

**Brent  
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# Conviction contradiction

## GOP candidate's campaign is incongruent

Bob Dole is making it all too easy for Bill Clinton to remain president for a second term. True, he did receive a boost in the polls after the Republican National Convention. According to some polls, he trimmed Clinton's 22-point lead to 8 percent. But he has also made some big mistakes that might cost him



any chance he has of winning the election. He simply keeps contradicting himself. Here are just a few examples:

### MORAL DILEMMA

Dole talks about his commitment to morals, but he maintains that smoking has no link to lung cancer. And while there is no scientific proof that smoking causes cancer, the rate of the disease among smokers is so much higher than with nonsmokers that it should be obvious. If someone keeps kicking me in the rear and I turn around and there's just one guy standing there, I have no proof that he kicked me. But after I got kicked four or five times, I would get the picture. Mr. Dole knows this to be true as well; he just doesn't want to lose the support of the wealthy tobacco industry. So much for morality.

### BURNING BRIDGES

He says he is dedicated to bringing in African-American voters who traditionally vote for the Democrats. But when the NAACP had its convention in July, Dole thought it was more important to attend the Major League Baseball

All-Star Game. Then, last week at a National Association of Black Journalists Convention, he said that the reason he didn't speak at the event was because he didn't know when the NAACP convention was. Come on! How stupid does he think we are? If you are running for president of the United States, you know when the NAACP convention is being held. If you don't, you are sending the message that you either don't care about getting the African-American vote, or you know you can't get it.

### AGE-OLD CONCERN

I don't believe you should put a lot of stock in Dole being over 70 years old, but a lot of people do. So it makes little sense that he selected Jack Kemp for three reasons:

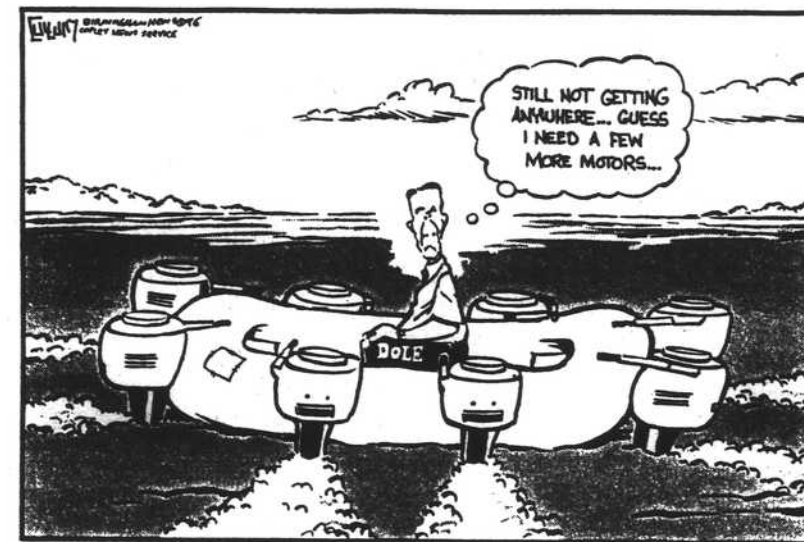
1) Kemp would be the oldest vice president for a first-term president in American history. So his nomination does nothing to appease those who are concerned about Dole's age.

2) Kemp has very different political views from Dole. So if you vote for Dole and his health takes a turn for the worse, all of a sudden you have a president with a much different agenda than the one you voted for.

3) Kemp is corny. If he gives one more football analogy (i.e., I'm the blocker, he's the quarterback, we're going to the Super Bowl, and we're going to win), I am going to puke.

### CENSORED FREEDOM

Dole talks a lot about giving the power back to the people instead of with the government. But at the same time he is a proponent of censorship in literature, music, movies and television. Those two things totally contradict each other. You can't give people the power to govern themselves and then tell



them what they can and can't read, listen to or watch. Why can't you leave censorship up to the parents and the adults? You know, like in the good old days.

### MONEY MATTERS

He wants to give everyone a 15-percent tax cut across the board and balance the deficit at the same time. But when asked how this can be done, Dole says that all the figures aren't worked out yet. Then how does he know it can work? Just last week he promised veterans that he wouldn't touch their benefits, and he promised senior citizens that he wouldn't touch social security. And at the Republican National Convention he promised to bring our armed forces back to the glory of the Reagan years, so the money definitely isn't coming from the Department of Defense. Maybe David Copperfield should be his running mate. Then he could just make the deficit disappear. (Besides, everyone likes to look at Claudia Schiffer.)

