



CONSERVATIVE BATTLELINE ONLINE

The "Bold Colors" Conservative Voice in Washington

April 4, 2007

[Christian Unity?](#)

From the Battle Line

[Christian Unity?](#)

by Donald Devine

[Myth of Bush Tax Cuts](#)

by Brian Riedl

[Growth Recession?](#)

by Westbury and Stein

Media Pass in Review

[Media Ignore Swiss Health Vote](#)

by Greg Scanlon

[O'Reilly Spin on Hornbeck](#)

by Doug Edelman

["F" in Religious Education](#)

by Sharon Hughes

Government Maneuvers

[Dangers of Independent Prosecution](#)

by Joseph Morris

[Employer or Doctor?](#)

by John Goodman

[Postal Privatization](#)

by Robby Schrum

Culture Wars

[A New Plague](#)

by Alan Caruba

[Deadly Organic Spinach](#)

by Alex and Dennis Avery

[Drug War or Drug Regulation?](#)

by Howard Wooldridge

Political Front

[Loaded Primaries](#)

by Paul Weyrich

[Not a Woman President?](#)

Carey Roberts

[Hillary and China Shoot-Down](#)

by Carl Horowitz

Reader Backfire

[Great Warming Swindle](#)

[Marketing Evil](#)

by Joanne Mandel

[Reader Comments](#)

Christian Unity?

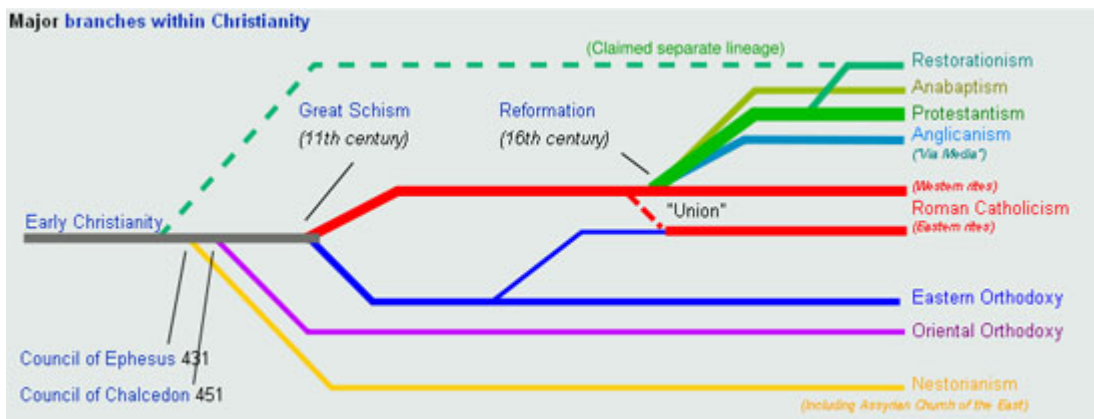
by Donald Devine

"One flock and one Sheppard" was Jesus' command. Yet, as Easter 2007 approaches, the Apostles Creed's "one, holy, catholic and apostolic church" seems remote and almost duplicitous.

At the heart of Christianity is a paradox. There is a One and a Three, one God and three Persons--Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Christianity cannot compete with Islam on the matter of unity. God is One, Allah is everything. Curiously, when Christianity rejected trinity in the case of Unitarianism, the unity view finally rejected God altogether.

When one looks at actual Christianity, one confronts the world's largest value system, with one-third of its peoples claiming adherence. But disunity is the rule. The denomination that claims catholicity, the Roman Catholic Church, can boast a majority of Christians but barely at 1.2 billion out of 2 billion worldwide. Historical Protestantism totals 340 million in scores of denominations, Orthodoxy has 225 million adherents, Pentecostalism claims 120 million, Anglicanism has 73 million and a large number of other sects hold 40 million more. Of course, even religions that claim unity are also divided. Islam has 1.2 billion but Sunnis hold only 86 percent of Muslims, with Shiites at 14 percent, and with other divisions too. Judaism has organized into Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and even secular designations.

Moreover, nothing about these divisions is static. At the beginning, there was the sense of Christian unity but little central church organization, with the main control exercised first by Roman, then Byzantine and, after the fall of Rome, Frankish monarchs. As early as 431 the Assyrian Church moved away and in 1054 the great eastern and western churches split. During the Middle Ages Roman Catholicism held most Christians in the West, although even then there were dissenting sects and "heretical" branches. With the rise of Protestantism under Martin Luther in 1517, a multiplication of sects began that has not ended until this day.



As the 21st Century dawned, things were changing once again. The most obvious has been the decline of the historical Protestant denominations. In Europe this has been most dramatic in the dramatic drop in church attendance into single digits but even identification with such denominations has fallen to bare majorities or less, although most still consider themselves nominal Christians in some sense or other according to polls. In the U.S., secularism and conversion to other denominations from the once dominant mainline sects has been the major

dynamic of the past half century. Orthodox Christianity has remained rather stable in terms of identification and church attendance (at least outside of southeastern Europe).

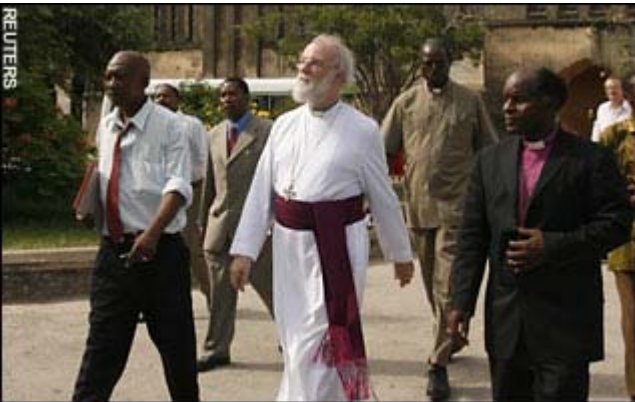
Christian growth has centered in the Pentecostal Protestant denominations, especially within the U.S. While well funded attempts have been made by them to evangelize the Third World, especially to challenge Catholics in South America, conversion has been only marginally successful in total numbers, although the percentages of increase have been impressive (and some Pentecostals dispute the statistics, claiming even greater growth). Catholicism, again with the major exception of Europe, has been growing too, by keeping reproduction rates up in the developing nations, lower than in the past but high relative to other Christian denominations, although not compared to Islam's much higher rate.



Bartholomew I

While Pentecostalism has attempted growth by conversion, Catholicism has given more emphasis to attempts at reunification and rejuvenation. Being closest to Orthodoxy in doctrine and liturgy, most endeavors have been made in that direction. Interestingly, given that the major challenge to Catholicism in Europe has been from rationalistic secularism, the problem from the Orthodox point of view is that Catholicism is too rational and not spiritual enough. Indeed, both Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI have re-emphasized the synthesis of reason and faith as a central principle. In explaining the lack of progress in unification, Eastern Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I, emphasized that "modernism, a paradigm that came out of the Enlightenment" was the core ideology eroding Christian culture. The problem is that this Enlightenment rationalism was a "descendant" of the medieval philosophy that still lies at the core of Roman Catholicism, although he promised to continue unity discussions.

With the crisis of Anglicanism emanating from the consecration of women and an openly practicing homosexual as bishops in the U.S., the American Episcopal branch is faced with exclusion from the world Anglican communion and with an internal schism in the U.S. Already the American Episcopal Church has seen conservative parishes accept the leadership of sees in Africa rather than submit to bishops considered heretical. A meeting of the archbishops of 38 Anglican provinces was recently held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania to consider how to avoid schism as a result of the U.S. consecration of the bishop and blessing of civil unions of homosexuals, the ordination of women and other liberal doctrines in the West. Many traditional bishops there refused to share communion with the Americans. A final warning was issued to the American episcopacy and there was even a reaching out to the Catholic Church, from which it had split under Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.



Even more remarkably, a 42-page statement has been prepared by the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission outlining how both churches could reunite. The document, leaked to The Times of London, is now at the Vatican, where its bishops are preparing a reply.

The document "Growing Together in Unity and Mission" acknowledges the difficulties but recommends members of each denomination attend each other's synodical gatherings and pilgrimages, write common teaching resources for children, develop protocols for movement of clergy between churches and even each praying publicly for the Pope and Archbishop of Canterbury! On the key issue of Papal authority, there is the unprecedented proposal: "We

urge Anglicans and Roman Catholics to explore together how the ministry of the Bishop of Rome might be offered and received in order to assist our Communion to grow toward full, ecclesial communion." On the other hand, 400 years of division will not be healed overnight.

