

The Truth About “The Resume”

While surfing Moby’s web site one day ([Moby Online](#)), I came across one of Moby’s “journal entries” called “GW Resume”. Moby didn’t write it, but it appears to be something that started on the Internet and spread like wildfire.

“The resume” is a sarcastic stab at the President, purporting to list his “work experience”, “accomplishments”, and “references”.

It is obvious that the author isn’t a fan of George W. Bush. Unfortunately, this person isn’t a fan of the truth, either, because most of the claims made in “the resume” are completely false. For the casual reader, however, the claims seem plausible.

I’ve done the research necessary to prove most every point of “the resume” false. What follows this introduction are my findings.

The bulleted points are what “the resume” claims to be true. My responses follow the bulleted points and if you’re looking at this on a computer screen, my responses appear in blue.

In the interest of full disclosure, I need to say a few more things before proceeding. I voted for George W. Bush and I’m very impressed with his performance so far in office. I believe he is an honest man. I believe he is an intelligent man.

George W. Bush is not perfect—none of us are. But he’s also not the ignorant, controlled, corrupt frat boy that many of his critics, including “the resume”, claim him to be.

This is not a short document, but neither is “the resume”. 70 different “qualifications” are listed in the version that I read on Moby’s site and I suspect that mine is not the original version.

Enjoy!

Curt King
May 5, 2003

At one time, I had an e-mail address set up to field comments and suggestions on my work. I have since deactivated that address, simply because I do not have the time (or energy) to keep up with it.

NOTE: There are hyperlinks in this document. If you’re viewing it in Adobe Acrobat, click on the underlined link to go to the web site on which I found the information. If you’re reading a paper copy, you will not see the web addresses of some hyperlinks. You might want to refer to the PDF version of this document at:

<http://www.crossbearer.com/>

Also, all hyperlinks in the document are listed at the end of the document.

September 20, 2003

It has been almost five months since I posted the original refutation of “the resume”. Since that time, I have received probably two hundred e-mails, running probably thirty-to-one in support of my work. I thank each one of you who have e-mailed, whether you were for or against this document. I also thank those of you who did research into the subjects addressed in this document. Whether you were supporting my position or challenging it, the information that has been sent to me has made for very interesting reading.

That having been said, this is the last update I will do on this document. I simply have too many commitments, family, church, and job (in that order) to continue the research.

If you have e-mailed me with praise about my work, I thank you for taking the time to let me know. I treasure your kind words about me and my work.

Changes

May 6, 2003

- The current number of detainees at Guantanamo is not 23,000, but 650. (Source: [CNN, "U.S. detainees policy criticized"](#))
- To clarify the US Supreme Court's role in the 2000 election. There were two rulings made by the court: the first, which was a 7-2 unsigned opinion, reversed the Florida Supreme Court's order for manual recounts. As the opinion was unsigned, we don't know which justices voted on which side. The second opinion, which was signed, was a 5-4 decision terminating manual recounts. In the second decision, one Bush appointee voted with the majority (Thomas), the other voted with the minority (Souter). (Source: [CNN, "U.S. Supreme Court rules manual vote recounts unconstitutional"](#))
- Offutt is no longer the home of the Strategic Air Command. In June 1992, SAC was combined with Naval nuclear forces to form US Strategic Command. (Source: [Wikipedia, "Strategic Air Command"](#))

May 19, 2003

- I have received a number of e-mails regarding the story that GWB was AWOL for a period of months during the Vietnam War. The story, which I believed to be mainly true, is in fact false. George W. Bush did not "go AWOL" during his time in the service.

George magazine published an article entitled "The Real Military Record of George W. Bush: Not Heroic, but Not AWOL, Either". I have included that article in the section discussing Bush's military record.

I also received a very detailed e-mail from a Navy instructor in California, who asked to remain nameless:

All the cited documents so far are an assortment of standard form letters that are found in many reserve pilots records. The "smoking gun" AWOL proof cite is actually a standard report evaluation of ANG members that have transferred during an evaluation period. Each command is required to submit an evaluation record even if the member is no longer there to keep a constant an unbroken line of evaluation. The "smoking gun" terminology of "Not observed at this station" is the exact proper wording found in any members record of evaluation during a transfer which oddly the previous cited documents actually prove was the case. This is the standard evaluation extension language used in almost all military records. For the Navy the block is listed with "Not Observed" for the Army it lists "not present for evaluation". The flight suspension letter is also a commonplace form letter suspending flying till an annual physical exam is completed.

This other "smoking gun" is such a common occurrence especially in the ANG that there are other people than George Bush listed on it using the same exact terminology.

Further investigating the documents finds that the AWOL claim is merely wishful thinking by some who simply misunderstand what the military documents say or don't know how common they really are in many service members records.

As you pointed out in your investigation in the final months of George Bush's ANG reserve commitment "when Bush decided to go to business school at Harvard in the fall of 1973, he requested and got an honorable discharge--eight months before his service was scheduled to end." The military does not and cannot by regulation, issue an Honorable Discharge to anyone that has been AWOL or otherwise seriously reprimanded as the resume tries to claim.

You can find reference citation on the Resume' claimed cites of AWOL at [Bureau of Naval Personnel](#) under the Uniform Regulations Manual and PERSNET as well the manpower regulations and report evaluation procedures.

My thanks to the e-mailers who set me straight on this matter!

- Sammy Sosa was not traded to the Cubs—he was traded to the White Sox. (You mean there's two teams in Chicago? <g>) An e-mailer named “GraniteStateConservative” clears the whole mess up:

“Sosa was NOT traded to the Cubs. He was, in fact, traded to the Chicago White Sox.

As you mentioned, Sosa began his MLB career in 1989. He performed poorly, batting .238 with only 1 HR in 84 at bats. That year, he was sent to the minor leagues several times and finally traded to the Chicago White Sox. Marty Scott, the GM at the time for the Rangers, regretted in retrospect making the trade.

He stayed with the Sox for 3 years and struggled the whole time, with a batting average of .240 and averaging 9 HR per season. They also sent him to the minors, as the Rangers had, to boost his confidence, but that didn't help and so they traded Sammy, too, to their cross-town rivals. In 1992, he became a Cub-- playing in the friendly confines of Wrigley Field and hearing the dearly departed Harry Carey sing during the seventh-inning stretch.

Sosa realized that if he wanted to provide for his family here and in the Dominican Republic with the money from a big MLB contract, he had to get his act together and learn to hit the baseball. His newfound desire to improve his performance lead to better performance and the rest is history.”

September 23, 2003

- On October 31, 2002, the Independent (UK) ran an article on Russian and Albanian inspectors making a trip to Florida to observe the 2002 elections:

["Albanian and Russian Observers Sent to Monitor American Elections"](#)

Nowhere in the article does it say that President Bush refused to allow these inspectors to do their work, as is claimed by the resume. To be fair, the article doesn't say that the inspectors actually arrived. It was written a full week before the election. (Incidentally, the inspectors aren't “United Nations election inspectors”, as suggested by the resume. I still cannot find any evidence of UN inspectors being denied access.)

(Thanks to Randy Combs for the link.)

- In the section on “Signed more laws and executive orders amending the Constitution“, I made a mistake when I stated “Only Congress can pass a law amending the Constitution.” (I need to brush up on the Constitution as well!)

Here's what Article V of the Constitution says:

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; provided that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

(Thanks to Greg Gilday for setting me straight.)

- Regarding the claim “Dissolved more international treaties than any president in US history”, several folks pointed out that GWB did withdraw from the ABM Treaty with the Soviet Union/Russian Federation in 2001. This is indeed true.

(Thanks to Robert Laird, among others, for the information.)

Digging deeper, I found an interesting page that lists "List of International Obligations violated by George W. Bush":

["Bush's Crimes" at motherearth.org](#)

(Note that this web site also is pursuing the arrest and trial of GWB for "war crimes", so judge that for yourself.)

A quick read of the list brings up some issues:

- Point 2 states that the US refused to discuss a amendment to the 1972 Comprehensive Test Ban treaty. The treaty was not dissolved.
 - In many cases the US never actually joined in the agreements, so it's difficult to say that we "dissolved" them (points 3, 5, 6, 7, 11)
 - In some cases, the US "refused to participate", again making it difficult to say that we "dissolved" a treaty, since one did not exist (points 2, 8, 9, 10)
 - A number of agreements are listed as "not signed" or "signed but not ratified". The trouble is, these agreements date from 1948-1989 (points 17, 18, 19, 20, 21).
 - Point 15 cites that in 1986 the ICJ found the US guilty of "unlawful use of force" in Nicaragua. I'd love to know how GWB is responsible for that.
- The North Korea/South Korea issue: "the resume" doesn't provide any description of how the US has threatened South Korea. The claim "First US president in history to have the people of South Korea more threatened by the US than their immediate neighbor, North Korea" is difficult to challenge, since the "threat" is never defined.

I am hesitant to guess what the author of the resume was referring to, but here's a guess: the US has made it clear that we will not allow North Korea to build nuclear weapons. In doing so, we might be cornering Kim Jong Il, which destabilizes the relationship between North and South Korea. In destabilizing that relationship, the South Koreans might feel that the US is more of a threat than North Korea. (It's twisted logic, but possible.)

Continuing that line of reasoning, why might the South Koreans disapprove of the US actions toward North Korea? After all, a nuclear-armed North Korea, still at war with the South, would be posed to defeat the South once and for all.

I received an e-mail that directed me to a Rand Corporation assessment of the North-South relationship. This document will provide more detail that might better explain the situation:

[Rand Corporation, "Sunshine in Korea: The South Korean Debate over Policies Toward North Korea"](#)

(NOTE: Though the web page lists a price for the document, it is available to read for free on-line.)

(Thanks to Robert Laird for the link.)

