

Really on the Horns of a Dilemma

After the hurricanes, a local friend who must remain nameless volunteered to spend a few weeks helping with search and rescue efforts on the Gulf coast. Before leaving home, while preparing for the journey, he decided to take along a great new pocket-sized digital camera that he had just purchased--a 128 megapixel beauty that could be set to use its memory card for one super-duper photograph or up to sixty photos of lower quality. After he arrived on the coast, he busied himself helping to rescue people from rooftops, vehicles, and trees. While engaged in the rescues, he had managed to get several good photos, and, during a lull in the activity, he had just replaced a full memory card with a fresh one. Immediately afterward, while making his way through the currents toward an exhausted and thirsty elderly man, who was stranded on a roof, he noticed that George W. Bush, who was visiting the hurricane site with a few other celebrities, had slipped and fallen into the churning waters and was being swept toward a large pipe that proceeded underground to the nearby lake. All the secret service men and women were trying to rescue him, but none could reach him in time; only my friend could reach Bush and save him. On the other hand, he could get what would possibly be the photograph of the century of the president of the U. S. swirling down the drain. He could do either: rescue Bush or get the picture; however, he could not do both. Decisions, decisions--he was forced to decide quickly. What a terrible dilemma! What should he do? Should he risk it all and try for one great better-than-life picture using the entire memory card, or should he take several lesser-quality photos to be sure of capturing the event?