In the meantime, Christian disunity is the norm. Forcing unification has been rejected by all but a few fringe groups in recent times and is not an option. Most Christian denominations have even rejected force formally, as did the largest denomination at its historic Vatican II Council during the 1960s. It is rather clear anyway that the justification of force in the past actually reflected a fundamental Christian misconception. It was based on Jesus' declaration, "Whoever is not with me is against me." He says "me" not a "you" addressed to some denomination of his followers. For a church to enforce what is an injunction about "me" is equating the denomination to Jesus, or God, which is surely blasphemous for a Christian.

Jesus did have something to say to Christians about "you" as opposed to "me." But it had the opposite meaning, declaring, "Whoever is not against you is with you." This declaration of tolerance took a long time to digest. The historian Lord Acton said it was not enacted into law by a Christian government until Maryland's Act of Tolerance in 1649—not that anyone else did it sooner (although Lord Baltimore and Roger Williams had earlier set an informal policy), and even that was overruled by the British parliament in 1689. Christian tolerance was not adopted widely until the late 19th Century, and by no means fully even then—or today.

With the acceptance of freedom of conscience, however, full unity will almost certainly remain elusive until love and reason meet. In the meantime, Christians are commanded to work for unity within the bounds of tolerance; but they would be wise also to have some patience.

Donald Devine, the editor of Conservative Battleline Online, was the director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management from 1981 to 1985 and is the director of the [Federalist Leadership Center](#) at Bellevue University.

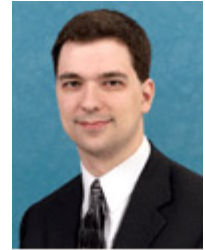
**E-mail the
Editor**

Myth of Bush tax Cuts

by Brian Riedl

"Ten Myths of the Bush Tax Cuts" recently published by The Heritage Foundation shows that, contrary to conventional wisdom:

- Current tax revenues of 18.4% of GDP are now above the historical average;
- Even if the Bush tax cuts are made permanent, CBO projects revenues will still surge to a record 22.8% of GDP by 2050;
- Negative GDP, investment, and jobs trends immediately reversed after the 2003 tax cuts were enacted; and
- The Bush tax cuts actually shifted the total tax burden even further towards the rich, according to CBO.



Brian Riedl

For more details on these and many more mythbusters go to:

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Taxes/bg2001.cfm>

I hope you find these useful to answer the myths raised in the media and by those who never saw a tax they thought could not be higher.

Brian Riedl is Grover M. Hermann Fellow for Federal Budgetary Affairs at The Heritage Foundation

**E-mail the
Editor**

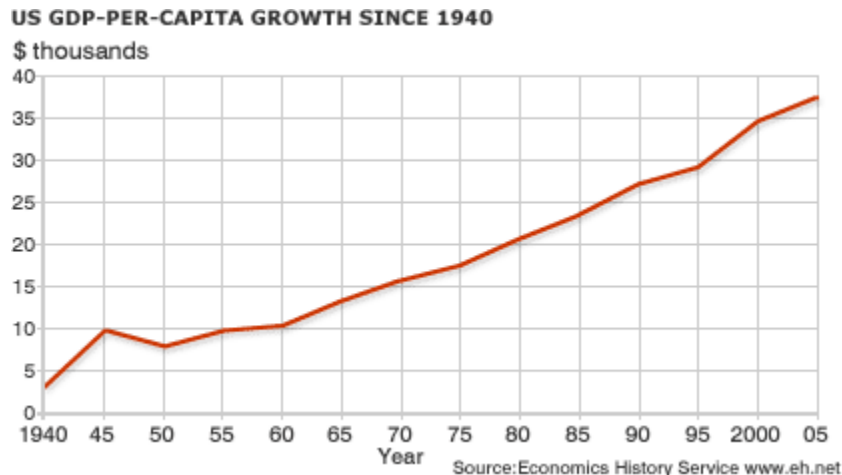
Growth Recession?

by Brian Wesbury and Robert Stein

Real GDP growth has fallen below 3%, the unemployment rate is way down from the recession high but seems to have stalled, initial claims have spiked, and productivity growth has slowed. Real average hourly earnings are still lower than they were at the peak of the last recovery and the ISM Manufacturing Index has recently dipped below 50 - its lowest level in almost five years. Despite a five-year old recovery, manufacturing payrolls are shrinking. Demand is weakening among both consumers and businesses: retail sales excluding autos are up only 2.5% versus a year ago; shipments of capital goods excluding defense and aircraft are up only 1.6%.

Given these worrisome economic statistics, how can we remain optimistic? How can we remain confident that the expansion will continue?

Partly because the data we referred to in the first paragraph were purposefully misleading. It may sound familiar but none of it is from the current recovery. It's from January 1996. That's right, 1996, right smack dab in the middle of the last expansion. It comes from what has been called a "growth recession" in the mid-1990s, just before productivity growth re-accelerated and economic growth picked back up.



The similarities between the two business cycles are striking. Both started out with modest recessions, followed by relatively weak "jobless" recoveries. Most early gains in income accrued to companies and high-income workers, not middle or lower-income workers. But after dramatic Fed tightening, the economy entered a soft patch. In the 1990s, the economy reaccelerated and falling unemployment helped generate strong income gains for workers across the income spectrum. In turn, Washington, DC found itself on the receiving end of a gusher of revenue that drove the federal budget into surplus territory for the first time in decades.

We expect this pattern to repeat itself in the current decade. Not every month or quarter of bad data signals the end of an economic expansion. Often it's just statistical "noise." Other times, once the data gets revised a few years later, it turns out the lull never even happened in the first place. It was just bad data based on limited information and faulty statistics.

Expansions do not die of old-age; they are killed by policy mistakes - like excessive Fed tightening, protectionism or tax hikes. With these mistakes still at bay, we continue to forecast robust economic growth and healthy equity markets ahead.

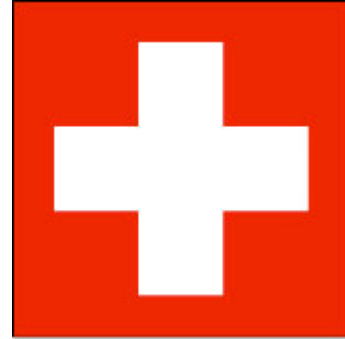
Brian S. Wesbury; is Chief Economist and Robert Stein, CFA, Senior Economist at First trust Portfolios. This information contains forward-looking statements about various economic trends and strategies. You are cautioned that such forward-looking statements are subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and actual results could be materially different. There are no guarantees associated with any forecast and the opinions stated here are subject to change at any time and are the opinion of the individual strategist. Data comes from the following sources: Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Federal Reserve Board, and Haver Analytics. Data is taken from sources generally believed to be reliable but no guarantee is given to its accuracy.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Media Ignore Swiss Health Vote

by Greg Scandlen

On March 11, 2007 the Swiss people voted overwhelmingly to reject a Single Payer health care system. But there has been not a word about it in the American press – other than a single paragraph in the trade publication [Business Insurance](#). This is rather strange considering that the almost universal cry from the left and the media has been to adopt such a wholly government-run system for the United States



The vote was on whether to replace Switzerland's current system of mandatory health insurance coverage provided by 87 private health plans with a single payer system based on income-related premiums. It was rejected by 71% of the voters.

If the vote had gone the other way – if the Swiss had embraced Single Payer – it would have been front page news in every newspaper in the United States, it would have been a lead story in every broadcast. Reporters would have booked flights to Geneva to interview citizens and political leaders.

This provides a sobering example of why public policy goes so wrong in the United States. The public is informed of only one side of the story. Reporters and editors are biased in favor of government intervention and against free markets. They are part of a privileged elite who think consumers are incapable of making sound decisions and intelligent choices.

But the people of Switzerland made the same choice as the American people make every time they have had an opportunity. Voters in Oregon rejected Single Payer by a vote of 79% to 21% in 2002. People do not want to be herded into a government-run cattle car. We want and demand freedom of choice in health care as in every other aspect of our lives.

Greg Scandlen is president of Consumers for Health Care Choices. Consumers for Health Care Choices is a national membership organization of citizens devoted to putting the consumer in the driver's seat of the health care system. It was organized just over one year ago and is growing quickly as more people realize the future of health care rests with empowered consumers. The Board Chair is Daniel (Stormy) Johnson, Jr., MD, a radiologist in Metairie, Louisiana, and former president of the American Medical Association

**E-mail the
Editor**

O'Reilly Spin on Hornbeck

by Doug Edelman

After hearing Bill O'Reilly speak at an event recently in St Louis, I went back and reviewed video of O'Reilly's exchange with Greta about Shawn Hornbeck. I wanted to get it straight from the horse's mouth, and not rely on my own memory and certainly not depend on the St Louis Post Dispatch for an accurate recounting. I wanted to lay his comments there against his original statements.