- To the charge that GWB has "Removed more freedoms and civil liberties for Americans than any other president in US history": President Lincoln suspended the "habeas corpus" provision of the Constitution. As defined by the "Lectric Law Library":

"A writ of habeas corpus is a judicial mandate to a prison official ordering that an inmate be brought to the court so it can be determined whether or not that person is imprisoned lawfully and whether or not he should be released from custody."

Habeas corpus is one of the foundations of our republic. In 1679, the English Parliament adopted a "Habeas Corpus Act". It was included in our Constitution because of abuses in England. Simply put, it is illegal to imprison someone without showing a just cause for the imprisonment.

During the Civil War, President Lincoln suspended habeas corpus for all American citizens:

In 1861, Lincoln had already suspended civil law in territories where resistance to the North's military power would be dangerous. In 1862, when copperhead democrats began criticizing Lincoln's violation of the Constitution, Lincoln suspended habeas corpus throughout the nation and had many copperhead democrats arrested under military authority because he felt that the State Courts in the north west would not convict war protesters such as the copperheads. He proclaimed that all persons who discouraged enlistments or engaged in disloyal practices would come under Martial Law.

Among the 13,000 people arrested under martial law was a Maryland Secessionist, John Merryman. Immediately, Hon. Roger B. Taney, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States issued a writ of habeas corpus commanding the military to bring Merryman before him. The military refused to follow the writ. Justice Taney, in Ex parte MERRYMAN, then ruled the suspension of habeas corpus unconstitutional because the writ could not be suspended without an Act of Congress. President Lincoln and the military ignored Justice Taney's ruling.

Finally, in 1866, after the war, the Supreme Court officially restored habeas corpus in Ex-parte Milligan, ruling that military trials in areas where the civil courts were capable of functioning were illegal.

(Source: Civil-Liberties.com, "[Did President Lincoln suspend the U.S. Constitution?](http://Civil-Liberties.com)")

John Adams' administration passed the Alien and Sedition Acts, which allowed the government to arrest and detain US citizens simply for writing or speaking out against the government:

u-s-History.com, "[The John Adams Administration: Alien and Sedition Acts](http://u-s-History.com)"

Both Lincoln and Adams' actions were later repealed.

The Patriot Act doesn't provide for the arrest of US citizens without cause, as Lincoln did (13,000 Americans were arrested under Lincoln's suspension of habeas corpus). Neither does it provide for the arrest of US citizens who speak or write against the government, as Adams' Sedition Acts did. It is impossible to say that GWB has removed more freedoms than any other president.

(Thanks to Robert Laird for the information.)

- President Bush and the economy: I received several e-mails encouraging me to do more research on the issue of "Entered office with the strongest economy in US history and in less than two years turned every single economic category heading straight down."

I received a document from Scott Jordan, who did a great deal of research to disprove that President Bush inherited a strong economy. In fact, when he took office, most every indicator had been heading down for a year or more:

Scott Jordan, "[Just the Facts: Who's Responsible for the Recession?](http://Scott Jordan)"

Second is an article by Robert Novak (yes, a conservative) regarding Democratic manipulation of the econometric stats in the election year of 2000:

Robert Novak, "[Clinton-cooked books?](http://Robert Novak)" (at townhall.com)

(Thanks to Scott Jordan and Steve Long for the information.)

- Biggest Annual Deficit: Bush's deficit is not the largest in American History if you take into account Gross Domestic Product (GDP). When the deficit is measured as a percentage of GDP, Bush's is actually smaller than many of the presidents before him:

U.S. House of Representatives, "[Surplus or Deficit as a Percentage of GDP](http://U.S. House of Representatives)"

- Stock Market Fraud: The scandals that came to light in 2001 and 2002 result from corruption that dates back well before Bush took office. It is correct to point out that he was in office when the scandals broke, but no serious source points to him as the cause of the fraud.
- Also, I've added a section called "Frequently Heard Complaints". It follows this section.

September 27, 2003

Yeah, I know I said, "No more updates". But when it involves errors on my part, I had to make corrections.

- Eric Rudolph was captured on May 31, 2003. At the time of the original writing (May 6th and May 20th), he had not been caught. I didn't even notice it in the September 23 update.
- The United States is a member of the International Court of Justice, which was formed from the old Permanent Court of International Justice. While the US was not a member of the old Court, we became members of the newly established court by virtue of our membership in the United Nations.

According to the Columbia Encyclopedia:

"The United States excludes all disputes concerning domestic matters from the court's jurisdiction, reserving the right to determine what it regards as domestic."

(Thanks to Joe Donohue for setting me straight!)

FHCs (Frequently Heard Complaints)

I've probably received ten e-mails (out of 200 or so) that are critical of my rebuttal to "the resume". The same arguments appear in many of the e-mails, and I thought I'd be wise to list those common complaints here, with my responses. All of these are real e-mails I've received.

"You are an idiot."

This is not a common complaint (only once), but it's my favorite. I don't really have a response.

If you could, I'd like to see a real resume about yourself: your background, who you are, where do you work, etc. This would help me evaluate the validity of the evaluator.

I'm 32, a husband and father, and work for a large county court system as a computer programmer. I have a master's degree from the University of South Carolina. (Go Gamecocks!)

You mix opinion with facts. You should keep your opinions out of it.

In an ideal world, yes. But I make no bones about the fact that I'm a fan of George W. Bush. This document is intended to refute the claims made by "the resume" and to give ammunition to those who are fighting the lies and spin of the left.

Why did you mention Clinton, Bush, Reagan, etc.? You're not addressing the point about Bush!

I only cited past presidents for two reasons:

- 1) To refute the claim the GWB was the "first", "most", or "worst" at something. In answering the charge "Signed more laws and executive orders amending the Constitution than any president in US history", I needed to show that other presidents signed more than GWB did.
- 2) In several places, the resume implies that GWB is unique in some way. Examples:

"Ran for congress and lost."

"With father's help (and his name) was elected Governor of Texas"

I needed to show that GWB was, in fact, not unique. As an answer to the claim, I cited other presidents and/or politicians who have done the same.

You can prove anything with statistics.

Indeed you can. Look at the “ice cream-crime” connection:

Studies have shown that the crime rate typically increases in the summer months. Studies have also shown that the consumption of ice cream increases in the summer months. A study comparing ice cream consumption and crime rate might very well reveal that the two are correlated; the more ice cream consumed, the higher the crime rate tends to be. Having said that, it obviously cannot be inferred that eating ice cream causes people to commit more crime; nor can it be established that doing crime causes people to crave ice cream. Such statements are an attempt at establishing causation, and the lunacy of such statements drives home the point: correlation does not equal causation. (From “The Tech Report”, [“BFG vs. Ph.D.: Examining a study on video game violence”](#))

So you’re free to dispute my statistics with ones of your own. I provide far more documentation for my arguments than does “the resume.”

What about the ABM treaty?

Yup, this one I missed. GWB did indeed withdraw from the ABM treaty in 2001. I honestly didn’t find anything about that in the searches I did. (Remember, I only had the phrase “dissolved international treaties” to go on.) You’re welcome to say that I didn’t research it well enough, or that I intentionally left out the facts.

I have corrected the problem with a page from “motherearth.org” which lists “International Obligations Violated by George W. Bush”. It’s a far more detailed list than just “treaties” and is questionable as to its claims (it faults GWB for the 1986 World Court ruling about illegal use of force in Nicaragua.)

In claim “X”, the resume really meant to say “Y”.

It may have. It didn’t. I didn’t attempt to read the mind of the author of the resume; I just answered the claim the resume made.

You say that “you have to go back to Ronald Reagan’s landslide in 1984 to find a candidate with more popular votes [as GWB]”. But Al Gore had more popular votes!

Correct. I should have said “winning candidate.” Al Gore was not the winner. (No, he wasn’t.)

What I was attempting to argue was this: The national popular vote has nothing to do with the presidential election. But Gore supporters like to point out that GWB lost the popular vote and is therefore not a “legitimate” president. My point is that if you put so much faith into the popular vote, GWB received more popular votes than did Bush in 1988, or Clinton in 1992 and 1996. No one claims that the Bush or Clinton presidencies were illegitimate, and Clinton actually called his 43% “a mandate”.

I didn’t make my point as clear as I should have, and the missing word “winning” didn’t help.

Omit apostrophes in decades and centuries: 1900s, 1970s.

Yep, this was a real criticism.

You must have a lot of time on your hands to write something like this.

No, actually I don't. But I felt it was important enough to respond to the lies and slander being spread about President Bush. Edmund Burke said "'All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing." I couldn't stand by and "do nothing."

Dude, it was just an e-mail. Do you really take e-mails that seriously?

Actually, I saw it reposted on a web site. And if you go to Google and do a search on "George Bush Resume", you get 236,000 hits. Obviously, all 236,000 hits do not refer to "the resume" I'm rebutting, but at least the first 32 pages of search results do. Hundreds of web sites have reposted the original "resume", and I felt it necessary to set the record straight.

George Bush is a liar, is dummer than a hammer his IQ is somewhere between a houseplant and the dirt in which it is planted. He is a deserter and should be convicted and sentenced as such. His proficiency of English is deplorable for a President. I have met more astute garbage collectors. He and his families and cronies underhanded business dealings should be cause for review, tried, convicted and sentenced. And you have the gaul to support the worm-actually I hold higher regard for worms, he is less than a worm. He and his family are a virus starting with his grand-daddy. Have a nice Day and BTW see a good opthamologist as you are most certainly blind or very near blind.

Another real e-mail. (Spelling and grammar intact.)

George W. Bush Resume

Past work experience

- Ran for congress and lost.

Every president in modern history has lost an election at some point:

Clinton -- Clinton lost his bid for reelection for Arkansas governor in 1980

Bush, Sr. -- Lost to Clinton in bid for reelection in 1992

Reagan -- Lost race for GOP nomination in 1976

Carter -- Lost to Reagan in bid for reelection in 1980.

