

William F. Buckley, Jr.

Quotes

*People, Government, Men, War, Believe, Politics, Marijuana, Order, Country,
Law, Religious, Names, Years, Conservative, Self, Reality, Mean, Peace,
Political, White*

Though liberals do a great deal of talking about hearing other points of view, it sometimes shocks them to learn that there are other points of view.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

I'd rather entrust the government of the United States to the first 400 people listed in the Boston telephone directory than to the faculty of Harvard University.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Liberals claim to want to give a hearing to other views, but then are shocked and offended to discover that there are other views.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

The best defense against usurpatory government is an assertive citizenry.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Back in the thirties we were told we must collectivize the nation because the people were so poor. Now we are told we must collectivize the nation because the people are so rich.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

What yells out at the US public . . . is the incandescent hypocrisy of so many people who, in the name of free speech, persecute its practitioners if their opinions are conservative.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Liberals, it has been said, are generous with other peoples' money, except when it comes to questions of national survival when they prefer to be generous with other people's freedom and security.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

I won't insult your intelligence by suggesting that you really believe

what you just said.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

The socialized state is to justice, order, and freedom what the Marquis de Sade is to love.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

When it is not possible to reason with holy warriors, it is necessary to immobilize them or crush them.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

A Conservative is a fellow who is standing athwart history yelling 'Stop!'

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

The duel between Christianity and atheism is the most important in the world, and the struggle between individualism and collectivism is the same struggle reproduced on another level.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Truth is a demure lady, much too ladylike to knock you on your head and drag you to her cave. She is there, but people must want her, and seek her out.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

You cannot paint the Mona Lisa by assigning one dab each to a thousand painters.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Idealism is fine, but as it approaches reality, the costs become prohibitive.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

If only the left hated crime as much as they hated hate.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

All that is good is not embodied in the law; and all that is evil is not proscribed by the law. A well-disciplined society needs few laws; but it needs strong mores.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

I get satisfaction of three kinds. One is creating something, one is being paid for it and one is the feeling that I haven't just been sitting on my ass all afternoon.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

There is an inverse relationship between reliance on the state and self-reliance.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

I would like to electrocute everyone who uses the word 'fair' in connection with income tax policies.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Life can't be all bad when for ten dollars you can buy all the Beethoven sonatas and listen to them for ten years.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

I've always believed that conservatism is the politics of reality, and that reality ultimately asserts itself in a reasonably free society, in behalf of the conservative position.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Decent people should ignore politics, if only they could be confident that politics would ignore them

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Only government can cause inflation, preserve monopoly, and punish

enterprise.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

One must bear in mind that the expansion of federal activity is a form of eating for politicians.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

They told me if I voted for Goldwater, he would get us into a war in Vietnam. Well, I voted for Goldwater and that's what happened.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

I mean to live my life an obedient man, but obedient to God, subservient to the wisdom of my ancestors; never to the authority of political truths arrived at yesterday at the voting booth.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Even if one takes every reefer madness allegation of the prohibitionists at face value, marijuana prohibition has done far more harm to far more people than marijuana ever could.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

France believes in armed intervention by America only when the intervention is in France to rescue France from occupation by other powers.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Conservatives should be adamant about the need for the reappearance of Judeo-Christianity in the public square.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Conservatism is the politics of reality

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

It had all the earmarks of a CIA operation; the bomb killed everybody in

the room except the intended target!

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

We are, always, reminded of the old saw: What would happen if the Soviet Union took over the Sahara Desert? Answer: Nothing for 50 years. After that there would be a shortage of sand.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

What was wrong with communism wasn't aberrant leadership, it was communism.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

A society is not 'free' merely because the freedoms the people are doing away with are those they voted at the last election to do without.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

People are beginning to wish that the voters had been given breathometer tests when they voted in the present government.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Not everything that is legal is reputable.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

I would sooner live in a society governed by the first two thousand names in the Boston telephone directory than in a society governed by the two thousand faculty members of Harvard University.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Socialize the individual's surplus and you socialize his spirit and creativeness.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Before there was Ronald Reagan there was Barry Goldwater, and before there was Barry, there was National Review, and before there

was National Review there was Bill Buckley with a spark in his mind.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

The academic community has in it the biggest concentration of alarmists, cranks and extremists this side of the giggle house.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

You know, I've spent my entire life time separating the Right from the kooks.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

The Beatles are not merely awful. They are so unbelievably horrible, so appallingly unmusical, so dogmatically insensitive to the magic of the art, that they qualify as crowned heads of anti-music.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

History is but the polemics of the victor.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

The superstition that the hounds of truth will rout the vermin of error seems, like a fragment of Victorian lace, quaint, but too brittle to be lifted out of the showcase.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Nobody who's ever been to Gulag is a pacifist.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

One can't doubt that the American objective in Iraq has failed - different plans have to be made. And the kernel here is the acknowledgement of defeat.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Enthusiasm for conservation can be fashioned into a nasty weapon for those who dislike business on general principles.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Christianity finds all its doctrines stated in the Bible, and Christianity denies no part, nor attempts to add anything to the Word of God.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Why should any country continue, forever, to be "great"?

