

# **JIM C – QUIZ OF THE WEEK**

## **MONDAY – 10/27/08**

**Saturday Night Live has consistently referred to the Republican presidential and vice presidential candidates as “mavericky.”**

**HOW DID THE TERM “MAVERICK” ORIGINATE?**

***Definition:* 1. *Southwestern U.S.* - an unbranded calf, cow, or steer, especially an unbranded calf that is separated from its mother.**

**2. A lone dissenter, as an intellectual, an artist, or a politician, who takes an independent stand apart from his or her associates.**

***Origin (Online Entymology):* 1. 1867, "calf or yearling found without an owner's brand. 2. 1886, sense of "individualist, unconventional person" via notion of "masterless."**

***Maverick* is an “eponym,” a word which once was someone's proper name. The term was an allusion to Samuel Maverick, a 19<sup>th</sup> century Texas cattleman who became famous for not branding his cattle. His unidentified cattle were often “adopted” by other ranchers who called them "mavericks."**

**Conventional Wisdom: *Maverick* = Unbranded, a free thinker**

**Moment of Zen: A political maverick must be a paradigm shifter, not simply someone who disagrees with their own party.**