



# Media Reality ✓ Check QUICK TAKE

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## ALTER'S "CONVENTIONAL WISDOM" BOX EXPOSED AS VERY UNWISE **NEWSWEEK'S "WAR WHIPLASH" INJURY**

Often the most free-wheeling, sassy, and downright liberal and partisan property within *Newsweek* magazine is the "Conventional Wisdom" box, generally credited to Senior Editor Jonathan Alter. In this week's "War Whiplash Edition," the magazine confessed: "The CW charts the manic movements of media/Beltway blowhards, whether right or wrong. Occupational hazard: Arrows can spin overnight." But over the years the "wisdom" of the so-called "media/Beltway blowhards" has tilted very sharply to the left. Last week, *Newsweek* gave Vice President Cheney a down arrow: **"Tells *Meet the Press* just before war, 'We will be greeted as liberators.' An arrogant blunder for the ages."** Look at who made the arrogant historical blunders last week:

### GEORGE W. BUSH LAST WEEK



"Steadfast, but his war cluelessly flings open the gates of hell, making any sort of victory Pyrrhic."

### vs. THIS WEEK



"Looks like he was right about ex-generals' hand-wringing being 'silly.' But it's not over yet."

### DONALD RUMSFELD LAST WEEK



"Taking fire from TV retired generals for flawed war plan. And how did you miss the fedayeen?"

### vs. THIS WEEK



"Old CW: Orders too few troops to do the job. New CW: Brilliant architect of flexible war plan. But it's not over yet."

### PETER ARNETT TWO WEEKS AGO



"Old CW: Gulf War I has-been. New: Once more, unto the Baghdad breach. 'Shock and awe, indeed, Tom!'"

### vs. THIS WEEK



"Old CW: Old warhorse rehabs career in Baghdad. New CW: Stupidly blows career by going on Saddam TV. D'oh!"