Ford -- Lost to Carter in bid for reelection in 1976.

Nixon -- Lost race for presidency in 1960

- Bought an oil company, but couldn't find any oil in Texas, company went bankrupt shortly after I sold all my stock.

Bush was not a tremendous success in the oil business. But the allegation here appears to be that Bush sold his stock to "cash out" before the company went bankrupt. Bush sold his stock for \$4.00 per share. A year later, the stock was valued at \$8.00 per share. The company, Harken Energy Corporation, is still functioning.

More info: [CNN, "Bush as businessman: How the Texas governor made his millions"](#)

- Bought the Texas Rangers baseball team in a sweetheart deal that took land using tax-payer money. Biggest move: Traded Sammy Sosa to the Chicago Cubs.

Bush only owned 5% of the team.

Sammy Sosa only played for the Rangers for 25 games. His record as a Ranger? 84 at-bats, and only 1 home run. His batting average was .238. (Source: [ESPN.com, "Sammy Sosa"](#))

The Rangers aren't the only team to have built a taxpayer-funded stadium, either: Since the early 1950s, only one baseball stadium was built without taxpayer money, while 19 baseball stadiums were 100 percent taxpayer-funded. (Source: [Small Business Survival Committee, "You're Out: Corporate Welfare for Major League Baseball"](#))

What have been the results of the new ballpark built by the taxpayers of Arlington? CNN: "Fans love the stadium. And the team has flourished financially."

(Source: [CNN, "Bush as businessman: How the Texas governor made his millions"](#))

(Correction on 5/19—Sosa was traded to the White Sox, not Cubs. See "Changes".)

- With father's help (and his name) was elected Governor of Texas.

No evidence is provided of any illegal, immoral, or unethical influence exerted by George Bush in his son's election. It is true that George W Bush has a famous surname that may have helped him get elected. The same might be said of Ted Kennedy, Al Gore, and Hillary Clinton.

Accomplishments

- Changed pollution laws for power and oil companies and made Texas the most polluted state in the Union.

Here are the facts: Texas leads the nation in reduction of toxic releases. Texas has led the nation in the reduction of toxic releases by 43 million pounds from 1995 to 1998 (during GWB's tenure as governor). It is not the most polluted state in the nation. According to the Environmental Protection Agency's 1998 Toxic Release Inventory (the most recent data available from the EPA, released in May 2000), Texas dropped from first to fifth place in 1998 (while GWB was still governor) for total emissions to the air, water and soil.

- Replaced Los Angeles with Houston as the most smog-ridden city in America.

Houston does not lead the nation in air pollution. Los Angeles surpassed Houston in 2000 (while GWB was still governor) in ozone exceedances. Through July 17, 2000 Los Angeles exceeded the federal ozone standard on 17 days, compared to Houston's 13 days. (Associated Press, 8/7/00).

Much more on Bush's Texas environmental record can be found at:

[PoliticsAndElections.com, "Setting The Record Straight Gore Pollutes Governor Bush's Environmental Record"](#)

This is a Bush-Cheney press release from 2000, but much of it is corroborated by outside sources, as illustrated by the Associated Press citation above.

- Cut taxes and bankrupted the Texas government to the tune of billions in borrowed money.

A Wall Street Journal article finds different results: "Finally, there is the question of the fiscal record of George W. Bush while he was Texas governor. Mr. Bush racked up a decent, but not a dazzling, pro-taxpayer record. He came into office promising tax cuts, tort reform, a lighter regulatory burden for business, and stringent education standards. Mr. Bush delivered on each of those promises, more or less. He signed two of the largest tax cuts in Texas history. But Mr. Bush could leave conservatives frustrated. This is a politician who seems to always want to please everyone. As the Austin Statesman wrote of Mr. Bush's final budget: "He took a \$6 billion surplus, cut taxes by \$1.5 billion and spent most of the rest." Still, the latest comptroller report indicates that Texas still has a \$1 billion-plus budget surplus." (WSJ, 2/12/01)

- Set record for most executions by any Governor in American history.

The death penalty is law in Texas and—believe it or not—the governor does not have the power to execute people. In fact, the governor only has the power to stay an execution for 30 days. The governor is powerless in Texas to grant pardons or clemency:

“Prior to a 1934 constitutional amendment, the governor had independent pardon powers. The amendment removing these powers was added after Jim and Miriam Ferguson were accused of selling clemency during her term as Governor. In modern times, governors have used what clemency powers they have been left with sparingly. As the application of the death penalty in the state has come under increasing scrutiny and criticism, and new technology has been made available to review old cases, governors have used reprieves to deflect criticism by allowing for further review of death penalty cases. These incidents have been rare, given the weak opposition to capital punishment. In cases where there is some compelling question about carrying out an execution, governors are ultimately in a safe position. Granting a thirty-day reprieve can appear judicious but not overly soft on criminals, as the governor cannot prevent an execution on his or her own. Yet in the event a mistake is found and a wrongful execution prevented, the governor is likely to appear careful and just. Still, Texas governors have granted such reprieves relatively rarely.” (“Texas Politics, The Executive Branch”, Texas Politics at The University of Texas, "7. The Governor and the Judiciary")

- Became president after losing the popular vote by over 500,000 votes, with the help of my father’s appointments to the Supreme Court.

The popular vote doesn’t elect the president: the Electoral College does.

[Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution, Cornell University](#)
[The Twelfth Amendment to the Constitution](#)

Incidentally, George W. Bush received more popular votes than did his father in 1992 and Bill Clinton in both his elections. In fact, you have to go back to Ronald Reagan’s landslide in 1984 to find a **winning** candidate with more popular votes. (Source: [President Elect](#))

Of the nine justices currently serving on the Supreme Court, two were appointed by George Bush Sr.—Clarence Thomas and David Souter. This is important, so please take note. Two appointments. ([Supreme Court, "Members of the Supreme Court of the United States"](#))

The “resume” says that GWB became president “with the help of my father’s appointments to the Supreme Court. “ There’s only one problem with that: President Bush the elder appointed two justices to the Supreme Court. The ruling that ended the recounts in Florida was a 7-to-2 vote. Even if President Bush’s two appointees had voted in favor the Florida Supreme Court, the vote would have still been 5-to-4. ([Infoplease.com, "2000 Election Chronology"](#))

To counter the critics’ claim that the US Supreme Court’s decision was “bought”, there is a 65-page opinion (and dissent) which enumerates the precedents that the Supreme Court used in making their ruling. ([CNN, "Supreme Court Opinion - Bush v. Gore - December 13, 2000"](#))

There’s a clarification to this issue in the “Changes” section at the beginning of the document.

Accomplishments as president

- Attacked and took over two countries.

Afghanistan's Taliban regime was displaced by US intervention in 2002. A government led by Afghans is currently in power:

[CNN, "Karzai elected as Afghan leader"](#)

As to why we "attacked and took over" in Afghanistan, I refer you to the 2000 report by Amnesty International:

"Human rights abuses by the warring factions against members of rival ethnic groups occurred throughout 1999. Taleban forces burned homes, destroyed orchards, wheat fields and irrigation systems and forcibly displaced more than 100,000 mainly Tajik people. The UN imposed financial and aviation sanctions on the Taleban for not surrendering Osama bin Laden to stand trial for his alleged involvement in US embassy bombings in August 1998. Women, children, human rights defenders, members of ethnic groups, people accused of homosexual activity, and refugees were systematically targeted by the Taleban and other warring factions on the basis of their identity. Taleban courts imposed sentences of death, amputation and flogging after apparently unfair trials." ([Source: Amnesty International](#))

As for Iraq, we removed Saddam Hussein from power. Here are just a couple of articles detailing the abuses of his regime:

[Amnesty International, "Annual Report 2000"](#)

[Sports Illustrated, "Son of Saddam"](#)

But the reason we gave for attacking Iraq was Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and violation of the UN resolutions 660, 678, and 1441. Here's the evidence for that:

The United States has documented violations of these UN resolutions since the end of Desert Storm in 1991. In fact, UN Ambassador Bill Richardson, of the Clinton Administration, testified in 1997 about the Iraqi non-compliance:

[Federation Of American Scientists, "UNSCOM List Of Iraqi Weapons Violations"](#)

The Bush administration laid out its case for the Iraqi invasion by detailing each UN resolution and the [UN's own conclusion](#) that said resolutions had been violated:

[White House, "Saddam Hussein's Defiance of United Nations Resolutions"](#)

- Spent the surplus and bankrupted the treasury.

As a quick reading of the Constitution will attest, the President has no power to spend. That power lies with Congress.

- Shattered record for biggest annual deficit in history.

Again, spending power resides with Congress.

(GWB's deficit, when measured against GDP, is not the largest in history. More information in the "Changes" section.)

- Set economic record for most private bankruptcies filed in any 12-month period.

Bankruptcies have been on the rise since 1940, with the exception of a few years. The Cato Institute statistics only show data through 1997, but the trend is clear.

Cato Institute, "Ballooning Bankruptcies"

The claim that GWB set a record for the most private bankruptcies in one year can be made about every president since Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Look at the reasons most often cited for filing personal bankruptcies:

Credit card bills 63%	Lawsuit/legal bills 12%
Job loss/cut in pay 50%	Taxes 10%
Mismanagement of personal finances 37%	College expenses 8%
Medical bills 28%	Death in family 7%
Difficulty with business 15%	Gambling 2%
Divorce/marital breakup 13%	

I don't think anyone would argue that the increase in private bankruptcies is a good thing, but the blame cannot be laid at the feet of any president. At the same time bankruptcies have increased, so has consumer debt. Interestingly, between 1990 and 1997, credit card solicitations tripled from 1 to 3 billion per year.

- Set all-time record for biggest drop in the history of the stock market.

