Excerpts from *Parliament of Whores*, By P.J. O’Rourke, 1991

Pg. 17 – The American political system is like a gigantic Mexican Christmas fiesta. Each political party is a huge piñata – a papier-mâché donkey, for example. The donkey is filled with full employment, low interest rates, affordable housing, comprehensive medical benefits, a balanced budget and other goodies. The American voter is blindfolded and given a stick. The voter then swings the stick wildly in every direction, trying to hit a political candidate on the head and knock some sense into the silly bastard.

Pg. 59 – A commodities futures trading commission reauthorization act to make sure the commodities market is as well regulated as, say, the savings and loan industry.

Pg. 119 – What this country has wrong that’s worse than drugs is that we’re not serious. We’re not serious about the drug problems, we’re not serious about the problems causing the drug problem and we’re not serious about anything else either. We have a child welfare system that pays women to have illegitimate children. We have big city property laws where if you buy a piece of rental property, you’re penalized with a price freeze, but if you wreck a piece of rental property, no force on earth can evict you. When somebody screams obscenities at the corner lamppost and relieves himself on your front steps, you can’t get that person committed to a mental hospital. But if you walk through the park after 8:00 P.M., all your friends call you crazy. We are not a serious nation.

Pg. 210 – And even those few aren’t really innocent. All the senators and representatives and all the citizens of the United States who voted for them are guilty of forgetting one basic rule of business and life: When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought and sold are legislators.

Pg. 233 – What we were trying to do with our legislation in the Blatherboro Town Meeting was wanton, cheap and greedy – a sluttish thing. This should come as no surprise. Authority has always attracted the lowest elements in the human race. All through history mankind has been bullied by scum. Those who lord it over their fellows and toss commands in every direction and would boss the grass in the meadow about which way to bend in the wind are the most depraved kind of prostitutes. They will submit to any indignity, perform any vile act, do anything to achieve power. The worst off-sloughings of the planet are the ingredients of sovereignty. Every government is a parliament of whores.

The trouble is, in a democracy the whores are us.