



Quarterly Update



BOB DREIZLER, CLU, ChFC, *CHARTERED FINANCIAL CONSULTANT*

Specializing in socially conscious investors

Welcome to the New BQU

Bob's Quarterly Update lives thanks to your encouragement. Responses from over three hundred of you convinced me to continue writing my newsletter.

Many of the changes in the format and content are responses to your suggestions. I will now distribute BQU by e-mail as an Adobe attachment and via the postal system (p-mail). You can switch from p-mail to e-mail or vice versa, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

This new format allows me more space flexibility. As a result, future issues should appear more frequently.

Since so many readers encouraged me to continue and expand my commentaries/editorials, my newsletter will now focus on a single political, economic or personal topic. My new website (see box), will focus more on personal finance issues.

In this issue I will focus on the recent presidential election and the need for electoral reforms. Future topics may include the federal debt and deficit, Social Security, the environment, values, socially conscious investing dilemmas, and America as a world citizen.

I will include relevant quotes, often with web-links to the original source

so you can read more if you like. I may also mention books, organizations and websites that relate to the topic. I want BQU to become a resource as well as my soapbox.

I suspect that the second term of the Bush II administration will provide ample motivations for us to speak out while we still can. I hesitate to use that phrase, but protecting non-gun and non-corporate freedoms does not seem to be a high priority of this administration.

I expect a morality-based attack on the Internet

soon. The Web is the primary source of free speech, political activism and is also the greatest threat to the Bush administration. This is not a time for us to be silent.

I welcome your feedback (bdreizler@protectedinvestors.com).

Over time, BQU may evolve into a more interactive forum. If you have a favorite website, book or quote, please send it along. Someday, I may even invite your brief commentaries if this can be accommodated within the regulatory guidelines.

www.bobdreizler.com

In conjunction with changing the focus of *BQU*, I have set up a website that will provide timely information that my newsletter previously offered. Check out some of the features:

- Monthly opinions on the state of the stock market and the economy
- The stock index performance chart that used to appear on page three of *BQU*
- A link to the federal debt calculator
- Previous newsletters, quotes, websites, and financial resources
- Links to socially conscious investing and personal finance websites
- A link to my *Tending Your Money Garden* website
- Archived copies of some of my published non-fiction essays and humorous articles (eventually)
- A link to a site that will display my artwork (in the spring).

TEN THINGS TO DO DURING THE NEXT FOUR YEARS

There are two things we need to do to adapt to four more years of Bush/Cheney/Rumsfeld/Rice/Rove: 1) stay involved, and 2) keep our sanity. Here are some of my suggestions, though I'm not committing to following all of them.

1. Identify your communities and work to make them stronger. It's hard to identify as an American these days after so many fellow Americans endorsed the policies of the Bush administration. It's time to bond more closely with people with whom we share values, joys and companionship. These can be political groups, book clubs, friends, family, King's fans, and fellow shoppers at the Co-op.
2. Improve yourself. Cultivate a hobby. Improve your skills doing something you love. We will all go crazy if we do nothing but read CommonDreams.com and The Nation. I find solace in art and golf. When I'm deeply involved with those activities, politics and the state of the world rarely cross my mind. This gives me more energy to face the realities of the world when I return to it.
3. Deny reality. Create our own fantasy world. The right-wing propagandists and their allies in the press have created a fantasy world where the Iraq war is going well, where alienating the rest of the world has no consequences and where cutting taxes reduces the deficit. Being realistic doesn't seem to be working.
4. Make a list of ten Bush administration policies that have made you proud to be an American. You have four more years to work on this.
5. Emotionally secede from the Union.
6. Change your political focus from the national level to the local level.
7. Don't worry. That's easy to say and hard to do, but worry is unproductive. Unless worry motivates you to take productive action, shift your energy to helping yourself and others.
8. Give fresh consideration to an alternative political party if the Democratic Party continues to evolve into the Bush-Lite party.
9. Get out of the city when reality starts getting you down. Go to the beach or the mountains or the desert. Peaceful beauty helps the soul.
10. Do something helpful daily.



"Tree Shadows" oil 24" x 30", 2004

RELEVANT WEBSITES

www.blackboxvoting.org
www.commondreams.org
www.sorryeverybody.com
www.thomhartmann.com
www.unicef.org/media/index.html

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2012 H Street—Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 94814
(916) 444-2233
FAX: (916) 444-3540

bdreizler@protectedinvestors.com

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Four More Years, Yikes

I wore my "McGovern for President" button on Election Day. It may have jinxed the election, but I don't take personal responsibility for Bush's re-election. Diebold Corporation may have had more influence.