Facts on File disagrees:

"The largest stock-market drop in Wall Street history occurred on "Black Monday" -- October 19, 1987 -- when the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 508.32 points, losing 22.6% of its total value."

If you'd like to suggest that the phrase "biggest drop" refers to a period of time and not a single day, then Bush isn't to blame either:

The Ten Worst Stock Market Crashes of All Time (as of 10/28/02)

Source: About.com

Date Started	Date Ended	Number of Days	Total Loss
4/17/1930	7/8/1932	813	-86.0%
3/10/1937	3/31/1938	386	-49.1%
1/19/1906	11/15/1907	665	-48.5%
9/3/1929	11/13/1929	71	-47.9%
11/3/1919	8/24/1921	660	-46.6%
6/17/1901	11/9/1903	875	-46.1%
1/11/1973	12/06/1974	694	-45.1%
9/12/1939	4/28/1942	959	-40.4%
11/21/1916	12/19/1917	393	-40.1%
9/7/1932	2/27/1933	173	-37.2%

- First president in decades to execute a federal prisoner.

The first federal prisoner "in decades" to be executed was Timothy McVeigh, who was responsible for 168 deaths at the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, including children in the building's day care center. The federal death penalty is law. Regardless of your opinion on the death penalty, it is hard to have any sympathy for Timothy McVeigh.

FYI, Bush did not actually execute the prisoner, as "the resume" implies.

- First president in US history to enter office with a criminal record.

I will not dispute that President Bush was arrested in 1976 for driving under the influence. He has admitted it, though understandably he didn't volunteer the information. For a complete story, here's a link:

[CNN, "Bush acknowledges 1976 DUI charge"](#)

I will leave it up to the reader to determine what other presidents have had such indiscretions, yet were never caught.

- First year in office set the all-time record for most days on vacation by any president in US history.

No proof is provided by "the resume", and I can find none.

- After taking the entire month of August off for vacation, presided over the worst security failure in US history in September.

Here's a few notes on the President's schedule for August 2001:

August 1, 2001:	Nominated six US Attorneys, two judges for affirmation by Congress. Placed phone calls to PM Blair and Ahern to discuss matters between Britain and Northern Ireland. President announces an agreement on the Patients Bill of Rights President addresses National Urban League Conference
August 2, 2001:	President meets with House and Senate education leaders.
August 3, 2001:	Placed six more nominations for US Attorneys. President speaks to press at meeting to discuss his first six months in office and the agenda for the future. President attends a ceremony in East Room honoring Lance Armstrong.
August 4, 2001:	President's Radio Address
August 7, 2001:	Press conference in Waco, TX with pool of reporters.
August 8, 2001:	President helps build a home with Habitat For Humanity, then addresses the group on faith-based and community initiatives.
August 9, 2001:	Addressed the nation on stem-cell research.
August 10, 2001:	Announces nomination of two US Ambassadors.
August 11, 2001:	President's Radio Address
August 13, 2001:	Presidential Ceremony to sign the Agriculture Supplemental Bill. President holds two press conferences with traveling White House pool.

The rest of the month had just as much, if not more, activity. I will omit it here to save space, but you can find complete information at the following sites:

[White House, "News releases for August 2001"](#)
[White House Press Briefing, August 1, 2001](#)
[White House Press Briefing, August 3, 2001](#)
[White House Press Briefing, August 9, 2001](#)
[White House Press Briefing, August 22, 2001](#)
[White House Press Briefing, August 31, 2001](#)

The President was in Texas from August 7-13 and 21-25. The rest of the month was spent traveling to New Mexico, Colorado, Wisconsin, Missouri and then back to Washington at the end of the month. A review of the White House news archive for August 2001 shows this month to be anything but a "vacation". It is naïve to think that the President spent an entire month doing nothing, as "the resume" implies.

- Set the record for most campaign fund-raising trips than any other president in US history.

No proof is provided by "the resume", and I can find none.

- In my first two years in office over 2 million Americans lost their job.

President Bush took office in January 2001. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has data for 2001 and 2002 on their web site:

Bureau of Labor Statistics Data

If you assume that GWB is responsible for what happened in 2001, which I believe is a faulty assumption, then 2.5 million Americans were added to the unemployment rolls during his first two years in office. I suggest that the 2001 statistics probably should be attributed to Clinton policies, though that is a subject for some debate.

Are 2.5 million jobs lost in two years unprecedented in history? Hardly. Here are some other examples of such a drop:

1954: 1.7 million added to the unemployment rolls (1.04% of the population)
1958: 1.7 million added to the unemployment rolls (.97% of the population)
1970-1971: 2.2 million added to the unemployment rolls (1.05% of the population)
1974-1975: 3.6 million added to the unemployment rolls (1.67% of the population)
1981-1982: 2.4 million added to the unemployment rolls (1.02% of the population)
1991-1992: 2.6 million added to the unemployment rolls (1.02% of the population)

What's interesting is that based on population change, the 2001-2002 job loss is only .77% of the population—significantly lower than the other six periods of evaluation.

US Population Estimates Historical Population Numbers

I would never argue that 2.2 million Americans losing their jobs is insignificant, but it is not unprecedented in other economic downturns in US history.

- Cut unemployment benefits for more out of work Americans than any president in US history.

I have searched CNN's database for the past three years and can find no evidence that President Bush ever cut unemployment benefits. The closest I came was this:

CNN, "800,000 jobless workers to lose benefits"

In December 2002, unemployment benefits for 800,000 Americans expired. Congress did not pass legislation that would have extended those benefits. However, two weeks earlier, the President had encouraged Congress to extend benefits:

CNN, "Bush wants unemployment benefits extended"

Benefits were lost to these 800,000 workers on December 28 and Congress passed legislation on January 8 to renew benefits to these workers. President Bush signed the bill immediately.

- Set the all-time record for most foreclosures in a 12-month period.

Unfortunately, foreclosures have been on the rise since at least 1980. According to Mr. Irv Ackelsberg, Managing Attorney of Community Legal Services, Inc:

“Between 1980 and 1999 both the number and the rate of home foreclosures in the United States have skyrocketed. The absolute number of foreclosures rose 277%. This means that although this was a period of economic prosperity, almost four times the number of homes were foreclosed upon in 1999 as in 1980.”

Mr. Ackelsberg testified before Congress in 2001 and cited four reasons for the increased number of foreclosures:

- the deregulation of home lending laws;
- the limitation of tax deductibility of consumer debt to home secured loans;
- the increases in real estate values which has expanded availability of home equity for many households; and
- the proliferation of mortgage brokers.

Mr. Ackelsberg’s report to the Senate Banking committee can be found online:

[U.S. Senate, "Hearing on "Predatory Mortgage Lending: The Problem, Impact and Responses."](#)

To emphasize one important point of the above quote, I will repeat it here: “This means that although this was a period of economic prosperity, almost four times the number of homes were foreclosed upon in 1999 as in 1980.” There does not appear to be a direct correlation between economic prosperity and foreclosures, nor between presidential policies and foreclosures.

I would never diminish the effect of foreclosures on individuals, but to pin this one on Mr. Bush ignores the evidence.

- Appointed more convicted criminals to administration positions than any president in US history.

There’s no evidence provided here for this claim and I can find none on my own. I did, however, find statistics on Mr. Bush’s predecessor, Bill Clinton:

Number of individuals and businesses associated with the Clinton Administration who have been convicted of or pleaded guilty to crimes	47
Number of these convictions during Clinton's presidency	33
Number of indictments/misdemeanor charges	61
Number of imprisonments	14
Number of congressional witnesses who have pled the 5th Amendment, fled the country to avoid testifying, or (in the case of foreign witnesses refused to be interviewed) as of 9/99)	122
Source: TheVRWC.org	

I know that this does not refute the argument that “the resume” makes. However, since they felt no need to prove their claim, I didn’t feel the need to help them. What is clear is that the Bush administration has quite a way to go in order to surpass the Clinton record.

- Set the record for the least amount of press conferences than any president since the advent of television.

According to a study done by Richard Strout in 1966 (reprinted in Nieman Reports):

Roosevelt had just under 1,000 conferences. Mr. Truman, if my figures are right, had well over 300; General Eisenhower cut the number down to 200, and President Kennedy in his bright 1,000 days had a conference about once a fortnight.

Alas, this tradition has not continued in recent days. President Johnson has been one of the most accessible men to the press of any President, that is, in informal gatherings, meetings with individual bureau chiefs, or tips to favorite correspondents. But as for formal press conferences, I can only figure that he had nine last year. So far in 1966 he has held only a few.

Strout criticizes LBJ for not having more press conferences, so the criticism of Bush is nothing new.

However, the point that GWB has held fewer press conferences than other presidents is valid. Here are the numbers, researched by Martha Joynt Kumar, a Towson University political science professor who specializes in presidential communication:

“At the same point in their presidencies, President Bill Clinton had held 30 solo news conferences (that is, without a foreign leader at a twin lectern) and Bush’s father had held 58, according to research by Martha Joynt Kumar, a Towson University political science professor who specializes in presidential communication.

After two years and 45 days in office, President Ronald Reagan had held 16 solo news conferences, President Jimmy Carter had held 45, President Gerald Ford had held 37, President Richard M. Nixon had held 16 and President Lyndon B. Johnson had held 52.” (Quote from “Bush’s Distaste for News Conferences Keeps Them Rare” by Mike Allen, Washington Post, March 7, 2003)

As of March 7, 2003, GWB had held 8 formal press conferences. So while it is true that he has held fewer than any other modern president, the numbers are not so vastly different.

- Signed more laws and executive orders amending the Constitution than any president in US history.

President Bush has not signed any laws amending the US Constitution. Only Congress can pass a law amending the Constitution and they have not done so since 1978. (Source: The United States Constitution Online)

(There is a second method of amending the Constitution cited in Article V of the Constitution. See “Changes” for more information.)