You can view the video yourself [here](#).

I was disappointed to see that while he's toeing a more appropriate line now, (i.e. Shawn was abused unspeakably, and Devlin doesn't deserve to continue to breathe...) O'Reilly STILL has yet to retract, explain or apologize for the original January 15 statements about Shawn. Not even at the recent KFTK radio event! It was a nice dance... nevertheless it was still a Clintonesque dodge.

In the clip from January 15, O'Reilly DID say he thought that there was something Shawn LIKED about being with Devlin - and he also said "If I'm wrong, we'll play this tape..." He should follow through and do so. He should plainly retract the statements he made with Greta that day.

As a "no spin" guy, Bill really ought to stand up and say "I spoke too soon, I didn't have the facts. Now I do, and I was wrong. I apologize."

After that, O'Reilly can tout the "child sexual abuse accommodation syndrome" all day long, and try to regain the status as a champion of the kids against predation that he had held previously thanks to his laudable promotion of Jessica's Law.

Until and unless he comes thru with a direct retraction of his earlier statements - his credibility as a defender of the kids, as a culture warrior, and as a "No Spin" person remains diminished.

Doug Edelman is a conservative political commentator and a contributing editor for The Conservative Voice. His work is also seen on News By Us, The American Daily, The Post Chronicle, New Media Journal, Capitol Hill Coffee House etc. For the support of his family, however, he is also an IT Consultant/Contractor and owner of a Computer Services Business. He has taught PC Maintenance & Repair and Networking at his local Community College, and maintains a blog at <http://edeldoug.blogs.com/>.

**E-mail the
Editor**

"F" in Religious Education

by Sharon Hughes

It seems every Easter now we are seeing someone new talking about Jesus in unorthodox ways. This year it's about a new tomb found with proponents claiming Jesus was married and buried with his wife. Are Americans buying this story? Very few, especially as compared to the DaVinci Code when it came out in movie form last year.



Sharon Hughes

While the great majority of Americans claim to *believe* in God and to be of the Christian faith, what do Americans really *know* about God?

[USA Today reported last week](#) on the outcome of a quiz given by Stephen Prothero, chairman of the religion department at Boston University and author of "Religious Literacy, What Every American Needs to Know", which shows 60% of Americans can't name 5 of the 10 Commandment in the Bible, and over half of high school seniors think Sodom and Gomorrah were...married.

I picked up the paper while waiting for an appointment at the Hotel to finalize plans for our [upcoming WOMANTalk Spring Luncheon](#), and decided to conduct my own mini survey, and asked three young women in their twenties working behind the front desk, if they knew what Sodom and Gomorrah was. All three said no, they had no idea, they had never heard of them.

Unbelievable. But, whose fault is it that young people are so unfamiliar with such (formerly) common known accounts from the bible? Parents for not passing on an education of the Bible? Society for pushing God out of the schools? Or the individuals themselves?

Here are some of the other questions in the Pop quiz:

- Name the four gospels
- What are the first five books of the Hebrew Bible or the Christian Old Testament?
- Where according to the Bible was Jesus born?
- What are the Seven Sacraments of Catholicism?
- President George W. Bush spoke in his first inaugural address of the Jericho road. What Bible story was he invoking?

"We're impoverished by ignorance," says Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, who blames Sunday Schools for 'trivializing religious education.'

Interestingly, Prothero's solution is to require middle-schoolers to take a course in world religions, and for high schoolers to take one on the Bible, and all college undergrads to take at least one course in religious studies.

The author also says schools are failing on the religious literacy front because they 'reduce religion to morality'. "We are not all on the same one path to the same one God. Religions aren't all saying the same thing. That's presumptuous and wrong. They start with different problems, solve the problems in different ways, and they have different goals."

While the author's ideas are great, it would be a huge battle to implement them.

The ACLU, Richard Dawkins and others of the '[new atheism](#),' which is a more aggressive atheism, ([see 'Blasphemy Challenge'](#)) wouldn't stand for a return of God to our public schools. And their allies, such as the Center for [Progressive Christianity](#) and Soulforce, the gay-activist

group which is currently on its [Equality Ride](#) across the nation protesting the moral codes of Christian colleges, would be fighting alongside them.

I asked earlier in this article who is to blame for America getting an "F" in religion, but that isn't as important as this question: who will fight and pull in the opposite direction to see America's grade go up? You?

Sharon Hughes is President, The Center for Changing Worldviews, Changing Worldviews WOMANTalk Radio.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Dangers of Independent Prosecution

by Joseph Morris

Three simple things besides raw partisanship explain the current rhubarb over replacing U.S. attorneys: Ignorance, fear, and myth.

The ignorance may be willful. Some seem unaware of a basic fact about the Constitution. It entrusts all federal executive power to a single individual: The President. Legislators jealous of power find this inconvenient. Executives fearful of criticism find it scary.

So we end up with a President exercising his rightful authority to replace U.S. attorneys and a Congress doing its necessary job of oversight. Yet the Administration offers limp, timid, nonsensical, and self-contradictory explanations. Meanwhile some members of Congress — hoping not only to extract a proper political accounting from the President, but also to make partisan hay — overreach, questioning not just the wisdom of the executive's decisions, but the very legitimacy of its power.

Perhaps they need a 5th grade civics lesson.

The Framers understood that executing laws, as opposed to making or interpreting them, requires clear authority and a chain of command. Command brings responsibility. They left no doubt as to where the executive buck stops.

A President's core role in foreign affairs is as commander in chief. When diplomacy has had its day, ultimate recourse for the safety of a sovereign nation is to military might. No one doubts the President's authority to command the troops; to delegate command to subordinates; to appoint commanders in whom he has confidence; to remove commanders in whom his confidence has been lost; and to replace commanders simply when he finds better ones. And no one doubts the duty of a President to answer, politically, for his conduct of war — including his choices of personnel for a war's prosecution.

There is a corresponding core role of the President in domestic affairs: The power of prosecution. If every other means of taxing, spending, regulating, and administering fails to attain required obedience to legitimate demands, the last resort of a lawful government is to sue the non-compliant, whether in civil or a criminal proceedings. Congress decides what the law should be, and what kinds of suits should be brought against what kinds of defendants. Courts interpret what the law, as enacted, and decide cases. It is the job of the executive to sue.

Ultimate responsibility for the government's choices, in the prosecution of crime as in the prosecution of war, rests with the President. No one should doubt, therefore, the authority of the President to appoint prosecutors in whom he has confidence, and to remove and replace prosecutors when he thinks he should.

That there is doubt reflects the muddled constitutional thinking of our time. The rule of law subjects authority to accountability; the principle of democracy makes accountability a properly political matter. But people in authority are leery of accountability. It's nice to be in charge when crime statistics are low. One is happy to attribute such tidings to one's own executive or legislative decisions. But when crime is rampant, or corruption in public office is rife and hitting close to home, some leaders, including some Presidents, have found it more comfortable to put distance between themselves and controversial decisions.

Thus has been born the myth of "independent prosecution".



Prosecution is presented as an alabaster ideal, pristine and insulated from politics. There is even a theory which holds that prosecutors should not answer to the President or the attorney general, but to some abstract notion of the "public good". Such an image of prosecution is not only nonsense, it is dangerous.

Prosecution is a terrible power. Even without winning a judgment or conviction, the mere decision to prosecute imposes enormous costs on the purses, reputations, and, indeed, the lives of defendants. It is the full force of sovereignty brought to bear on an individual. Someone should be accountable for it, and in the federal government it's the President, the only executive who is elected and thus directly answerable to the people. If the President is not responsible for the exercise of this great power, then no one is. And irresponsible exercise of power is the very definition of tyranny.

Let the President act. Let Congress question him for his actions. Let the President answer truthfully and, one hopes, intelligibly. Let Congress spread the facts on the public record. And let the people keep all this in mind when they go to the polls.

Joseph A. Morris, a Chicago lawyer, was a senior official in the Reagan Justice Department, This originally appeared in The Washington Examiner.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Employer or Doctor?

by John Goodman

Two recent articles by Milt Freudenheim in the New York Times are worth reading. The first describes companies that are providing onsite primary care to their employees. Included are Toyota, Sprint and Pepsi Bottling. Toyota's San Antonio plant, for example, has a blood-test lab, an x-ray center and its own pharmacy.

The second article describes the practice of employee provision of free services (deductible, no co-payment). Eastman Chemical, for example, provides its employees with free mammograms, free vaccines for children and free drugs and supplies for diabetics. Marriott is waiving co-payments for generic drugs related to heart disease, diabetes and asthma. As one executive said, the aim is "to drive value and to target where care is most needed".



