibouti." I have never heard anyone utter the words "God Bless Botswana." They know better. Let's get this straight – God don't bless America, God don't bless anyone, god has got a tee time on the back nine and he doesn't have time to be interrupted with this patriotic mumbo jumbo. Go bless yourselves and quit using My name as a justification for feeling superior to everyone else. You aren't. You are actually among the dumbest people on the planet. Don't think so? Name the president of Mexico. See? Ask anyone else in the world the name of the leader of the country next to theirs and they can tell you who it is. God bless America? More like God bleeps America. (134-135)

... you can't rid the world of "evil" because evil is necessary to define what is good. (135)

Letting people live on the street without a home is evil. Allowing millions of your children to go hungry, that is evil. Watching endless hours of reality television when you could be having really raunchy sex with someone you love, *that* is evil. (135)

Perhaps the biggest success in the War on Terror has been its ability to distract the nation from the Corporate War on Us. [...] the wholesale destruction of our economic future is based solely on the greed of the corporate mujahedeen. There is a master plan, my friends, each company has one, and the sooner you can get over not wanting to believe it, or worrying that to believe it puts you in the ranks of the nutters who thrive on conspiracy theories, then the sooner we have a chance of stopping them. Their singular goal is to take enough control over our lives so that, in the end, we'll be pledging allegiance, not to a flag or some airy notions of freedom and democracy, but to the dictates of Citigroup, Exxon, Nike, GE, GM, P&G, and Philip Morris. It is their executives who now call the shots, and you can go vote and protest and cheat the IRS all you want to get back at them, but face it: You are no longer in charge. *You* know it and they know it, and all that remains is the day when it will be codified onto a piece of paper, the Declaration of the Corporate States of America. (137-138)

We're addicted to this happy rags-to-riches myth in this country. People elsewhere in other industrialized democracies are content to make a good enough living to pay their bills and raise their families. Few have a cutthroat desire to strike it rich. If they have a job that lets them go home after seven or eight hours of work and then gives them the standard four to eight weeks of paid vacation every year, they're relatively happy. And with their governments providing health care, good free schools, and a guaranteed pension to live well in old age, they're even happier. [...] Of course, rich people in those countries are very careful not to upset the balance. Even though there are greedy bastards among them, they've got some limits placed on them. In the manufacturing sector, for example, British CEOs make twenty-four times as much as their average workers – the widest gap in Europe. German CEOs only make fifteen times more than their employees, while Swedish CEOs get thirteen times as much. But here in the U.S., the average CEO makes 411 times the salaries of their blue-collar workers. Wealthy Europeans pay up to 65 percent in taxes and they know better than to bitch too loud about it or the people will make them fork over even more. In the United States, we are afraid to sock it to them. We hate to put our CEOs in prison when they break the law. We are more than happy to cut their taxes even as ours go up! (139-140)

During the past twenty years, companies including Disney, Nestle, Procter & Gamble, Dow Chemical, JP Morgan Chase, and Wal-Mart have been secretly taking out life insurance policies on their low- and mid-level employees *and then naming themselves – the Corporation – as the beneficiary!* That's right: When you die, the company – not your survivors – get to cash in. If you die on the job, all the better, as most life insurance policies are geared to pay out more when someone dies young. And if you live to a ripe old age, even long after you've left the company, the company still gets to collect on your death. The money does not go to help your grieving relatives through hard times or to pay for the funeral and burial; it goes to the corporate executives. And regardless of when you croak, the company is able to borrow against the policy and deduct the interest from its corporate taxes. (145-146)

After Bush became president, he invited Lay [CEO of Enron] to come to Washington to personally conduct the interviews of people who would serve in the Bush administration, primarily for high-level positions in the Energy Department – the very regulatory agency overseeing Enron. (149-150)

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Enron gave nearly \$6 million to the



Republican and Democratic parties since 1989, with 74 percent going to the Republicans. This meant that when Congress began investigating Enron at the beginning of 2002, 212 of the 248 members of the House and Senate on the investigating committees had taken campaign contributions from Enron or its crooked accountant, Arthur Andersen. (151)

Fifty-seven percent of the American public believes that abortion should be legal in all or most cases. (168)

A whopping 86 percent of the American public say they "agree with the goals of the Civil Rights movements." Four out of five Americans say "it is important for colleges to have racially diverse student bodies." (169)

Eighty-three percent of Americans say they are in agreement with the goals of the environmental movement. (170)

Ninety-four percent of the American public want federal safety regulations enacted on the manufacture and use of all handguns – and 86 percent want this even if it makes guns more expensive! (171)

