

The Washington Post

What Defeat? Rice Finesses Win-Win at OAS; [FINAL Edition]

Al Kamen. The Washington Post. Washington, D.C.: May 16, 2005. pg. A.15

Copyright The Washington Post Company May 16, 2005

And now, "The Power of Collaborative Dialogue," a program for Senate chiefs of staff that may be especially useful in the post- Nuclear Option Senate.

Organizational consultants Susan and Peter Glaser are coming all the way from Eugene, Ore., to "facilitate" this event, sponsored by the Senate office of education and training. Our invite says this is "designed especially for you on a topic critical to your success" as a chief of staff.

The Glasers, who have written books and consulted with companies and state and local governments, will teach you to do things such as "build agreement, coalition and support for divergent positions."

Perhaps more important, you'll learn to "create a meeting climate free from personal attack, wheel spinning and negativity," apparently even on the Hill. And you'll know how to "apply a five- step problem-solving approach that crafts agreements which convert to action." There appears to be a special section for the staff of Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D-Del.) that will explain how you can "keep comments brief and persuasive."

Rumor has it that guest speakers at the day-long event include Senate Democratic leader Harry M. Reid (Nev.), who will talk about the pitfalls of foot-in-mouth disease, and Under-secretary of State John R. Bolton, who will explain how non-confrontational methods are the key to success.

The event is to be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 13. Quite possible there won't be much else going on up there.