### QUICK FIX

During his Republican nomination speech, Dole said some things that were just too obvious to mention. For instance, he said, "Bob Dole likes ideas." That is so astute. Who doesn't like ideas? Who wrote that speech, Tarzan? I hope Bob Dole likes ideas, because he needs to come up with some new ones that don't contradict his other convictions.

Dole is running against a president with an approval rating over 50 percent, which is very good. And Bill Clinton now has the Democratic National Convention to help further his cause. So Bob Dole needs to come up with some quick solutions to his incongruities, or November's presidential election will be the largest blowout since Rush Limbaugh bent over wearing those tight spandex stretch pants.

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**Heather  
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# Selling ladies' shoes: a courageous act

It always starts out so innocently: "Your total comes to \$65.89. Will that be cash, check or charge?"

But I guess I should know the signs by now. I should have known when I saw the whites of her eyes turn red and her nostrils flare like a bull that I was in trouble.



"Excuse me, but what did you say the total was?" she asks as her forehead begins to contort. "That isn't right. Those were on SALE!!!!" she screams in a voice that rivals Linda Blair's in the "Exorcist" movies.

"I'm sorry ma'am. These boots are new for fall. Only the merchandise on that table is on sale," I answer. I try not to shake or show fear, even though I'm about to soil my pants. Experts say that when a wild animal senses fear, it attacks.

"What kind of scam is this???" I'm not paying that much for those!! Who is the manager?? I want to speak with the manager!!!! Whahhhhh!!!!" she bellows as her head begins spinning counterclockwise. I thought I was going to have to get some holy water and call a priest, but the manager showed up just in time.

I remember when I applied for

“*Much like a DMV worker, I often wonder how close I have come to being beaten bloody with a handbag.*”

my job. I went in with a cheery disposition and a positive attitude and told the biggest lie I would ever tell: "I love people!! I'm a 'people' person. Give me some people. I love those people."

Let's be honest. None of us really likes each other. It's every man or woman for him- or herself. When you work with the public, you learn this quickly.

Oh sure, we might not try to run each other over on the streets — though we'd like to. But when we enter an eating establishment or a discount store, we become malicious, frenzied beasts. Researchers really need to do studies on how close the average person has come to maiming the woman at the Department of Motor Vehicles counter while obtaining a driver's license.

Much like a DMV worker, I often wonder how close I have come to being beaten bloody with a handbag. I sell shoes at a department store and there seems to be something about trying on shoes that makes grown women lunge like cornered animals. Maybe it has

something to do with vanity. Women with large feet don't like to be told that they can't wear a size 6. I call it the Cinderella-stepsister phenomenon.

Sales also affect customers' dispositions. Price reductions are like narcotics for shoppers. Markdowns make them do things they normally wouldn't do. They will buy the ugliest shoes only because they're marked down 70 percent. "Oh Martha, these purple and fuchsia striped thongs are fabulous. Look they're only 20 bucks. Ooh! I must have them."

Markdowns also make people nastier than they would normally be. Women with strollers run over other women to grab a pair of pumps. You'll see elderly women beating each other with their walkers to get a pair of orthopedics... OK, so maybe I'm exaggerating a bit.

In the customer-service field, the motto is, "The customer is always right." There is a restaurant here in Lincoln that displays a sign that reads something like, "Treat every customer as if they were a treasured

guest in your home." It sounds lovely enough, but some of the people I've waited on I wouldn't let in my yard, let alone my home.

I've never been a waitress, but I've witnessed their abuses at the hands of some of my family and friends. My husband is infamous for sending his drink back until they get just the precise amount of ice cubes into his glass. The waitress usually smiles and says, "Sure," but I know she wants to beat him with the menu.

My grandparents will run a waiter to death, making him fill their coffee cups when they've only taken two drinks. They also enjoy making him list the entire dessert list twelve times, claiming they forgot their reading glasses. Then because he was such a good waiter, they leave him a quarter. Yes, Grandma, that 25 cents you left is sure to help that man support his family.

If you've ever read a celebrity interview, it's always most interesting to note what the actor or actress did to survive before they became famous. What you'll find is that most of them were once waiters and waitresses or sales people.

Who needs acting school? When you work in customer service every day is an act.

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