Eight in ten Americans believe that health insurance should be provided equally to everyone in the country. (172)

Sixty-two percent of the people you share this country with support changing current laws so that *fewer* nonviolent offenders are sent to prison. (173)

Eighty-five percent of Americans support equal opportunity in the workplace for gays and lesbians. (173)

According to a 2002 Gallup Polls, 58 percent thought labor unions were a good idea. (174)

"ANYTHING [liberals] CAN DO TO BRING DOWN CHRISTIANITY AND JUDAISM IS GOOD FOR THEM. BECAUSE THEIR MINDS ARE WARPED, BECAUSE LIBERALISM IS NOT A PHILOSOPHY, LIBERALISM IS A MENTAL DISORDER" - Michael Savage

"GOD SAYS, 'EARTH IS YOURS. TAKE IT. RAPE IT. IT'S YOURS.'" - Ann Coulter

"WE NEED TO EXECUTE PEOPLE LIKE JOHN WALKER IN ORDER TO PHYSICALLY INTIMIDATE LIBERALS, BY MAKING THEM REALIZE THAT THEY CAN BE KILLED TOO. OTHERWISE THEY WILL TURN OUT TO BE OUTRIGHT TRAITORS!" - Ann Coulter

"WE SHOULD INVADE THEIR COUNTRIES, KILL THEIR LEADERS AND CONVERT THEM TO CHRISTIANITY!" - Ann Coulter (on September 11 terrorists)

"FEMINISM WAS ESTABLISHED SO AS TO ALLOW UNATTRACTIVE WOMEN EASIER ACCESS TO THE MAINSTREAM OF SOCIETY" - Rush Limbaugh

"CANADA IS A LEFT-WING, SOCIALIST BASKET CASE. WHAT KIND OF FRIENDS ARE THEY?" - Sean Hannity (176-177)

I've come up with a bunch of suggestions for how we can enlarge our majority by reaching out to our RINO [republican in name only] friends and relatives. Some of these will require a bit of humility on your part. Many of them, I'm convinced, will work. It's time to raid the conservative right of this vast pool of soft support they have enjoyed for far too long. At the very least, following my suggestions will lead to a much more peaceful Thanksgiving dinner:

1. First and foremost, assure your conservative friends or relatives that you do not want their money.
2. Second, every political argument you make must be about *them* and for *them*.
3. Journey into the minds of the conservative.
4. Respect them the way you would like to be respected.
5. Tell them what you *like* about conservatives.
6. Admit that the left has made mistakes:
  - Mumia probably killed that guy.
  - Drugs are bad.
  - Men and women *are* different.
  - It's really a bad idea to have sex before you're eighteen.
  - MTV sucks.
  - Granola is bad for you.
  - The sun is *good* for you.
  - People who commit violent crimes should be locked up.
  - Your children do not have a right to privacy and you better pay attention to what they are up to now.
  - Not all unions are good, and, in fact, many of them are just plain lousy.
  - SUVs are not inherently evil
  - Getting back to nature is a dumb idea.
  - Bill O'Reilly makes a few good points.
  - Too many of us hold a hoity-toity view of religion and think the religious are superstitious fifteenth-century ignoramuses.
  - We have a namby-pamby way of saying things.
  - Why are you still bitching about right-wing author Ann Coulter?
  - The proposed "Liberal Radio Network?"
  - Animals don't have rights.
  - Nixon was more liberal than the last five presidents we've had

The most important thing is to NEVER make the "moral" argument about why the Pentagon should get less money or why a sick child deserves to see a doctor. [...] So save your breath and keep in mind that it's all about THEM. Begin every point with this one sentence: "I want **you** to make more MONEY!"

- "Paying workers more money makes you money!"
- "Health Insurance for everyone will make you money!"
- "Providing day care for your employees will make you money!"
- "Joining a union will make you money!"
- "Clean air and water save you money!"
- "Stopping the Drug War will save you money!"
- "Giving lots of money to the public schools makes you money!"
- "By never voting for a Republican again, you will make a ton of money!"

Right now, the 13,000 families that make up the top .01 percent control the equivalent wealth of the poorest twenty million ones. And while those living it up in the top one percent have enjoyed income increases of 157 percent in the past twenty years, the middle class has only gotten a 10 percent increase. [...] Any representative who delivers

on making our schools and libraries a top priority, who sees to it that everyone has health care, who demands that we not live in a society of illiterates, who backs any bill that increases people's wages, and who taxes the wealthy for duping an entire country into bankruptcy [...] will all benefit you. (187-201)