As to Executive Orders, Bush isn't even close to signing "more...than any president in US history: ([Source: List of Executive Orders at the National Archives](#))

President	Number of Orders Signed	Years in Office	Orders Per Year
GWB	99	2	50
Clinton	363	8	45
Bush	165	4	41
Reagan	380	8	48
Carter	319	4	80
Ford	168	2	84
Nixon	345	6	58
Johnson	323	5	65
Kennedy	213	3	71

A quick glance of the [Executive Orders of George W Bush](#) at will reveal their sinister nature:

"Increasing Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Federal Programs" (Executive Order 13125)

"Prohibition of Acquisition of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor" (Executive Order 13126)

"Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions With the Taliban" (Executive Order 13129)

Just to clarify one point: there seems to be a suggestion that Executive Orders are some sort of secret, evil machination of presidents. Not so: every Executive Order is available for review on the government's own web site:

[Federal Register, "Executive Orders Disposition Tables January 8, 1937 – August 28, 2003"](#)

- Presided over the biggest energy crises in US history and refused to intervene when corruption was revealed.

I'd suggest that the energy crises of the early 1970's were worse. Here's an article describing the conditions during those crises:

[Mainchance.org, "Remember the '73-'74 gas lines?"](#)

- Presided over the highest gasoline prices in US history and refused to use the national reserves as past presidents have.

Using California as an example, the first part of this claim is blatantly false:

(Source: [California Energy Commission](#))

Year	Adjusted Price	Year	Adjusted Price	Year	Adjusted Price	Year	Adjusted Price
1970	1.32	1979	<u>1.92</u>	1988	1.26	1996	1.48 (peak \$1.73)
1971	1.31	1980	<u>2.41</u>	1989	1.31	1997	1.46 (peak \$1.58)
1972	1.23	1981	<u>2.42</u>	1990	1.41	1998	1.26 (peak \$1.35)
1973	1.28	1982	<u>2.11</u>	1991	1.44	1999	1.46 (peak \$1.74)
1974	1.62	1983	<u>1.82</u>	1992	1.34	2000	1.74 (peak \$1.94)
1975	1.64	1984	<u>1.77</u>	1993	1.46	2001	1.68 (peak \$2.00)
1976	1.62	1985	1.69	1994	1.41	2002	1.53 (peak \$1.64)
1977	1.61	1986	1.30	1995	1.41	2003	1.74 (peak \$2.01)
1978	1.52	1987	1.28				

As to the second part of the claim, GWB has long favored using our oil reserves in Alaska (ANWR), but has been vehemently opposed by wildlife and environmental groups.

[Presidential Press Conference, March 29, 2001](#)

["Remarks by the President in Question and Answer Session with the Press", January 29, 2001](#)

Finally, the use of the [Strategic Petroleum Reserve](#) by “past presidents” is somewhat fallacious. Senator Charles Schumer, Democrat from New York, urged President Clinton to use oil from the SPR to stem a crisis in 2000. “Schumer said presidents have exercised the power at least three times in the past -- twice simply to boost federal revenue to help balance the budget.” So the claim that past presidents have used the SPR to relieve high gasoline prices, as the “resume” clearly implies, is fallacious as well. (Source: [US House web site](#))

- Cut health care benefits for war veterans.

Without a date or more specific information, I'm not sure what they're referring to.

(I originally had a link to an article from “The Day Publishing Company” which addressed Congressman Rob Simmons’ (R-CT) concern over veterans issues. Unfortunately, the link is now dead.)

Here’s a summary of the facts directly from the House Budget Committee:

[House Budget Committee Talking Points on Veterans Benefits](#)

Spending has increased every year since 1998, and the above document provides details on the individual spending increases in categories such as VA Hospitals, compensation, benefits, and education.

- Set the all-time record for most people worldwide to simultaneously take to the streets to protest me (15 million people), shattering the record for protest against any person in the history of mankind. (<http://www.hyperreal.org/~dana/marches/>)

Hey, finally they cite some evidence! Unfortunately, the web site they point to is simply pictures from protests held on March 14 and 15, 2003. The protesters seem to be against a potential war in Iraq, which is interesting because that would not indicate that they were protesting President Bush alone, rather they were protesting the concept of a war in Iraq. Considering that the war was supported by more than 30 countries, the "resume" has presented another false claim.

I would opine that if you're convinced that your beliefs are right, it doesn't matter how many people protest against them.

- Dissolved more international treaties than any president in US history.

I've searched CNN and Google's news search and can't find any treaty that the president has dissolved. The State Department's web site lists 500 pages of treaties currently in force:

[State Department, "A List of Treaties and Other International Agreements..."](#)

If anyone wants to do the research, go at it. "The resume" offered no proof and I found none.

(I have been informed by a number of people that GWB withdrew from the ABM Treaty. Information on this and much more is available in the "Changes" section.)

- My presidency is the most secretive and un-accountable of any in US history.

How do you go about arguing this? With no evidence cited, I can't refute it.

- Members of my cabinet are the richest of any administration in US history. (the 'poorest' multi-millionaire, Condoleeza Rice has an Exxon oil tanker named after her).

Yes, this one's true. Bush has 13 millionaires in his Cabinet (out of 16 secretaries), while Clinton had 7 and Bush Sr. had 6:

[Asheville Global Report, "Multi-millionaires make Bush's team richest in history"](#)

And the "oil tanker" story? True, except it's Chevron, not Exxon. (Source: [Multinational Monitor web site](#))

Now, the question is this: why is being rich a crime? Why is it wrong to have rich people in your Cabinet? Generally speaking, people who are qualified to serve in positions such as Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State are people who have done well in their field. People who are successful generally make more money.

- Presided over the biggest corporate stock market fraud of any market in any country in the history of the world.

“Presiding” is what a “President” does. In that sense, he was in office while fraud occurred, but no serious claim has been made that he had any hand in it. It’s kind of like saying “President Carter presided over the Olympic Hockey team’s gold medal in 1980.” No one seriously thinks he had anything to do with it.

(Most of the stock market fraud that has been alleged – Worldcom, Global Crossing, Enron – was actually committed in the period before GWB took office. See “Changes” for details.)

- Created the largest government department bureaucracy in the history of the United States.

I suspect we’re talking here about the Department of Homeland Security, which was created in 2003 and combines the work of the Secret Service, Coast Guard, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Customs Service and the Transportation Security Administration.

The Associated Press refers to the creation of the department as the “the largest government reorganization since the Defense Department was created in 1947.”

Since this agency combines the work of already existing agencies and consolidates efforts, I’m not sure how this could be a bad thing, but I’ll leave that up to you to decide.

(Source: mindfully.org)

- Set the all-time record for biggest annual budget spending increases, more than any president in US history.

Time to cite directly from the Constitution:

“The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States...” (Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 – Source: [US House web site](#))

There’s a great summary of the US Budget Process on the House’s web site:

[Us House Of Representatives, "The Annual Budget Process"](#)

In a nutshell, the President is not required to submit a budget, but normally does. It is considered a starting point for the Congressional Budget, which is eventually passed and sent on to the President for his signature.

To reiterate, [the President does not spend the money](#) – Congress does.

- First president in US history to have the United Nations remove the US from the human rights commission.

On May 4, 2001, the United States was voted off of the UN Human Rights commission. Why?

From [GlobalPolicy.org's](#) reporting on the vote:

"Amnesty International USA called the removal of the United States from the commission "part of an effort by nations that routinely violate human rights to escape scrutiny." Amnesty accused members of commission of failing to do their job, succumbing instead to political and economic pressures. "The U.S. was among the few nations willing to actively push for condemnation at the U.N.H.R.C. of the brutal human rights violations committed by nations like China," it said.

At Human Rights Watch, Joanna Weschler, the group's representative at the United Nations, said the commission was becoming "a rogues' gallery of human rights abusers." But she added: "It wasn't just enemies. It was friends as well who voted the U.S. out of the commission." Friends of the United States in Europe and elsewhere have grown increasingly impatient, disappointed and annoyed with actions by Washington."

More information from the group Human Rights Watch can be found at:

[Human Rights Watch, "U.N. Rights Body Admits Abusive Members"](#)
[Human Rights Watch, "UN News Summary"](#)

It should be noted that the current members include Cuba, Sudan, and China: nations that routinely kill political prisoners and suppress human rights. A complete list of the UN Human Rights Commission can be found at:

[United Nations, "Membership of the Commission on Human Rights"](#)

The United States is once again a member of the Commission.

- First president in US history to have the United Nations remove the US from the elections monitoring board.

First, the United Nations doesn't have an "elections monitoring board"; however, they do have an "Electoral Assistance Division". Here's the web site:

[United Nations, "United Nations Electoral Assistance: A System-Wide Endeavor"](#)

Second, the UN doesn't appear to have a committee or board that is comprised by nations, such as the Security Council or Human Rights Commission. Instead they have a "roster of experts" which assists in election monitoring worldwide.

Finally, I can't find any evidence that the UN removed the US from anything having to do with election monitoring over the last three years.

If anyone knows what the "resume" refers to on this point, please let me know.

- Removed more checks and balances, and have the least amount of congressional oversight than any presidential administration in US history.

No evidence is cited for this, so I'm not sure what they're referring to. I could find no evidence of the dissolution of any Congressional committees of oversight, so I'm not sure what to argue.

- Withdrew from the World Court of Law.

There is no such thing as the "World Court of Law." There is a body popularly known as the "World Court", though its official name is the Permanent Court of International Justice. According to the Columbia Encyclopedia, the United States was never a member of the World Court, because the Senate refused to ratify the protocol:

[The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition, 2001, "World Court"](#)

(Correction: The International Court of Justice is the body that currently exists and was formed from the old Permanent Court of International Justice in 1945. We were not members of the original court, but are members of the new court by virtue of our membership in the United Nations.) More information is available in the "Changes" section.

