



Alex and Casey Adler

If I were not desperately worried about the world my children will inherit, I would not have given this talk. It is dedicated to them.

– St. Mary's Physics Professor Charles Adler, on the urgent need to seek immediate alternatives to a peaking oil supply. His talk, "Descending Mount Hubbert: Energy, cheap oil and the future," was the Steven Muller Distinguished Professor Lecture given Feb. 6.



His [Martin Luther King's] political genius was due to the fact that he understood the founding fathers of our nation when they said that for the sake of 'domestic tranquility' the role of government in civil society is to facilitate access of the people to five things. First, access to Income. Second, access to Education to make money. Third, access to Healthcare to live long enough to enjoy it. Four, they recognized you had to have access to Housing or shelter from the elements... and finally Justice, so that if you have some income, education, healthcare, and housing, nobody can take it from you with impunity. That's what they understood and they built a nation. They were some brilliant people and Martin was as brilliant as they.

– Pastor William E. Fauntroy at Martin Luther King Day prayer breakfast, held Jan. 21 in the Great Room of St. Mary's College Campus Center.

Said on Campus

Quotes from recent lectures and talks at St. Mary's College of Maryland

I do think Hillary Clinton has made a mistake by trying to diminish Obama by diminishing the importance of words. Instead of just hiring a great speechwriter, like Obama has, she's making the absurd case that potent words are suspect, and that any emotions words can inspire – like hope and courage – are suspect as well. Having lived through 16 years of Clinton and Bush administrations that use words at times to distort and hide the truth, "to obscure rather than reveal," as Orwell put it, I am longing for a president who understands that words are actions and words are a promise.

The Bushes never connected words and action. When Poppy Bush said, "Read my lips, no new taxes," he thought that was just [speechwriter] Peggy Noonan's way of giving him a little spine, making him seem more Clint Eastwood than Bertie Wooster. So when he raised taxes to try and lower the deficit, he was stunned that the conservative base turned on him. To his base, those words were a commitment. The same with his son: When W promised during his 2000 campaign that he would not nation-build, and that he would have a humble foreign policy, and that he would be a compassionate conservative and work with the other side of the aisle, those were just words made up by others that he was reading on a teleprompter. He did not think he needed to stick with them once in office. Trapped in the Monica scandal, Bill Clinton asked Dick Morris to poll to see if he should lie to the American public or tell the truth. When you say "it depends what the meaning of 'is'" is and when you ask your aides to come out and lie for you because, after all, it's just words, you've lost all sense of the importance of words and keeping a bond of faith with the public.

Words can do anything. They can make you fall in love or out of love, they can start wars or prevent wars, they can bring pleasure or pain, they can bring down a corrupt president, as Ben [Bradlee] knows, and they can soothe the nation as they did with FDR during depression and war, and inspire a generation to get involved as they did with JFK. Words are magical, and any politician who forgets that does so at his or her own peril.

– New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd at the 2008 Margaret Brent Lecture titled "Political Follies," Feb. 11.

This intel stuff sounds kind of interesting. So I signed up just to get the training... Then I got hooked because I had a chance to see the inside. I got to understand the secrets and see the capability.

– Mike McConnell, Director of the Office of National Intelligence, speaking Jan. 16 of his decision on what career path to take in 1967 after returning from Vietnam. McConnell's talk, sponsored by the Patuxent Partnership and the Center for the Study of Democracy, made national headlines the next day when he spoke of how lives have been saved by information learned by interrogating terrorists and how the globalization of technology is creating a new threat for intelligence gatherers.

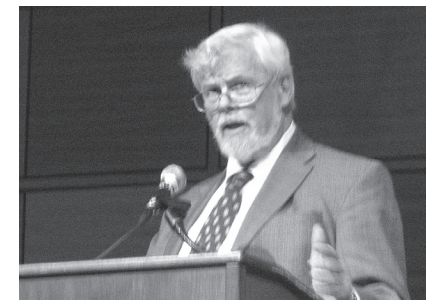


When a newspaper first introduces Sudoku, there is usually a box saying something like "Don't worry, there is no math in the puzzle." What they mean is there is no arithmetic, but of course there is math, stealth math. They can't tell because there is no adding.

– Professor Laura Taalman, James Madison University, during her talk "Sudoku: Questions, variations and research,"

Feb. 13. After admitting she is terrible at adding, she used some of that stealth math to show that the total number of 9×9 Sudoku puzzle boards is 6,670,903,752,021,072,936,960, or more than the weight of Earth in metric tons.

5	3		7					
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8	3				1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9



What I'd like to try to do tonight is explain why I have been doing this work for 40 years, and I'm still not done! And I don't expect to be done until they put me in the pine box – that I have thoughtfully installed in my office.

Robert Hirst, editor of The Mark Twain Project and head curator of the Mark Twain Papers for the past 40 years, in introductory remarks from his lecture, "Better Shove This in the Stove: Tales from the Mark Twain Papers," Feb. 7

I'm big on winning. If you don't win, you can't do anything, so win!

– SMCM's Nitze Senior Fellow Kathleen Kennedy Townsend on the best election tactics in her talk, "Reflections on Today's Political Season," Feb. 20.

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