WE, THE PEOPLE, with our Constitution, open government, constrained Pentagon and White House, and public financing of elections, will restore our GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLE.

(Thanks to Coralie for many of these entries.)

NEW BOOKS ON MCCAIN
--The book, written by progressive activist and blogger Cliff Schecter, aims to answer the all-important question, just who is the real John McCain?
The Real McCain: Why Conservatives Don't Trust Him and Why Independents Shouldn't

THE RACE
Worst nightmare, Pres. McCain
McCain erases Obama lead - Yahoo! News
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080410/ap_on_el_pr/presidential_race_ap_poll

CALL TO ACTION
Barbara Fitzpatrick <bfitz_1951@yahoo.com> wrote:

> I don't know if INTERESTED is the best word for that.  I know, have
> known from "Day One" that John McCain will be hard to beat, no matter
> who we run against him.  Unless and until the media monopoly is broken
> up, the R candidate will get full media support - all "gaffs" will be
> either ignored or rationalized, if the person is a vet his service
> will be played up, if the person isn't a vet service will be
> immaterial, etc.  Meanwhile, the Dem candidate will be "nibbled to
death by ducks" on how he (or she) looks, dresses, talks, etc - there
> will be no reporting of substance or stands on issues.
> The fact that McCain doesn't know the difference between Sunni and
> Shia and wants us occupying Iraq for 100 years is immaterial.  It
> doesn't matter that McCain wants to "bomb, bomb, bomb - bomb Iran".
> That McCain talks "green" but doesn't show up for votes (the last
> "green" issue went down by one vote
> - the one McCain didn't show up to cast) won't make the evening
> news.
> That McCain is probably suffering from PTSD from his Vietnam
> experiences (his famous "temper" and very inappropriate language under
> "stress") to the extent that we don't WANT him "answering the phone at
> 3 a.m." will be totally ignored in favor of how good his barbeque is.
>
How we are going to overcome this, I do not know.
The best chance we have is continuing to energize our base with the long campaign (the states that normally have no say in the choice of nominee are registering Dem voters big time). The long campaign will also keep the Dems on the MSM - if we had a candidate right now, you'd hear and see nothing but McCain lovefest 24/7 - at least until Denver (when the 24/7 McCain lovefest will start, but we can only hold it off that long if Hillary hangs in there).
The progressive blogs and a massive Dem turnout is our only hope.

MCCAIN FOREIGN POLICY
“Hothead McCain” in The Nation (3-24-08); “The presumptive GOP nominee favors US unilateralism and ‘rogue state rollback.” By Robert Dreyfuss.

MISC EXPOSING MCCAIN
Alexander Cockburn. “Less Whining, More Dirt!” The Nation (3-17-08). Several of McCain’s vulnerabilities. “The Real McCain Scandal” (same Nation as above). “…the narrative of McCain as redeemed sinner [the Keating Five] is sharply at odds with his record.”

Be Afraid of President McCain
The frightening mind of an authoritarian maverick. Matt Welch | April 2007

MCCAIN AND REPUBLICAN PARTY
Matt Taibbi, “McCain Resurrected,” Rolling Stone (3-6-08). McC and the GOP.

Here's a good editorial on McCain.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/06/opinion/06rich.html?_r=1&oref=slogin
From MoveOn.org:

10 things you should know about John McCain (but probably don't):

1. John McCain voted against establishing a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Now he says his position has "evolved," yet he's continued to oppose key civil rights laws.

2. According to Bloomberg News, McCain is more hawkish than Bush on Iraq, Russia and China. Conservative columnist Pat Buchanan says McCain "will make Cheney look like Gandhi."

3. His reputation is built on his opposition to torture, but McCain voted against a bill to ban waterboarding, and then applauded President Bush for vetoing that ban.

4. McCain opposes a woman's right to choose. He said, "I do not support Roe versus Wade. It should be overturned."

5. The Children's Defense Fund rated McCain as the worst senator in Congress for children. He voted against the children's health care bill last year, then defended Bush's veto of the bill.

6. He's one of the richest people in a Senate filled with millionaires. The Associated Press reports he and his wife own at least eight homes! Yet McCain says the solution to the housing crisis is for people facing foreclosure to get a "second job" and skip their vacations.

7. Many of McCain's fellow Republican senators say he's too reckless to be commander in chief. One Republican senator said: "The thought of his being president sends a cold chill down my spine. He's erratic. He's hotheaded. He loses his temper and he worries me."

8. McCain talks a lot about taking on special interests, but his campaign manager and top advisers are actually lobbyists. The government watchdog group Public Citizen says McCain has 59 lobbyists raising money for his campaign, more than any of the other presidential candidates.

9. McCain has sought closer ties to the extreme religious right in recent years. The pastor McCain calls his "spiritual guide," Rod Parsley, believes America's founding mission is to destroy Islam, which he calls a "false religion." McCain sought the political support of right-wing preacher John Hagee, who believes Hurricane Katrina was God's punishment for gay rights and called the Catholic Church "the Antichrist" and a "false cult."

10. He positions himself as pro-environment, but he scored a 0—yes, zero—from the League of Conservation Voters last year.

John McCain is not who the Washington press corps make him out to be. Please help get the word out—forward this email to your personal network.

MCCAIN AND THE MEDIA

--Brock, David and Media Matters for America. Free Ride: John McCain and the Media. McCain has enjoyed extraordinarily cordial treatment from the media. He has gotten away with inconsistencies and distortions that would sink another politician. The book tells how and why.

Beginning a Schema for analysis:

His congressional record (all by subject category):

Bills he has authored.
Bills he has co-authored.
Bills he has authored and became law.
Bills he has voted for.
Bills he has voted against.

Endorsements

Advisors

Supreme Court appointment votes
FCC media consolidation positions

Military, War

What other categories are essential?

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