What the Bush Administration did do, however, is remove the United States from an agreement to establish an International Criminal Court:

[BBC News, "US renounces world court treaty"](#)

Incidentally, as of May 6, 2002, when the United States removed itself from the agreement, here are some of the other nations that refused entry into the new court: China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iraq, Turkey, Egypt, Iran, Israel and Russia.

- Refused to allow inspectors access to US prisoners of war and by default no longer abide by the Geneva Conventions.

This is blatantly false. Red Cross officials have reviewed the conditions at Guantanamo Bay, where the Afghan detainees are being held, as well as the conditions of the Iraqi POWs. CNN has written a story addressing the Geneva Convention and its salient points:

[CNN, "What's fair in war?"](#)

There are two issues raised by the CNN piece:

- No hearings have been held to establish the status of the 23,000 (corrected: 650) detainees at Guantanamo (Corrected on 5/6, see "Changes" section for more info.)
- The reporters "embedded" with the military showed some Iraqi captives on television.

However, no one has seriously suggested mistreatment of those held by the United States, nor has anyone seriously accused the US of abandoning the Geneva Conventions.

- First president in US history to refuse United Nations election inspectors (during the 2002 US elections).

Try as I might, I could not find evidence of this anywhere. I'd be happy to hear from anyone who can provide documentation on it.

(Russia and Albania – not the UN – sent election inspectors to monitor the 2002 elections and it does not appear that they were denied access by GWB. See the “Changes” section for more information.)

- All-time US (and world) record holder for most corporate campaign donations.

Certainly GWB had more campaign money to spend in 2000 than did Al Gore. According to PoliticalMoneyLine.com, GWB had approximately \$200 million to spend, whereas Gore collected \$140 million. Interestingly, if you look at the breakdown of the two candidates, the difference lies in “individual contributions”, not in corporate/PAC/labor union money.

This page at the Federal Election Commission following page provides a very interesting breakdown of money contributed by various industries to both political parties from 1991 forward:

[PAC Hard Dollar Contributions Made By Industry Groupings \(1991-2003\)](#)

While the GOP leads in most industries, the Democratic Party collected nearly \$50 million dollars from labor unions.

So “the resume” is very cunning in specifying only “corporate campaign donations”. If you add in labor unions (and Buddhist monks), the numbers tell a very different story.

- My biggest lifetime campaign contributor presided over one of the largest corporate bankruptcy frauds in world history (Kenneth Lay, former CEO of Enron Corporation).

Not quite sure how to approach this one, since numbers would be very difficult to locate. We can establish this: Enron was an energy trading company; however, the largest corporate/PAC contributors to Bush's 2000 campaign were Finance/Insurance and single-issue groups:

[Federal Election Commission Breakdown of Bush 2000 Contributors](#)

According to OpenSecrets.org, Kenneth Lay contributed only \$75,000 to the Bush gubernatorial campaigns in 1994 and 1998:

[George W. Bush Texas Governor's Race Contributions at OpenSecrets.org](#)

(Just in case you think Lay contributed to Bush through Enron itself, please note: In Texas, corporations and labor unions are prohibited from making direct contributions to candidates, but may make unlimited contributions to political parties up to 60 days before the election.)

- Spent more money on polls and focus groups than any president in US history.

Unfortunately for the “resume”, this is another falsehood. President Bush, by even the largest estimates, spent about 1 million dollars in his first year in office on pollsters and focus groups. President Clinton spent 2 million. The source? None other than Bush-basher extraordinaire, Maureen Dowd:

“In the new Washington Monthly, Joshua Green reveals the extent of Bush polling: Republican records show that “Bush’s principal pollsters received \$346,000 in direct payments in 2001. Add to that the multiple boutique polling firms the administration regularly employs for specialized and targeted polls and the figure is closer to \$1 million.”

(That’s about half as much as Mr. Clinton spent his first year, but about \$1 million more than Mr. Bush led us to expect he’d spend.) (Source: “Addiction to Addition”, New York Times, April 3, 2002)

- First president in US history to unilaterally attack a sovereign nation against the will of the United Nations and the world community.

I earlier outlined the reasons we attacked Iraq and Afghanistan. Please refer to that section for more information. I would add this opinion: Just because the UN and “world community” is against your actions don’t make those actions wrong.

Incidentally, we went into Iraq with the second-largest coalition of nations since WWII: Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

- First president to run and hide when the US came under attack on September 11th (and then lied saying the enemy had the code to Air Force 1)

Since there was only one president “when the US came under attack on September 11th”, this is kind of an odd assertion. Secondly, it only makes sense when there are multiple attacks being carried out on the United States simultaneously that the president would not present himself as an open target. Third, I suspect that it was the military and secret service that suggested the president “run and hide”, rather than the President himself.

President Bush’s first step on 9/11 was to travel to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. Since the United States was on nuclear alert, transporting the President to an Air Force base is not an unusual step. President Bush’s second trip on 9/11 was to Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, at that time the home of the Strategic Air Command—again a quite logical step considering that we didn’t know what other attacks would take place on that day. By 7:00PM that night, the President was back in Washington. (Clarification on 5/6, see “Changes” for info.) (Source: [Infoplease.com](http://infoplease.com))

Interestingly, only evidence of the “lie” that “the enemy had the code to Air Force 1[sic]” is from William Safire’s column on September 13, 2001 entitled “Inside the Bunker”. Mr. Safire quoted a “high White House official” who told him “A threatening message received by the Secret Service was relayed to the agents with the president that ‘Air Force One is next.’” Safire continued: “According to the high official, American code words were used showing a knowledge of procedures that made the threat credible.”

It is a far stretch indeed to then claim that Mr. Bush himself made the claim.

- First US president to establish a secret shadow government.

I can’t say whether or not GWB was the first to establish a secret shadow government (after all, it is secret), but here the Washington Post article outlining the reasons:

["Shadow Government Is at Work in Secret", Washington Post, March 1, 2002](#)

The Post article documents the plan for “continuity of government”, which was first outlined under President Reagan.

It’s important to note that the need for a continuity plan is real: should a rogue nation or terrorist group attempt to decapitate the American government, a contingency plan must be in place.

- Took the biggest world sympathy for the US after 9/11, and in less than a year made the US the most resented country in the world (possibly the biggest diplomatic failure in US and world history).

I’m not sure how you’d even measure the “most resented country in the world”. (Is it a Gallup Poll or something?) Furthermore, I can think of a few “diplomatic failures” in world history that are a little more egregious than what’s happened in Iraq. (If you can even call that a diplomatic failure.) Off the top of my head, I’d say that WWI and WWII were probably a little worse.

- With a policy of 'disengagement' created the most hostile Israeli-Palestine relations in at least 30 years.

Again, history bears out that relations at times have been worse between the Israelis and Palestinians than they are right now. Here are a few examples from [MidEastWeb.org](#):

[Oct. 6, 1973](#)

Yom Kippur War (October War). In a surprise attack on the Jewish Day of Atonement, Egypt retook the Suez canal and a narrow zone on the other side. Syria reconquered the Golan Heights. Following massive US and Soviet resupplying of the sides, Israel succeeded in pushing back the Syrians and threatening Damascus. Ariel Sharon crossed the Suez Canal and cut off the Egyptian Third Army.

June 6, 1982

Massive Israeli invasion of Lebanon to fight PLO. UN Security Council Resolution 509 demands that Israel withdraw all its military forces forthwith, but Israel advances rapidly to Beirut, surrounding the capital by 13 Jun. Israeli cabinet is split on the sudden expansion of the war, beyond the 40 KM limit originally declared by Sharon.

Sept. 28, 2000

Palestinians initiated riots after Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mount, which is also the location of the Haram as Sharif holy to Muslims. Violence was apparently encouraged by Fatah Tanzim, as admitted by Marwan Barghouhi. Violence escalated rapidly from rock throwing to machine gun and mortar fire, suicide bombings and lethal road ambushes, including some incidents instigated by settlers against Palestinians. Israelis killed 15 Israeli Arabs in riots in September/October 2000, and over 2,000 Palestinians in retaliatory raids thereafter. Palestinians kill over 700 Israelis. Violence continues for over a year [to present - March 2003].

- First US president in history to have a majority of the people of Europe (71%) view my presidency as the biggest threat to world peace and stability.

Again, I'd suggest that when you're sure that what you're doing is right, it doesn't matter who protests.

- First US president in history to have the people of South Korea more threatened by the US than their immediate neighbor, North Korea.

If I read this correct, this means that the United States is more of a threat to South Korea than is North Korea. Again, I'm not sure how this is measured, but I'll try to present some evidence myself.

Here's a Harris poll taken among the Japanese and South Koreans regarding the US action post-9/11:

[Harris Poll #64, "How the Japanese, South Koreans and Chinese View the Post 9/11 World and U.S. Military Action"](#)

There was a report done by Gallup Korea in December 2002, which does appear to bear out "the résumé's" allegation:

["South Koreans Perceive Cold War Enemies Better Than Cold War Allies"](#)

So I don't quite know what to make of this one. I would say this: The Bush administration is probably not so much concerned about relations between North and South Korea as they are about the North's possession of nuclear weapons and their stated intention to use them.

(Some clarification on the North Korea-South Korea issue is available in the "Changes" section.)

- Changed US policy to allow convicted criminals to be awarded government contracts.

I haven't been able to find any evidence of this. I searched CNN's database, but didn't come up with anything close. Since pleading guilty to a speeding ticket would make one a "convicted criminal", I'm kind of skeptical that there was such a policy in the first place.

If anyone can find any details on this, please let me know.

- Set all-time record for number of administration appointees who violated US law by not selling huge investments in corporations bidding for government contracts.