John Goodman

These practices are not new. They were faddish a few years back, then faded, and have returned again.

If none of this strikes you as odd, that's because you have become so inured to the strange world of health care that you are unable to distinguish between normal and abnormal. In normal markets, companies specialize in what they do best. Auto makers produce cars. Soft drink companies provide colas.

So why are employers venturing into the practice of medicine - a field in which they have limited experience and no comparative advantage? The answer: employers are trying to solve the very problems they themselves have created. Third-party payers have completely destroyed the ability of doctors to provide innovative, creative, entrepreneurial solutions to health care problems.

Take diabetes, for example. Doctors are trapped in a system where they are paid piecemeal for isolated services. They cannot re-bundle and re-price their services to treat diabetes as such. (There also is no payment for one of the most important services: teaching patients how to manage their own health care.)

Granted, this mainly is the result of the way the government pays for care, but all the private payers pay the same way the government does.

There is an alternative to having your employer as your doctor, although it is so radically different from the current system that it is never discussed: free the doctors.

John C. Goodman is President of the National Center for Policy Analysis

Links:

On free employer primary care:

<http://www.ncpa.org/email/011407--NYT--COMPANYCLINICSCUTHEALTHCOSTS.pdf>

On free employer drugs:

<http://www.ncpa.org/email/012107--NYT--SomeEmployersAreOfferingFreeDrugs.pdf>

On how third-party payment creates the underlying problems:

<http://www.ncpa.org/email/hlthaff.25.w540v1.pdf>

**E-mail the
Editor**

Postal Privatization

by Robby Schrum

The Government Accountability Office, Congress's chief investigative body, recently removed the U.S. Postal Service from its list of "high-risk" government agencies. For the first time in recent memory, the Postal Service is back on solid financial ground.



Being taken off the GAO's "watch list" is great news for the Postal Service, and an important victory for Postmaster General John Potter and his leadership team. But for the rest of us, even better news could be right around the corner. The Postal Service has taken the first step down a path of true reform - a path which could ultimately lead to granting employees ownership of USPS through privatization.

Each year, the GAO lays out those agencies at risk of becoming unable to "economically, efficiently, and effectively perform their missions." The Postal Service had been on the list for over five years. But recently, under Potter's leadership, it has had considerable success in reducing costs, repaying outstanding debts, and increasing productivity, all of which contributed to the GAO upgrade.

The most critical reason behind the Postal Service's new financial outlook was a recent congressional law that set up a dedicated stream of cash to pay down the USPS's unfunded liabilities, which exceed \$80 billion. These debt obligations largely represent future healthcare costs for postal workers.

At the insistence of the Bush administration, the new law requires the Postal Service to use dedicated income -- which has resulted from an over-calculation of USPS pension obligations -- to pay down its remaining liabilities responsibly.

Prior to this requirement, a taxpayer bailout of the Postal Service was growing increasingly likely. Moreover, until now, privatizing the USPS was unrealistic because it would require finding investors willing to buy an organization saddled with such enormous unfunded liabilities.

But with sustained productivity gains, falling costs, and a new funding source for previously unfunded liabilities, the U.S. Postal Service has overcome a major obstacle to making itself attractive to investors.

"If the Postal Service ever considers privatization, it no longer has to worry about the poison pill of massive unfunded liabilities," says Michael Schuyler, an economist and postal expert at the Institute for Research on the Economics of Taxation.

Privatization is not as far-fetched as it sounds. In 2001, Postmaster General William J. Henderson suggested privatizing the entire USPS and giving stock ownership to the employees.

Yet despite its international image as a free-market leader, the United States lags behind in opening up its postal market. Countries all over the world -- including Germany, Austria and Japan -- are privatizing their national posts, without subjecting consumers to gaps in the quality of service.

Others are de-monopolizing their postal markets, a process known as liberalization. The United Kingdom has fully liberalized, allowing private firms to compete with the Royal Mail's erstwhile monopoly.

The rest of the European Union has committed to full postal liberalization by 2009. While each of these countries presents a different model for implementing reforms, there are valuable lessons to be learned about how privatization could best work for the United States.

And those lessons may soon be put to work. By creating a dedicated funding stream for future retirement costs, the postal reform legislation makes the USPS a much more attractive investment. Companies like G.M., struggling under the weight of similar unfunded liabilities, would envy the Postal Service's newfound financial outlook.

And consumers would benefit too. If privatization were coupled with de-monopolization, consumers would be able to send their letter from one of several companies, all of which would compete to offer the lowest prices and best service. The U.K. alone has licensed 20 companies to deliver its version of liberty-stamp mail, with significant savings for consumers.

Postal workers could also benefit, as they would finally have the chance to share in the Postal Service's profits. Just like many other private-sector employees, postal workers would have the chance to own a stake in their employer, building their own reserve of private equity for their personal retirement funds or their children's education.

When the President's Commission on the U.S. Postal Service set out to reform the agency back in 2003, Treasury Under Secretary Peter Fisher declared, "Our goal is not to privatize the postal service." Given the USPS's current financial outlook, and the favorable experiences of other nations with postal liberalization, however, the time for privatization is now on the horizon.

Robby Schrum is a research fellow at the Lexington Institute in Arlington, VA.

**E-mail the
Editor**

A New Plague

by Alan Caruba

In the 1970s, as a public relations consultant, I helped introduce a new pesticide to the American market. More specifically, to the pest control industry as it was not available for use by the public. It was called "Ficam" and, after having undergone the costly Environmental Protection Agency registration process, it was quickly and widely used by pest control professionals, not just for its capacity to eliminate cockroaches and a variety of other pest insects, but because it was applied with nothing more toxic than water.



Alan Caruba

For two decades this pesticide thrived. I wrote case histories of where it was used in hotels, casinos, restaurants, and theme parks, as well as in homes and apartments. The pest control profession embraced it and there never was a single case of it causing any hazard to those who applied it or benefited from it.

I never found out why, but for some reason the EPA demanded that the manufacturer re-register the product and the decision was made that would be withdrawn instead. It was just too costly to prove what everyone already knew. It worked wonders protecting people against the diseases and property damage a wide variety of insect pest species cause on a daily basis.

The EPA did a similar number on a pesticide called "Dursban." This excellent pesticide had been around for decades and was widely used because it was a component in more than 80 products that the public could purchase off the shelf of the supermarket or garden supplies store. The EPA proceeded to restrict its consumer use against insect pests. If it posed such a health hazard, why wasn't there evidence of countless people being affected? Who benefited from its loss? The insects.

Some may remember the "Alar" crisis that impacted the apple growers, particularly in the northwest. Millions of dollars were lost until it became clear that there was no threat whatever to the public from its use. People are still safely eating apples, just as they were before an environmental group perpetrated the manufactured crisis.

The reason cited for these actions is called "the precautionary principle" that says that, if anything poses a possible risk, no matter how small, a chemical cannot be used. Proof of its effective use, in the case of pesticides, in protecting the public against the vast range of diseases pest insects or rodents routinely spread, was not to be considered.

What any chemist or pharmacist will tell you is "the poison is in the dose." It is the amount of exposure that determines the level of hazard and we routinely eat, drink, and use things that have chemicals as part of their structure in such minute quantities as to constitute no threat. As just one example, potatoes contain trace amounts of arsenic, a deadly poison, but no one is ever going to consume enough potatoes at a single sitting.

I was reminded of this when I recently read of still more fear mongering against a plastic ingredient called bisphenol-A, otherwise known as BPA. The food packaging industry has used BPA in the linings of metal cans since as far back as the 1950s. It is also used to make hard plastic as well as lacquers for bottle tops, water pipes, and even dental sealants and tooth coatings.

The Environmental Working Group, a self-anointed "watchdog" organization rolled out the usual scare campaign in early March, claiming that BPA "may be poisoning pregnant women and infants" according to a study by the Group. Typically, these "studies" involve force-feeding

huge amounts of the chemical to laboratory rats until a correlation can be made that it poses a threat to humans, but correlation is not the same as causation.

I can assure you that the cost of the canned foods identified and probably all others is about to rise. Indeed, the cost of everything that uses chemicals in the course of its manufacture is going to rise.

The reason for this is a program initiated by the European Union that has passed sweeping new chemical regulations that will go into effect in June. Based on that idiotic precautionary principle, the EU has instituted a program intended to rid the world of chemicals they deem to have an impact on the environment and human health. It is called "Green chemistry" and it has more to do with eliminating the use of beneficial chemicals than in offering any protection to Mother Earth and human beings.

The U.S. Commerce Department is putting on "roadshows" for U.S. businesses to bring them in line with the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals ("REACH") regulations.