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Scientists are people who build the Brooklyn Bridge and then buy it.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Government can't do anything for you except in proportion as it can do something to you.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Industry is the enemy of melancholy

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Did you know that forty percent of the words used by Shakespeare were used by him only once?

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

A conservative is someone who stands athwart history, yelling Stop, at a time when no one is inclined to do so, or to have much patience with those who so urge it.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

...following Mrs. Roosevelt in search of irrationality was like following a burning fuse in search of an explosive.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

He [Cassius Clay] became a Black Muslim, which is a pseudo-religion for unbright neurotics who feel the need to hate all white people.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

We love your adherence to democratic principles.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

No one since the Garden of Eden - which the serpent forsook in order to run for higher office - has imputed to politicians great purity of motive.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

The more complicated and powerful the job, the more rudimentary the preparation for it.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

...the traces to the East haven been broken, the Republican party will never again be dominated by the editorial writers for the New York Herald Tribune. Free at last.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

I would rather be governed by the first 2000 people in the Manhattan phone book than the entire faculty of Harvard.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Friendship is strengthened by...that which ever so lightly elevates us from the trough of self-concern and self-devotion.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

As a businessman, Frank Lorenzo gives capitalism a bad name.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

I find it easier to believe in God than to believe Hamlet was deduced from the molecular structure of a mutton chop.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Boredom is the deadliest poison.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Mr. Rockefeller is due to entertain munificently at breakfast, and make his pitch. My advice to one invited guest was: Order caviar, and then say No.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

The real threat, as seen by the ACLU, is that religious behavior might give secular behavior a bad name, and that is, surely, unconstitutional.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

The police can't use clubs or gas or dogs. I suppose they will have to use poison ivy.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

The amount of money and of legal energy being given to prosecute hundreds of thousands of Americans who are caught with a few ounces of marijuana makes no sense.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Knee-jerk liberals and all the certified saints of sanctified humanism are quick to condemn this great and much-maligned Transylvanian statesman.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

We view our atomic arsenal as proudly and as devotedly as any pioneer ever viewed his flintlock hanging over the mantel as his children slept, and dreamed.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

It is not a sign of arrogance for the king to rule. That is what he is there for.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Everyone detected with AIDS should be tattooed in the upper forearm, to protect common needle users, and on the buttock, to prevent the victimization of other homosexuals.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Some of my instincts are reprehensible.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

If Bach is not in Heaven, I am not going!

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Why does baloney avoid the grinder?

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

I had much more fun criticizing than praising.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Norman Mailer decocts matters of the first philosophical magnitude from an examination of his own ordure, and I am not talking about his books.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

The Beatles are not merely awful. I would consider it sacrilegious to say anything less than that they are godawful.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Reagan is both too fatalistic and too modest to be a crudaser. He doesn't have that darkness around the eyes of a George McGovern.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

It seems to me that the idea traditionally defended of endeavoring to maintain existing ethnic balances simply doesn't work any more.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

To buy very good wine nowadays requires only money. To serve it to your guests is a sign of fatigue.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

All adventure is now reactionary.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

I profoundly believe it takes a lot of practice to become a moral slob.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Stick me in a confessional and ask the question: Sir, if you had the authority, would you forbid smoking in America? You'd get a solemn and contrite, Yes.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Self-control is one of the most exhilarating of pleasures.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Everything I do and say and the way I do and say it annoys me.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

If you had a European prime minister who experienced what we've experienced it would be expected that he would retire or resign.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Earlier this month the State Department gave the umpteenth performance of its popular play, Please Tread on Me, with Ceylon as guest star, and the usual cast.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

One doesn't read Jane Austen; one re-reads Jane Austen.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

[The] act of gratitude is nowadays is probably more often neglected

than overdone.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

I grew up, as reported, in a large family of Catholics without even a decent ration of tentativeness among the lot of us about our religious faith.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Louis Kelso of San Francisco, a lawyer-economist, has for years felt that he has a radical answer to the problem.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

Kennedy after all has lots of glamour - Gregory Peck with an atom bomb in his holster.

~William F. Buckley, Jr.

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