Arnold’s Ruthless Hired Guns Show He’s One Scared Son-of-a-Bush

Arnold Schwarzenegger is trying to act the part of a confident candidate – smooth and self-assured – but beneath that veneer of smiles and swagger is one very scared Son-of-a-Bush.

If you don’t believe it, just look at who he’s hired to run his campaign against Phil Angelides – three of the Bush/Cheney team’s most ruthless campaign mercenaries, all trained by “Bush’s Brain,” Karl Rove. If Arnold doesn’t think he’s in trouble, why would he reach all the way across the country and bring in three of the most savage campaign gut-fighters in the business.

Let’s shine a little light on them, because they’re the kind of guys who like to work underground. All that bad air helps them hatch their schemes.

Steve Schmidt – Arnold’s campaign manager. Schmidt is a big guy with a shaved head that looks like an artillery shell. He ran the Bush campaign’s war room in 2004, and was often seen stalking through it muttering, “Kill, kill, kill.”

That may be why Schmidt’s nickname is “Bullet.”

After Bush was re-elected in 2004, Schmidt became spin doctor in charge of press relations and communications for Vice President Dick Cheney. He also was the chief White House strategist to sell the U.S. Supreme Court
nomination of conservative Judge Samuel A. Alito, Jr. to members of the U.S. Senate, who had to vote on Alito’s confirmation.

Arnold is paying Schmidt $52,000 a MONTH!

**Alex Castellanos** – His specialty is the design and production of poisonous and negative campaign ads. In 1990, when Castellanos worked for incumbent Sen. Jesse Helms, who was in a tight race for the U.S. Senate with Harvey Gantt, the African-American former mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina, Castellanos ran what many consider the most racially divisive ad in campaign history. Salon.com described the ad this way: “Called ‘White Hands,’ it featured an angry white worker crumpling up a job rejection notice. He had lost out because ‘they had to give it to a minority.’” Gantt lost.

In the 2000 presidential campaign, Castellanos produced an ad for George Bush that flashed the word “RATS” across the screen for a split second as it mocked Al Gore’s position on prescription drugs. The ad drew so much fire from the press and the public that Bush had to yank it off the air.

For nearly two decades, Castellanos has polluted the TV screens with ads that often were so misleading and distasteful that they had to be pulled. But he’s still in business, and he will be the guy designing Schwarzenegger’s ads against Angelides.

**Matthew Dowd** – He’s the third Bush guy on Arnold’s campaign team. Dowd has worked both sides of the political street. In the 2004 presidential campaign, he was George W. Bush’s pollster. That’s interesting, because in 1992, he ran Democrat Bill Clinton’s California campaign for President.

In 2004, when the *Los Angeles Times* ran a poll that Dowd thought made Bush’s re-election prospects look too gloomy, Dowd papered the media and Bush’s supporters with news releases that challenged the *Times* poll and its methodology, using every criticism he could think of.

One thing you can count on with Dowd running Arnold’s polling operation. He will trumpet Arnold’s numbers from the highest mountain in California as long as the movie muscleman is even slightly ahead. When Angelides is leading, look for an attack on whoever did the polling.
The ad war has already begun, and it’s only July. Arnold has hired a merciless team, and this political battle promises to be bruising.

Arnold will try to deny that he’s joined hip and thigh with George W. Bush and Dick Cheney. His campaign team makes that a flat-out lie. The fight to expose his ties with Bush and Cheney begins now. Because in November, we want an Angelides victory. We don’t want California’s promising future to be changed into a political wasteland called Bush-a-fornia.