As Kathleen Morson of Stratfor, a private intelligence group that advises U.S. corporations, says, "The REACH regulation represents a shift from the Western regulatory world's reliance on risk assessment to something more precaution-based. Significantly, it shifts the regulatory burden from government agencies to the producers themselves to demonstrate that their chemicals are safe."

No chemical is safe if it is ingested in an amount wherein the dose becomes injurious. This includes the chemical we commonly call water.

Because American manufacturers commonly export their products all over the world and Europe represents a major market for them, they will have no choice but to submit to this EU plan to restrict chemicals, some of which have been safely in use for decades and longer. A little group of Green gnomes in Helsinki will decide the fate of every chemical in use today.

This is what I predict. At some point in the future, after most of the world's pesticides and herbicides, after chemicals used to clean water, after various chemicals used in the ways plastic is a part of our lives have been restricted, a huge plague will make its way across the world. It will be spread as the famed Black Plague was, by insect and rodent pests, and it will kill countless millions of people.

A new Dark Age will follow. It will, in fact, have been in place since the imposition of the European Union's draconian anti-chemical program was imposed. What is REACH really about? It's about killing you.

Alan Caruba writes a weekly column, "Warning Signs", posted on the Internet site of The National Anxiety Center, www.anxietycenter.com. His book, "Right Answers: Separating Fact from Fantasy", is published by Merril Press.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Deadly Organic Spinach

by Alex Avery and Dennis Avery.

Organic food activists are being served a heaping platter of organic crow now that we finally learn last fall's outbreak of deadly *E. coli* O157:H7 was caused by organically grown spinach.

On February 27th, California food regulators admitted under direct questioning at a state senate hearing that the tainted spinach that ultimately killed 3 and sickened over 200 was traced to a 50-acre organic field – contrary to the repeated denials of organic activists.



They're still denying it. The spokeswoman for the Organic Trade Association told us the contaminated spinach "does not meet the legal definition of organic" because the farm was "in transition" – the mandatory 3-year period when the product must be sold as conventional. During the phase-in, however, the farmer must use only "organic" fertilizers, such as bacteria-laden manure and manure compost.

When the organic revelation surfaced last week, we emailed our long-time ideological adversary Chuck Benbrook, who runs the industry-funded Organic Center for Education and Promotion. Chuck was the former head of the National Academy of Science's Board on Agriculture until he was dismissed for pushing his organic agenda too far into Academy reports.

Chuck insisted that "there is zero evidence that anything [the organic farmer] did opened the door to the pathogens; no compost was applied on the field." But he wouldn't say what, if any, organic fertilizer was applied to the spinach field.

Mum's the Word

From the beginning, we have repeatedly asked the Food and Drug Administration and other agencies if any of the suspected farms were organic or "transitional organic," and whether they used animal manure (composted or not) as a fertilizer on the suspected spinach crop. We've never received an answer to this simple, basic question.

Instead, the FDA and California Department of Health Services have settled on the theory that the *E. coli* came from angus beef cattle raised on nearby pastures. (See the ranches website, <http://www.paicinesranch.com/>) Investigators found matching *E. coli* in the feces of the ranch's cattle and also in a feral pig killed on the ranch. The officials have openly speculated that feral pigs could have transferred the *E. coli* from the cattle pastures to the spinach field, noting holes in and under the fences on the ranch.

Many organic believers have seized on this theory to continue their ceaseless bashing of "industrial cattle feedlots." In this case, however, they are only shooting themselves. The ranch in question is strictly a grass-only, pasture-based operation -- the kind they themselves advocate as the "safe alternative" to so-called "factory farms." (See: <http://www.paicinesranch.com/grass-fed%20beef.htm>)

The ranch's website even refers visitors to a website that claims people who eat grass-fed beef have "a much lower risk of becoming infected with the [*E. coli* bacteria]" and that *E. coli*

O157:H7 from grass-fed cattle are far less likely “to survive the natural acidity of our digestive tract.”

Maybe, maybe not – the research is contradictory and ongoing. But in this case the claims ring hollow to the hundreds of spinach victims and their families.

Moreover, other research indicates that organic methods are at best no safer than non-organic methods. At worst, they’re significantly less safe. Research from the University of Minnesota published in 2004 found organic lettuce was the most contaminated they tested (one in four heads carried generic *E. coli*, an indicator of bacterial contamination). Overall, the organic produce was six times more likely to harbor *E. coli* than produce from conventional farms. The scientists also found potentially deadly Salmonella on organic lettuce and green peppers, but not in any conventional foods tested. The sample sizes were too small to say whether this difference was statistically significant.

The contamination echoes the findings of Consumer Reports, who reported in January that organic chicken harbors 300% more Salmonella than cheaper, non-organic brands they tested. Ditto similar studies from Denmark and Britain. Last week, the British environment agency reported that they could find no evidence that organic foods are any better for the environment, either, despite the shrill insistence of organic activist groups.

We wish we could say that the news the tainted spinach was organic surprised us, but given the multiple research findings indicating greater bacterial risk, we suspected it all along.

Alex Avery is director of research at the Hudson Institute’s Center for Global Food Issues and author of The Truth About Organic Foods. Dennis Avery is a senior fellow at Hudson. Readers may contact them at Post Office Box 202, Churchville, VA 24421 (www.cgfi.org).

**E-mail the
Editor**

Drug Prohibition or Drug Regulation?

by Howard J. Wooldridge

War on Drugs. How is that working for us in America? Is it reducing crime? Is it reducing rates of death and disease? Is it effective in keeping drugs and drug dealers away from our children? These are important questions as this prohibition approach costs us taxpayers some 70 billion dollars this year.

As a police officer, I fought on the side of the 'good guys' for 18 years in the War on Drugs, giving me a lot of actual experience in the trenches. After much time, consternation and out-and-out frustration in not achieving a single, stated goal in the long term, I came to the conclusion that we must be doing something wrong. It seemed no matter how many dealers we took off the streets, new ones immediately popped up to take their places.

The prices for drugs kept falling, indicating an oversupply. The purity kept increasing; heroin increased from 3.6% to near 50% purity between 1980 and 2007. The prison population kept increasing until over 70% of all inmates are there on some drug-related charge.



Why has my profession been unable to make a dent? It has not been for a lack of trying. Thousands of police officers have been shot and hundreds killed. We have arrested 36 million Americans for drug possession, use or sale. First, understand that drug dealers accept as a condition of employment death and long prison terms. We now know that there is an inexhaustible number of people who will risk death to make the huge profits that prohibition generates. A second major reason is that when someone buys an illegal drug from a dealer, nobody calls 911 to report the 'crime.' It is very difficult for us to catch suspects when the phone does not ring. Neither the buyer nor the seller sees themselves as a 'victim.' Meanwhile, terrorists and drug barons are amassing fortunes from drug sales and people continue to die on our streets. We have turned third world thugs into billionaires that can buy governments and launch terrorism around the world. Our prisons are filled with non-violent offenders while murderers, rapists and child molesters (not subject to mandatory minimums) get early release due to over-crowding. The only thing we have to show for this terrible policy is that today after 36 years and a trillion tax dollars spent, illegal drugs are cheaper, stronger and very easy for our kids to buy.

Drug gangs have spread like the plague out of the large cities and into medium and even small cities. Young teens join gangs to make 'easy,' big money selling drugs. 15 year olds are shot and killed every week because drug prohibition gives them this job option. A policy which many say is to protect kids actually causes hundreds of deaths a year and tens of thousands of destroyed young lives.

During alcohol prohibition at the beginning of the 20th century, rates of murder and police corruption in the United States rose to the highest levels in its history. The year we ended that prohibition those statistics fell to a low ebb where they remained until we declared the war on drugs 37 years later. Thanks to that war we have surpassed both those figures with the new prohibition.

The unintended consequences of this terrible war are needlessly destroying the lives of generations of America's youth. How many people do you know who have used an illegal drug, then put the drugs behind them and gone on to lead productive lives? US presidents, many members of our legislative bodies, tens of thousands of police officers have done exactly that. With imprisonment, those possibilities are eliminated. You can get over an addiction, but you will never get over a conviction.

We should be putting much more effort into education and treatment. The education has to be based in fact and not emotional scare tactics. The treatment needs to be voluntary; forced treatment is not much different than some government's attempts at brainwashing. Published studies state that if substances were regulated and taxed, rather than prohibited, adequate monies could be raised for treatment programs and the glamour appeal of presently illicit drugs would be reduced.

Drug prohibition represents the very definition of a failed public policy. Will Rogers said, "If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing you do is stop digging." Prohibitionists are well-intentioned but are blinded by ideology. However, I don't want to be too harsh. I once rode a horse and tilted at windmills!