Like many of you, I've been fairly pessimistic since November 2nd, but when I feel hopeless, I think back to 1972. McGovern's landslide defeat by incumbent President Nixon was devastating. As with Kerry, McGovern was not the ideal candidate or campaigner. McGovern represented my views better than Kerry, but he was still *The Alternative*.

The spirit of the Sixties died that day. Less than two years later, the arrogance of Nixon's White House led to his resignation. Perhaps, the similar haughtiness and evangelism of Bush II's administration will sow the seeds of its own defeat.



NO MANDATE

President Bush is acting like the results of the election gave him a mandate. As usual, the compliant press sees no need to call him on this. Fifty one percent is not a mandate, particularly for an incumbent wartime president. Had 60,000 Ohio voters changed their votes from Bush to Kerry, we would be awaiting the inauguration of a new president in January. This assumes that the vote was correctly tallied in Ohio and that Ohio's partisan Secretary of State (and co-chairman of Ohio's Bush committee) presided over a fair election. Bush's 51% of the popular vote was no mandate.

These elections were mandates:
Johnson (61%) over Goldwater in 1964
Nixon (61%) over McGovern in 1972
Reagan (59%) over Mondale in 1984

BUSH IS NOT A CONSERVATIVE

George W. Bush is not a Conservative. His policies of pre-emptive war and massive deficit spending are not conservative philosophies. It's time to stop calling Bush II a conservative and describe his as a far right-wing Republican.

WHERE'S THE CALL FOR ELECTION REFORM

After the 2000 presidential election dragged on for 36 days, you would think there would have been an outcry for changing the Electoral College. The winner-take all system in most states almost guarantees unfairness in close elections.

The 2002 election law that Congress passed did little to address systematic voter disenfranchisement. Blatant voter discouragement strategies happened again in 2004. The election process needs to become more consistent. State and local officials who administer elections should be forbidden from promoting candidates running in elections they oversee. Every voter should have the right to know that their vote was counted. After the 2000 voting scandal in Florida, how could any American precinct use a computerized system that does not support a paper trail for recount purposes?


*It's not the people who vote that count.
It's the people who count the votes.*

—Joseph Stalin (frequently quoted, but it may be an urban legend)
<http://urbanlegends.about.com/sitesearch.htm?terms=stalin%20quote&SUName=urbanlegends&TopNode=3919&type=1>

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SOCIALLY-CONSCIOUS INVESTING

Align your investments with your values



Bob Dreizler
Chartered Financial Consultant

Author of
Tending Your Money Garden

916/444.2233

2012 H St. #200,
Midtown Sacramento

bdreizler@protectedinvestors.com

Registered representative with Protected Investors of America, member NASD and SIPC

Bob Dreizler, Chartered Financial Consultant
2012 H Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95814-3110
916.444.2233

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QUOTES

Facts suggest something went very wrong on Nov. 2. Speculation focuses upon a number of questions — purposeful miscounts, anomalies surrounding electronic voting (e-voting) machines, particularly the optical scan types; and numerous reports of voting “irregularities” in heavily Democratic areas.

In three of the key battleground states — Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania — University of Pennsylvania Professor Steven F. Freeman’s analysis states the odds of Kerry receiving the percentage of votes recorded, given the exit poll findings, were less than three in one thousand, per state...(and) the odds of all three states arriving at the vote counts they did “are 250 million to one.”

— Selected Quotes from article by Ritt Goldstein, InterPress Services (Stockholm),
November 18, 2004

<http://www.commondreams.org/headlines04/1118-11.htm>

Investigative reporter Seymour Hersh’ message is simple and frightening: “(George W.) Bush is an ideologue, a Utopian... There’s nothing more dangerous than an ideologue who is completely bonkers and no one is going to tell him.” Hersh is the author of Chain of Command: The Road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib

Bush: When Even the Good News is Bad by Joyce Marcel, CommonDreams.org,
November 26, 2004

<http://www.commondreams.org/views04/1126-10.htm>

Why of course the people don’t want war ... But after all it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship ...Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger.

Hermann Goering, Nazi leader at the Nuremberg Trials after World War II,
<http://quotes.prolix.nu/>

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