"The resume" provided no evidence for this. I searched CNN and couldn't find any evidence. You'd think if they set an "all-time record", there'd be more proof of it, but I couldn't find any.

- Failed to fulfill my pledge to get Osama Bin Laden 'dead or alive'.

We still have troops on the ground in Afghanistan and Osama certainly does appear to be a sneaky SOB, but we have hardly "failed". We haven't given up.

(See answer to next question for more information.)

- Failed to capture the anthrax killer who tried to murder the leaders of our country at the United States Capital building. After 18 months I have no leads and zero suspects.

The Department of Justice/FBI investigation continues. If you're interested to know what's going on, please refer to:

[FBI Website -- "Amerithrax Links"](#)

How "the resume" knows that there are no suspects is a mystery. Attorney General Ashcroft has named one person a "person of interest", though no action has been taken.

What's curious about this claim and the previous one is this: Criminals, such as the anthrax killer and Osama Bin Laden, don't want to get caught. Therefore, they do their evil deeds out of plain sight. It took the FBI nearly twenty years to catch the Unabomber. Eric Rudolph, the abortion clinic bomber, has been on the lam for over 5 years now. (Update: Rudolph was captured on May 31, 2003.)

- In the 18 months following the 9/11 attacks I have successfully prevented any public investigation into the biggest security failure in the history of the United States.

On the contrary, as early as June 2002 there were congressional hearings on the September 11 disaster: (The sessions were "closed-door", but they were public, bipartisan investigations.)

[CNN, "Lawmakers promise 'fact-driven' 9/11 probe"](#)

There was indeed opposition from the Bush administration:

[CNN, "Rice opposes public panel to probe 9/11"](#)

By September 2002 (well within the “18 months” cited by “the resume”), the President agreed that an independent probe needed to occur:

[CNN, “Bush accepts independent but 'focused' 9/11 probe”](#)

Note that Congress couldn’t get its act together and the commission wasn’t actually formed until November 2002:

[CNN, “WH blamed for failed deal on 9/11 panel”](#)

- Removed more freedoms and civil liberties for Americans than any other president in US history.

How do you measure this? Again, no proof is given, so it’s hard to research. I will say this: Since September 11, security measures have been implemented that probably have curtailed freedoms and civil liberties to some extent. But I’m not sure how to prove or disprove this point.

(President Lincoln suspended habeas corpus for all US citizens in 1861 (until 1866) and President Adams passed the Alien and Sedition Acts, which allowed the government to arrest US citizens who wrote or spoke against the government. Both of these actions rise above the level of the Patriot Act. More information in the “Changes” section.)

- In a little over two years created the most divided country in decades, possibly the most divided the US has ever been since the civil war.

I would suggest that 1968 was probably a little more contentious than 2001-2003. Here’s a great web site devoted to the events of that year, compiled by Brown University:

["The Whole World Was Watching: an oral history of 1968" at Brown University](#)

Let’s look at a few events from that year:

- Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated: “his death sparks rioting in Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, Newark, Washington, D.C., and many others. Across the country 46 deaths will be blamed on the riots”
- Riots in the streets at the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago.
- Vietnam war rages: US troops kill 500 women and children at My Lai

[I’d like to think that we have an appreciation of our history as American citizens.](#) If anyone seriously thinks that the few protests over the Iraq war rival anything that happened in 1968, I may need to reconsider that opinion.

- Entered office with the strongest economy in US history and in less than two years turned every single economic category heading straight down.

As the economy is a cyclical beast, some presidents are blessed with a good economy, while others are not. The financial policies of any president do not impact the economy immediately; therefore, I'd argue that President Clinton had something to do with the problems we're seeing today, just as Bush Sr. deserves some credit for the good economy during the 1990s.

But, if you're going to pin the economy solely on Bush, at least look at the numbers:
(Source: [EconStats: Inflation, Unemployment and Labor](#))

- President Bush took office with a 3.8% inflation rate. It fell every quarter between Q1 2001 and Q1 2003. This most recent quarter it is back to 3.8%.
- Average hourly earnings have risen every quarter that GWB has been in office.
- Unemployment has risen for 8 of the 10 quarters that President Bush has been in office, but is still 1.5% lower than during the 1991-1993 recession. Unemployment numbers actually began to turn during President Clinton's last year in office.

(Scott Jordan has done some detailed research showing that most every economic indicator was on the way down before GWB entered office. Robert Novak has written a column detailing the Democratic manipulation of the numbers during the election year 2000. More information is available in the "Changes" section.)

Records and References

- At least one conviction for drunk driving in Maine (Texas driving record has been erased and is not available)

The President himself, as I mentioned earlier, has confirmed the first claim. Some evidence for the second claim is that when he became Governor, Mr. Bush received a new driver's license with a new number. I can find no evidence that the original record was erased.

- AWOL from National Guard and Deserted the military during a time of war.

Originally, I cited an article from Cecil Adams' "The Straight Dope" column with his version of the Bush AWOL story. I am pulling that in favor of an article from George magazine. It's a long article, but seems to be the most detailed account.

The Real Military Record of George W. Bush: Not Heroic, but Not AWOL, Either By Peter Keating and Karthik Thyagarajan

For more than a year, controversy about George W. Bush's Air National Guard record has bubbled through the press. Interest in the topic has spiked in recent days, as at least two websites have launched stories essentially calling Bush AWOL in 1972 and 1973. For example, in "Finally, the Truth about Bush's Military Record" on TomPaine.com, Marty Heldt writes, "Bush's long absence from the records comes to an end one week after he failed to comply with an order to attend 'Annual Active Duty Training' starting at the end of May 1973... Nothing indicates in the records that he ever made up the time he missed." And in "Bush's Military Record Reveals Grounding and Absence for Two Full Years" on Democrats.com, Robert A. Rogers states: "Bush never actually reported in person for the last two years of his service - in direct violation of two separate written orders."

Neither is correct.

It's time to set the record straight. The following analysis, which relies on National Guard documents, extensive interviews with military officials and previously unpublished evidence of Bush's whereabouts in the summer and fall of 1972, is the first full chronology of Bush's military record. Its basic conclusions: Bush may have received favorable treatment to get into the Guard, served irregularly after the spring of 1972 and got an expedited discharge, but he did accumulate the days of service required of him for his ultimate honorable discharge.

At the Republican convention in Philadelphia, George W. Bush declared: "Our military is low on parts, pay and morale. If called on by the commander-in-chief today, two entire divisions of the Army would have to report, 'Not ready for duty, sir.'" Bush says he is the candidate who can "rebuild our military and prepare our armed forces for the future." On what direct military experience does he make such claims?

George W. Bush applied to join the Texas Air National Guard on May 27, 1968, less than two weeks before he graduated from Yale University. The country was at war in Vietnam, and at that time, just months after the bloody Tet Offensive, an estimated 100,000 Americans were on waiting lists to join Guard units across the country. Bush was sworn in on the day he applied.

Ben Barnes, former speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, stated in September 1999 that in late 1967 or early 1968, he asked a senior official in the Texas Air National Guard to help Bush get into the Guard as a pilot. Barnes said he did so at the behest of Sidney Adger, a Houston businessman and friend of former President George H. W. Bush, then a Texas congressman. Despite Barnes's admission, former President Bush has denied pulling strings for his son, and retired Colonel Walter Staudt, George W. Bush's first commander, insists: "There was no special treatment."

The younger Bush fulfilled two years of active duty and completed pilot training in June 1970. During that time and in the two years that followed, Bush flew the F-102, an interceptor jet equipped with heat-seeking missiles that could shoot down enemy planes. His commanding officers and peers regarded Bush as a competent pilot and enthusiastic Guard member. In March 1970, the Texas Air National Guard issued a press release trumpeting his performance: "Lt. Bush recently became the first Houston pilot to be trained by the 147th [Fighter Group] and to solo in the F-102... Lt. Bush said his father was just as excited and enthusiastic about his solo flight as he was." In Bush's evaluation for the period May 1, 1971 through April 30, 1972, then-Colonel Bobby Hodges, his commanding officer, stated, "I have personally observed his participation, and without exception, his performance has been noteworthy." In the spring of 1972, however, National Guard records show a sudden dropoff in Bush's military activity. Though trained as a pilot at considerable government expense, Bush stopped flying in April 1972 and never flew for the Guard again.

Around that time, Bush decided to go to work for Winton "Red" Blount, a Republican running for the U.S. Senate, in Alabama. Documents from Ellington Air Force Base in Houston state that Bush "cleared this base on 15 May." Shortly afterward, he applied for assignment to the 9921st Air Reserve Squadron in Montgomery, Ala., a unit that required minimal duty and offered no pay. Although that unit's commander was willing to welcome him, on May 31 higher-ups at the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver rejected Bush's request to serve at the 9921st, because it did not offer duty equivalent to his service in Texas. "[A]n obligated Reservist [in this case, Bush] can be assigned to a specific Ready Reserve position only," noted the disapproval memo, a copy of which was sent to Bush. "Therefore, he is ineligible for assignment to an Air Reserve Squadron."

Despite the military's decision, Bush moved to Alabama. Records obtained by Georegemag.com show that the Blount Senate campaign paid Bush about \$900 a month from mid-May through mid-November to do advance work and organize events. Neither Bush's annual evaluation nor the Air National Guard's overall chronological listing of his service contain any evidence that he performed Guard duties during that summer.

On or around his 27th birthday, July 6, 1972, Bush did not take his required annual medical exam at his Texas unit. As a consequence, he was suspended from flying military jets. Bush spokesperson Dan Bartlett told Georegemag.com: "You take that exam because you are flying, and he was not flying. The paperwork uses the phrase 'suspended from flying,' but he had no intention of flying at that time."