Howard J. Wooldridge was for 18 years a police officer in Mid-Michigan, retiring as detective and is Education Specialist, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (www.leap.cc) Washington DC

**E-mail the
Editor**

Loaded Primaries

by Paul M. Weyrich

California did it. Governor Arnold "The Terminator" Schwarzenegger signed into law a measure passed by the ultra-liberal California Legislature which moves the state's presidential primary to February 5, 2008.

Many other States, including New York and Texas, may do so. New Hampshire, the nation's first primary election, is forced now to move its date up a bit so that it retains the status as the kingmaker of American politics.



Paul M. Weyrich

Depending how the New Hampshire Legislature legislates, the Iowa Caucuses may be moved up even earlier. Next thing we know we will all be casting our ballots on the way to church on Christmas Eve or to our synagogue on the way to celebrate the Festival of Lights.

If this weren't so serious it would be humorous.

At the beginning of the 20th Century primaries were unknown. Each State selected its delegates to the national conventions by holding a caucus of some sort. I don't mean anything like the Iowa Caucuses, which now attract well over 100,000 participants. No, these caucuses were relatively small. At most a few hundred of the party faithful gathered together for the purpose of sending a select few to the national gathering, which was much larger and often in a distant city.

It was about these caucuses that the term "smoke-filled room" was born. In a few States, just a handful of people in a room, where cigars and brandy were abundant, sat down to play cards and to figure out who the next nominee of their party would be.

Then along came Governor Robert M. LaFollette (D-WI,) who initiated the primary system as a means to select delegates to the national conventions.

LaFollette was one of the founders of the Progressive Party and the primary was one of his many reforms, designed to put more power in the hands of the people, thus lessening the power of the smoked-filled room.

A few States adopted the Progressive Party reforms but most continued to select their delegates to a national convention by a caucus of some sort. It wasn't until the latter half of the 20th Century that the majority of States adopted the primary system. Now only a handful of States still select delegates by convention.

The primary system is a good one provided that it is stretched over several months. From the Iowa Caucuses in January to the California Primary in June potential nominees could be vetted by the electorate. It was a time for practice, if you will, for the major national election in November.

The Governor and the Legislature in California got all hot and bothered to move their primary to February 5, 2008 because it had been a long time since California had been the major factor in a race for the Presidency. To be precise, it was 1964 and Senator Barry M. Goldwater won a close primary election over New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller. That was the last time California determined who the nominee of either party would be.

The move to February 5 would not be so pernicious if California alone were doing so. But most of the large States are accelerating their primaries as well. So we will have a super-duper primary and, bang, the nominee will have been chosen right then and there.

Whom does super-duper primary help? In the case of the GOP it helps Rudolph Giuliani, assuming he can keep the poll numbers he now has. Rudy is the big-money candidate. Sens. Sam Brownback (Kan.), Chuck Hagel (Neb.), Governor Mike Huckabee (Ark.) Reps. Duncan Hunter (Calif.), Ron Paul (Tex.) and Tom Tancredo (Colo.) will have absolutely no chance under this system.

On the Democratic side, Senator Barack Obama (Ill.), Governor Bill Richardson (N.M.), Sens. Christopher Dodd (Conn.) and Joseph P. Biden, Jr. (Del.) and former Senator John Edwards (N.C.) also will be relegated to has-beens under this new system because Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (N.Y.) has the money.

In fact, it is doubtful that Governor Ronald W. Reagan (R-Calif) could have come back from his earlier defeats, as he did in 1976 in North Carolina. He would require a huge sum of money to win on this super-duper primary system. And since Reagan was defeated in New

Hampshire by incumbent President Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich.), he would not have been able to raise in a few days the huge amount of money required of a defeated candidate.

I always have favored a series of regional primaries spread over six months. Each region of the country would hold a primary on a different day, a month apart from another region. That would give candidates from all over the nation an opportunity to be nominated.

But this system says that our Presidential candidates must be rich and must have money to burn all during the year before that February doomsday. It is a distortion of our political system.

If we had a series of regional primaries it could take until the last primary for a candidate to be nominated. Incumbent Presidents would win by default. It is the challengers that concern me. This is the first time in more than half a century that there is no clear heir apparent in either party.

But if this goes through it will be Hillary v. Rudy. And that will produce a massive walk-out from the Republican Party. Many are in that party because of pro-life and pro-family concerns. They have given up on the Democratic Party since 1980. If the Republicans are foolish enough to nominate a candidate who favors abortion rights and rights for homosexuals and so on the GOP will be left with only bitter partisans.

All of those grassroots people who joined the Republicans because its candidates protected life will find themselves without a party. Even though it is terribly hard to start a new party, because the rules are stacked against you, it would be done in these circumstances. Without all of the pro-life and pro-family people voting Republican, Hillary would win.

Without intending to be sacrilegious, one is tempted to use the words of Jesus Christ from the Cross: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

Paul M. Weyrich is Chairman and CEO of the Free Congress Foundation

**E-mail the
Editor**

Not a Woman President?

by Carey Roberts

A few weeks ago Hillary Rodham Clinton surprised a San Francisco audience with the announcement, "I'm not running as a woman candidate." But then HRC had a change of heart, and on March 6 she unveiled her "I Can Be President" effort designed to appeal to women.

That was a smart move, because the last few weeks the Hillary-for-First-Mom bandwagon has hit some rather unpleasant road-bumps. Now Barack Obama is closing in on Hillary's once insurmountable lead.

First the *New York Post* revealed that her campaign had agreed to buy the endorsement of South Carolina state Senator Darrell Jackson to the tune of \$10,000 a month. A few days later the *Washington Post* reported that Mrs. Clinton had failed to list a family charity on her Senate financial disclosure report – not once, but five times.

More proof, I assume, of Hillary's claim that "the presence of women raises the standards of ethical behavior and lowers corruption."

www.ifeminists.net/introduction/editorials/2005/0323roberts.html

Then in late February media mogul David Geffen took a swipe at the Clintons by saying, "Everybody in politics lies, but they do it with such ease, it's troubling." And a week later former House Speaker Newt Gingrich called Hillary "a nasty woman" who runs an "endlessly ruthless" campaign machine.

Ouch, that hurts!

That hardnosed campaign apparatus was highlighted in a Feb. 25 *Washington Post* article that revealed the edict to bar any discussion of Bill's sexual improprieties. "Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton has a new commandment for the 2008 presidential field: Thou shalt not mention anything related to the impeachment of her husband," the *Post* revealed.

[\[www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/24/AR2007022401166.html\]](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/24/AR2007022401166.html)

Is this the harbinger of an open and honest election campaign?

Then there was her secret appearance at the homosexual Human Rights Campaign meeting on March 3 – secret in the sense that it wasn't listed on Hillary's official campaign schedule. But someone forgot to shut off the camera as the introducer detailed how HRC schemed to block the Federal Marriage Amendment. [\[www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSPxGmePSiA\]](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSPxGmePSiA)

The next day the campaign staff sent Mrs. Clinton to Selma, Alabama in a bid to upstage Mr. Obama. Speaking in her New York imitation of a southern drawl, she told the congregants at the First Baptist Church that as a high school student, "I had the great privilege of hearing Dr. King speak in Chicago." That speech inspired her to support "the great revolution that the civil rights pioneers were waging on behalf of a more perfect union."

Do you know what Hillary did to advance the great revolution? Get ready for this...

Young Hillary, a Republican at the time, went out and bought herself a cowgirl outfit so she could dress up as "a Goldwater girl," as she wrote in her memoirs. Of course it was Barry



Hillary Clinton

Goldwater who soon joined with southern Democratic segregationists to *oppose* the Voting Rights Act of 1964, a law that had been inspired by Martin Luther King.

Clinton was thoughtful enough to withhold that tidbit from her Selma audience. After all, it's considered impolite to partake of incredulous belly laughter in church.

So the next weekend Mrs. Clinton found herself in New Hampshire. For the umpteenth time she reflected on the challenge of becoming the first female president – but this time with a new twist:

"A lot of people back then said, 'American will never elect a Catholic as president.' But those who gathered here almost half a century ago knew better. They believed American was bigger than that and American would give Sen. John F. Kennedy a fair shake ... So when people tell me, 'A woman can never be president,' I say, 'We'll never know unless we try.'"

Mrs. Clinton, I can think of a number of persons who remind me of but JFK isn't one of them.

And finally is the sizzling reprise of the famous Apple Computer 1984 commercial, this time depicting Hillary as Big Sister: www.youtube.com/watch?v=6h3G-IMZxjo .

Presidential wannabee Hillary resembles a celebrity musician more than a traditional political candidate. Every few days the star makes an appearance, goes through her well-rehearsed routine, and poses for the camera. But the emotional high is short-lived and the audience tires of the glitz. To compensate, the performances become more fevered, the music gets louder, and the gyrations more strained.

Hillary Clinton is pursuing her quest for the White House with great intensity. But with 20 months left until the election, one wonders how long her high-octane crusade can maintain the pace.

Carey Roberts is a staff writer for the New Media Alliance, Inc. The New Media Alliance is a non-profit (501c3) national coalition of writers, journalists and grass-roots media outlets.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Hillary and China Shoot-Down

by Carl Horowitz

Now that Hillary Clinton is running for President, she has questions to answer about the transfer of military secrets to the People's Republic of China through a sophisticated spy ring in return for 1996 election campaign cash.



Only days prior to Mrs. Clinton's announcement, China displayed its military might, when it used a surface-to-air ballistic missile to shoot down an aging weather satellite far above the earth's surface. Edward Timperlake and William C. Triplett's book, "Year of the Rat," along with a Senate committee report headed by Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., add up to a powerful indictment of the Clintons' involvement in a "bamboo connection," flouting bans on foreign individuals and corporations contributing or soliciting funds for political campaigns and on federal employees using their office to affect election outcomes. Reporters should jog Mrs. Clinton's memory about three people in particular: Charlie Trie, John Huang and James Riady. Neither she nor her husband mentioned them in their respective post-White House memoirs, *Living History* and *My Life*.

Charlie Trie. A naturalized U.S. citizen from Taiwan, Trie owned a restaurant in Little Rock, Ark., one of the Clintons' favorite hangouts during Mr. Clinton's days as governor. But this was no ordinary restaurateur. Trie also owned a Little Rock firm, Daihatsu International Trading, with offices in Washington and Beijing. He also was a bagman for Ng Lapseng, a fellow member of the Four Seas Triad, a Taiwanese crime syndicate allied with Chinese military and intelligence. Trie received anywhere from \$1.1 million to \$1.5 million in cash from Lapseng, who ran a brothel in Macau, using much of the money for contributions to the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and the President's Legal Defense Trust. Trie enjoyed easy access to the White House, visiting anywhere from 23 to 37 times, typically for fundraising "coffee."

John Huang. Huang had been a principal fundraiser for Bill Clinton's post-election inaugural committee, greasing the wheels for his July 1994 appointment as the Commerce Department's deputy assistant secretary for international economic policy. Hillary's personal intervention was instrumental in Huang getting the job; his future supervisor later would testify he was "totally unqualified." Huang, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Taiwan, previously headed a Los Angeles-based subsidiary of the Indonesian financial conglomerate, the Lippo Group, whose founder, ethnic Chinese billionaire Mochtar Riady, was a generous contributor to the DNC. During his year and a half at Commerce, Huang, having gained top-secret security clearance, regularly used the Washington office of Little Rock investment firm Stephens, Inc., right across the street, as a safe house, often leaving with classified files. After leaving the department in December 1995, his security clearance intact for a year after that, Huang became DNC vice chairman of finance, raising millions from Chinese-connected commercial and arms-trading fronts. James Riady. The son of Mochtar Riady, James donated about \$475,000 to the DNC and various Democrat candidates during the 1992 campaign. He'd sat on the board of failed Worthen Bank in Little Rock, which had been bailed out by Lippo and Stephens in 1984. The younger Riady sat on the Worthen board before being cited by the U.S. Comptroller of the Currency for making "excessive loans at preferential terms."

After Bill Clinton's re-election, a U.S. Senate committee, led by Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., was piqued enough to conduct several months of hearings during 1997. The committee's final report, released March 5, 1998, read in part: "The volume of Huang's contacts with Lippo and the Chinese embassy...is cause for concern. The Committee has found no direct evidence that Huang passed classified information, but he had the opportunity to do so and his activities have not otherwise been adequately explained." The Justice Department investigated the matter, eventually indicting 26 persons and two corporations, all of whom (save for the few

who couldn't be found) pled guilty. That included Trie, Huang and Riady. The Democrats had to return more than \$2.8 million in illegal or improper campaign contributions, around 80 percent of which had been raised or contributed by Trie and Huang.

And that doesn't even cover the strange case of Loral Space and Communications Chairman Bernard Schwartz, who contributed nearly \$600,000 to the Democrats during the 1995-96 election cycle. His generosity won him an antitrust exemption in March 1996 from President Clinton, allowing Loral to transfer authority for satellite export licenses to the Commerce Department, where Johnny Huang still had his security clearance. Could the sophistication of today's Chinese ballistic missiles be connected to the Clinton's pursuit of campaign money? It looks that way.

Carl F. Horowitz is director of the Organized Labor Accountability Project of the National Legal and Policy Center, a nonprofit foundation based in Falls Church, Va. dedicated to promoting ethics in public life.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Great Warming Swindle

by BBC

If you haven't seen the BBC documentary "The Great Global Warming Swindle" it is a must see. If I was a kool-aid drinking Global Warming believer, I would feel like a gullable fool after watching it. This is a true masterpiece. My bet, there won't be any Oscars or Emmys for this one. Here is the link. It is worth the watch, it leaves no stone unturned. BTW, the Internet Skeptic hits almost all these points in his presentation. [Anon]



[The Great Global Warming Swindle](#)

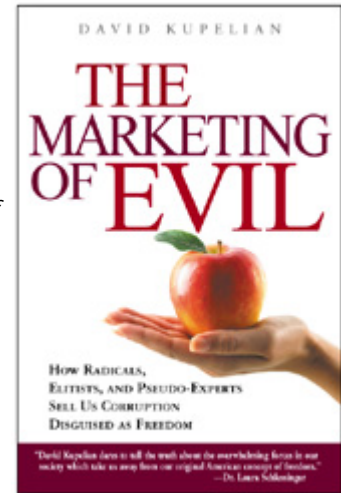
**E-mail the
Editor**

Marketing Evil

by Joanne Mandel

Ever wonder why it has become acceptable these days for young girls to dress in a manner that not long ago was reserved for ladies of the night? The next generation reflects the transformation of Americans' attitudes, values and beliefs over the past 50 years. To a great extent, this cultural shift is the result of clever marketing by the cultural left with a big assist from corporations trying to win young consumers, author David Kupelian writes in *The Marketing of Evil* (Cumberland House Publishing, 2005, 240 pages, \$24.95).

Those who want to 'liberate' us from traditional values peddle the view that there is no difference between right and wrong. "Millions of Americans today accept ideas and behaviors that would have horrified all previous generation," Kupelian writes. "We've gone from a nation unified by Judeo-Christian values to one where those same values are increasingly scorned, rejected and demonized." How that happened is the subject of his book.



Advocates use subtle propaganda techniques, expertly playing on our deeply felt values of fairness, generosity and tolerance. Their ability to portray unlimited tolerance as the intelligent attitude, combined with our natural weaknesses and desire to fit in, have been used to promote abortion on demand, new definitions of family and marriage, homosexuality, and various bizarre forms of 'self-expression.'

Mr. Kupelian argues this is the result of planned campaigns. He presents the success of psychologist, Marshall Kirk, and marketing maven, Hunter Madsen, both gay-rights activists, who spelled out their three-step public relations plan for the "conversion of the average American's emotions, mind and will," in *After the Ball: How America Will Conquer Its Fear and Hatred of Gays in the '90s* (1989). The plan was to begin by flooding media outlets with a steady stream of stories highlighting the basic nobility and creative genius of 'gays.' The second step was to publicly attack and discredit critics in order to silence dissent. Finally, media are convinced to broadcast positive images of support and ignore or denigrate opposite views to mass audiences.

The mainstream media's repeated misuse of the phrase 'wall of separation between Church and State' is another example of constant repetition that conditions people to buy a distorted vision of America, as Mr. Kupelian notes. The phrase serves as a battering ram to eliminate any reference to G-d from government, schools and anything supported by government funds. Today, the mere mention of G-d or prayer is equated with the establishment of religion.

Unfortunately, no group is more tuned-in to media messages than youngsters. America's children are studied like laboratory rats by a few giant media corporations - Viacom, Disney, AOL/Time Warner and others - that will do whatever it takes to sell them billions of dollars in movies, music and clothing. Items with shock value, those that are tempting, degrading and corrupting work best. Just a few moments viewing MTV will bring the viewer up to date on the latest trends.