Some media reports have speculated that Bush took and failed his physical, or that he was grounded as a result of substance abuse. Bush's vagueness on the subject of his past drug use has only abetted such rumors. Bush's commanding officer in Texas, however, denies the charges. "His flying status was suspended because he didn't take the exam, not because he couldn't pass," says Hodges. Asked whether Bush was ever disciplined for using alcohol or illicit drugs, Hodges replied: "No."

On September 5, Bush wrote to then-Colonel Jerry Killian at his original unit in Texas, requesting permission to serve with the 187th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, another Alabama-based unit. "This duty would be for the months of September, October, and November," wrote Bush.

This time his request was approved: 10 days later, the Alabama Guard ordered Bush to report to then-Lieutenant Colonel William Turnipseed at Dannelly Air Force Base in Montgomery on October 7th and 8th. The memo noted that "Lieutenant Bush will not be able to satisfy his flight requirements with our group," since the 187th did not fly F-102s.

The question of whether Bush ever actually served in Alabama has become an issue in the 2000 campaign—the Air Force Times recently reported that "the GOP is trying to locate people who served with Bush in late 1972 ... to see if they can confirm that Bush briefly served with the Alabama Air National Guard." Bush's records contain no evidence that he reported to Dannelly in October. And in telephone interviews with Georgemag.com, neither Turnipseed, Bush's commanding officer, nor Kenneth Lott, then chief personnel officer of the 187th, remembered Bush serving with their unit. "I don't think he showed up," Turnipseed said.

Bush maintains he did serve in Alabama. "Governor Bush specifically remembers pulling duty in Montgomery and respectfully disagrees with the Colonel," says Bartlett. "There's no question it wasn't memorable, because he wasn't flying." In July, the Decatur Daily reported that two former Blount campaign workers recall Bush serving in the Alabama Air National Guard in the fall of 1972. "I remember he actually came back to Alabama for about a week to 10 days several weeks after the campaign was over to complete his Guard duty in the state," stated Emily Martin, a former Alabama resident who said she dated Bush during the time he spent in that state. After the 1972 election, which Blount lost, Bush moved back to Houston and subsequently began working at P.U.L.L., a community service center for disadvantaged youths. This period of time has also become a matter of controversy, because even though Bush's original unit had been placed on alert duty in October 1972, his superiors in Texas lost track of his whereabouts. On May 2, 1973, Bush's squadron leader in the 147th, Lieutenant Colonel William Harris, Jr. wrote: "Lt. Bush has not been observed at this unit" for the past year. Harris incorrectly assumed that Bush had been reporting for duty in Alabama all along. He wrote that Bush "has been performing equivalent training in a non-flying status with the 187 Tac Recon Gp, Dannelly ANG Base, Alabama." Base commander Hodges says of Bush's return to Texas: "All I remember is someone saying he came back and made up his days."

Two documents obtained by Georgemag.com indicate that Bush did make up the time he missed during the summer and autumn of 1972. One is an April 23, 1973 order for Bush to report to annual active duty training the following month; the other is an Air National Guard statement of days served by Bush that is torn and undated but contains entries that correspond to the first. Taken together, they appear to establish that Bush reported for duty on nine occasions between November 29, 1972—when he could have been in Alabama—and May 24, 1973. Bush still wasn't flying, but over this span, he did earn nine points of National Guard service from days of active duty and 32 from inactive duty. When added to the 15 so-called "gratuitous" points that every member of the Guard got per year, Bush accumulated 56 points, more than the 50 that he needed by the end of May 1973 to maintain his standing as a Guardsman.

On May 1, Bush was ordered to report for further active duty training, and documents show that he proceeded to cram in another 10 sessions over the next two months. Ultimately, he racked up 19 active duty points of service and 16 inactive duty points by July 30—which, added to his 15 gratuitous points, achieved the requisite total of 50 for the year ending in May 1974.

On October 1, 1973, First Lieutenant George W. Bush received an early honorable discharge so that he could attend Harvard Business School. He was credited with five years, four months and five days of service toward his six-year service obligation.

I have received e-mails from several members of the military explaining some of the more obscure military jargon (such as "not observed"). See the "Changes" section for more details.

- Refuse to take drug test or even answer any questions about drug use.

Not true. First, it should be noted that on a number of occasions George W. Bush has acknowledged he drank too much as a young adult. He has since quit drinking and from all reports, he is in excellent physical condition.

Contrary to the claims of “the resume”, Mr. Bush did answer questions during the presidential campaign about rumors of past drug use.

[Bush denies using any illegal drug during the past 25 years \(CNN\)](#)

I’ll leave it up to you to determine whether a presidential candidate should submit to a drug test.

- All records of my tenure as governor of Texas have been spirited away to my father's library, sealed in secrecy and un-available for public view.

Again, completely untrue. Here’s the website:

[The Texas State Library and Archives, "The Records of Governor George W. Bush"](#)

And a direct quote from the web site:

The records of Governor George W. Bush are available for research. Researchers will expedite the fulfillment of their reference requests by first consulting finding aids. Requests for records must follow the [procedures set forth in the Texas Public Information Act](#).

The [Records of Governor George W. Bush](#) are available for research despite the fact that they have not been fully prepared for research. As the Archives' staff prepares each group of records, this finding aid is updated on the Web at [TARO](#) (Texas Archival Resources Online).

- All records of any SEC investigations into my insider trading or bankrupt companies are sealed in secrecy and un-available for public view.

I cannot find any evidence that these records have been “sealed in secrecy”. The SEC has released some documents pertaining to the Harken investigation. I cannot find any reference to the investigation on the SEC website, but the search engine does not appear to cover documents prior to 1998.

Alexander’s Gas and Oil Connections, described on their website as “a site for the gas, oil and affiliated industry giving an overview of the trends and happenings in and around the global energy-value chain”, refers to “The internal corporate documents, released by the Securities and Exchange Commission”. So there is some evidence that documents do exist and are not sealed. Here’s the story from Alexander’s:

Records reveal Bush sold Harken Energy's stock during cash 'crisis'

07-09-00 Before selling his stock in a Texas oil company, a transaction that prompted an insider trading inquiry, George W. Bush was informed as a company director that the firm was suffering a cash 'crisis,' newly released records show. The internal corporate documents, released by the Securities and Exchange Commission, provide the most detailed view yet of Bush's knowledge of Harken Energy's financial problems when he sold his shares for \$ 848,560 in June 1990.

Bush's lawyer said the information, while new to the presidential campaign, was provided to the SEC as part of its investigation a decade ago and contributed to the agency's finding that Bush's trading was appropriate.

"The SEC did their job by the book, and this is old news," attorney Robert Jordan said. The Bush lawyer added that "the company's financial situation was well-disclosed to the public" through filings at the time with the SEC. "By the time Bush sold his stock, the cash crisis had been largely resolved," said Jordan. "By May 21, 1990, the major shareholders had agreed to a credit agreement which put \$ 26 mm into the company immediately."

Insider trading allegations have been an issue in both Bush's run for governor in Texas and his presidential bid. The SEC in the last month released several hundred pages of corporate documents from its investigation under the Freedom of Information Act.

Bush has said he had no knowledge the Texas-based company was going to report a \$ 23 mm loss two months after he sold his stock. "I absolutely had no idea and would not have sold it had I known," he said during his 1994 campaign for governor.

SEC investigators concurred there was no evidence Bush knew that the loss would be of that magnitude. At most, the investigators found, Bush was aware of a projected \$ 4 mm loss, which was "consistent with Harken's publicly reported trend" of losses, states an SEC investigative document obtained by AP.

The same document projecting the \$ 4 mm loss, Jordan noted, projected a profit for the fourth quarter. Bush sold his stock at \$ 4 a share and by the end of that year, its value had sunk to slightly over \$ 1. It returned to the \$ 4 level and above in 1991. The Harken documents released under FOIA detail Bush's knowledge of the company's problems.

As a Harken director, he received memos in spring 1990 that referred in stark terms to the company's cash-strapped condition as banks demanded it pay down its debts. One document said the company was in the midst of a "liquidity crisis" and another told Bush the company was "in a state of non-compliance" with its lenders.

Bush also was informed that a company plan to make a public stock offering to generate cash was being abandoned because one of its lenders objected. Bush served on three committees inside the company and also was paid as a consultant. Even after his stock sale, Bush remained on the company's board of directors until 1993.

I wish I could be more specific on where to find these documents, but I did find one corroborating source to show they are not "sealed in secrecy".

- All minutes of meetings for any public corporation I served on the board are sealed in secrecy and un-available for public view.

Referring to the claim above, internal corporate documents have been released from the Harken investigation. I don't know if they contained "minutes of meetings" as addressed in "the résumé's" claim.

- Any records or minutes from meetings I (or my VP) attended regarding public energy policy are sealed in secrecy and un-available for public review.

Here's a link to a lot of information on the White House's energy policy:

["Report of the National Energy Policy Development Group", US DOE Web Site](#)

The crux of this website is the report from the National Energy Policy Development Group, of which Vice President Cheney is a member. The report is in PDF format and is downloadable.

Now, if you're talking about the secret meetings that Cheney attends with the aliens who are in control of the government, or the meetings where the President takes briefcases full of cash from corrupt businessmen, then yes—records and minutes from those meetings are “sealed in secrecy.” (Please, it's a joke!)

- For personal references please speak to my daddy or uncle James Baker (They can be reached at their offices of the Carlyle Group for war-profiteering.)

This claim is no different than any other claim in “the resume”: it is filled with venom and anger. Though it is impossible to prove or disprove, I suggest you look at the rest of “the resume” to assess its veracity.

List of Hyperlinks

If you're reading this document in PDF format, you can click on the hyperlinks in the document (usually underlined) and your web browser will take you directly to the web page. If you're reading a paper copy of this document, below are the hyperlinks contained within:

Moby Online

<http://www.moby.com/>

Crossbearer Software

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The Twelfth Amendment to the Constitution

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