Mr. Kupelian puts part of the responsibility for our cultural descent on the failure of parents to provide a strong Judeo-Christian orientation for their children. By revealing the calculated manipulation of public sentiment, *The Marketing of Evil* offers the knowledge to break free from the marketers' colossal con job once and for all. It is a book for anyone who does not

consider the distinction between good and evil a relic of the past and is not about to take the path that promises soul-numbing 'liberation.'

Joanne Mandel is a student at Hillsdale College.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Reader Comments

Editor: Your article "Bureaucracy Implosion" correctly points out the abysmal failure of big government to handle personal problems and shows the complete failure of the system to handle the health and recovery of our heroes who fight to keep us free. Shame on this system--it simply MUST be brought into compliance with human needs; especially those of veterans and military members here as well as abroad. It would appear our brave soldiers are receiving better care on the battlefield than in the U S!!!! Frances Shannon

Editor: "Bureaucracy Implosion" is really well done. Marc Rotterman

Editor: The problem is far worse even than Donald Devine's "Bureaucracy Implosion" indicates. Once the military medical system (an excellent one) has finished treating a soldier for combat wounds and it appears he should not return to active duty, his case must be reviewed by a board. If the board finds him 20% or less disabled he is discharged and becomes eligible for treatment by the Department of Veterans' Affairs through its Veterans' Health Administration and to veterans' benefits through its Veterans' Benefits Administration. If the board finds him 30% or more disabled he is entitled to Tri-Care health care for the rest of his life, gets military retirement pay, and gets to carry military ID for the rest of his life with all the military fringe benefits. He can also get veterans' benefits but they are usually offset dollar for dollar by reductions in his military retirement pay. Many soldiers hate these boards. They take months on each case; they are suspected of finding 20% disability in cases that are clearly 30% under the law and regulations; and they place the burden of making sure the medical file they see is complete on the soldier, not on the Army. Once soldiers are discharged and file a claim with the Regional Office of the Department of Veterans' Affairs they have to wait about four months. If the claim is complicated it may take longer because there is no control to make sure the claims are handled in the order received. Claims are frequently denied by the Regional Office because the claims examiner does not understand the claim, the law, or the regulations. If the veteran appeals, it takes about 231 days for the Regional Office to do the next step in the paperwork and about an additional 502 days for the file to go to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. It takes that Board about another 265 days. All together this process takes about 1041 days, of which about 43 are attributable to the veteran and about 998 to the government. (The numbers I have used are from a Department of Veterans' Affairs publication that is about two or three years old, but they still reflect the situation). Although the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans' Affairs use, to all intents and purposes, the same regulations to determine percentage of disability, a veteran rated 20% disabled by the Army and shortly thereafter rated 30% disabled by the Department of Veterans' Affairs has no recourse for this. Army and VA doctors are excellent. It is the bureaucracy that is the problem. Charles Mills

Editor: Good Points by Bill Sizemore in his "Reforming the Schools" but how do we eliminate the Teachers Union? Linda Palmer

Editor: I really enjoyed the article "Reforming the Schools" by Bill Sizemore. What I would also like to see is a breakdown of hours per day/wk or year of actually school work time that doesn't include sex ed, diversity training or global warming etc. Really basic courses are what is needed. Let the family teach the other stuff or make it optional. Then I would like to see how much the teachers are paid per hour of required attendance--and don't let them claim they have prep time and research etc. Every job has demands outside the office hours. They equate it to a full time job. My assumption is that the teachers are paid a very high salary based on hours worked. Keep up the good work, John Lee Alameda, CA

Editor: "Reforming the Schools" by Bill Sizemore is a great article! I have tutored in Ohio (Cincinnati) public schools for about five years under the State of Ohio 'STARS' program. I have witnessed why poverty children don't learn. Most of them (except those in the front row) can't hear most of the teacher's lesson. I am not exaggerating. You and I could not learn under those conditions. And nothing is ever done to correct this gross injustice. Joseph Sabatini

Editor: In an article with the same title as my own, Bill Sizemore offered several valid points in changing teacher structure and improving instruction for our nation's youth. I would offer one more point for his suggestion #3—"nowhere in corporate America are all employees of a company paid equally; they are paid according to their technical value and job expertise. Therefore, pay teachers of the more difficult math and science classes more money than the lower grade teachers and even more than Social Studies or History teachers. Those classes are great for general knowledge, but they do nothing to help a student obtain a job or be a productive participant of society." I can tell you that the majority of the teachers in Missouri, including my two daughters (and myself were I still teaching Eng 101), all support these suggestions wholeheartedly. One thing my girls adamantly dislike is having their dues funneled to a political party or candidate whom they cannot support. That's why Missouri has a separate Teacher's Union from the NEA. It offers benefits such as group health plans, but does not waste dues on wrongful investments. For suggestions 5-6-7 and 12: Hear, Hear!!! Right on, brother! Keep up the good work. Jim Anderson

Editor: The only thing I see missing out of Bill Sizemore's article, is school personnel drug testing. I work in the lowly oil field and have to submit to drug testing. And here we have school personnel handling one aspect of our most valuable resource, our kids. It would surprise you how many of the school faculty actually do drugs. No wonder our schools are so liberal. Cleve I. Noble Jr.

Editor: I am writing a new book entitled "The Demise of the USA:" As we KNEW it! The book will cover many, many subjects (as one might expect). The schools being the point where one might start if one wanted to drive toward a socialist society. I would like to use Bill Sizemore's article on the school system. I would like to imbed it in my book in its entirety without any changes. It is a wonderful piece and says what I have been trying to say for years. Thank you, Chuck Slate

Editor: Regarding Bill Sizemore's "Reforming the Schools," first, let me make it clear that although I have taught school in Southern CA, I do not, have a teaching credential. I have a BS in Psych, and took the states' test for teaching. As three of my six sisters are teachers, back East, I thought I would try to help, and I did, to a degree, with some what are now called: "At Risk" children. It was a private school, for high school age students who were unable to stay in a public school for various reasons. The students awarded me with a certificate "Best Teacher of the Year". After they all left, I was fired, fired because I had helped advance 2 students up and out of that school, so that they could once again attend public school. That was the real reason. I was costing them money, lost income by DOING MY JOB! The real kick in the pants is if a child is upset with an adult, all he/she has to do is report to the office, "Mr/Ms/Mrs Smith 'Touched me!'" That's it! Children services, by law, HAVE TO BELIEVE the minor! Think about these points before you complain about how lousy a job the teachers do. Thanks, John F. Bliss

Editor: I agree with most of what Bill Sizemore says in his "Reforming the Schools" and I believe that if parents could speak directly to the nation, that the system could be "righted" within ten years, to be the best in the world. The PTA published agenda here in Austin TX must have been dictated by the NEA, so something must change quickly, if America is to survive. I suggest a "SCHOOLRULE" web-site to collect e-mail suggestions direct from all citizens registered with the site who are concerned with education, then sort them and report tallied results quarterly to the nation thru news releases. I believe that within 3 months he would be noticed, and by 6 months Sizemore would be a force, if no political affiliations are mentioned. The Milton Friedman Foundation may help. Best Regards, John D. Watts, Austin, TX

Editor: In regard to Alan Caruba's "Shame of the Schools," I'd go for an inactive "No Child Left Behind" and substitute school choice. Thanks, Lisa Miller

Editor: Got to agree with Alan Caruba's "Shame of the Schools" The 'No Child Left Behind' program is ideally good, but like he said, the schools just changed the way they are doing things to 'appear' to be passing instead of concentrating on the areas that need focus--the de-liberalism of the education system. We need to stop the cries, 'If we challenge them and they can't do it that will destroy their self-esteem!' and focus on each classified child's specific learning disability. Instead of mainstreaming the physically disabled and spending \$45,000 per year for a special ed teacher per severely physical disabled child to sit with the child most of the day in a classroom with 20 non-disabled children who are trying to learn, the severely handicapped children should be in an environment where one on one teaching can quietly take place and where the child's areas of greatest difficulty can be focus on without distractions from surrounding students (yes this goes on in our district). I have a child in the 6th grade who still cannot pronounce words he does not recognize. What he needs is tutoring in phonics and word analysis. So you see, even private tutoring services are cashing in on the dumbing down of American children. The fleecing of America is affecting our children. It's time to put a stop to this. Sincerely, Amy Whyte, Brodheads ville PA

Editor: In his review of "Amazing Grace" Spencer Warren indicates nothing was said in the movie about the emancipation of the slaves in the British Empire. That's not factual, there was

written dialogue as a trailer that mentioned this fact. That being said, I enjoyed the film as well as Mr. Warrens article. Keep up the good work. David Service

Editor: What a terrific article by Lisa Fabrizio titled "Anna Nicole, All American Girl." I have not heard a lot concerning the "human" side of the woman since her death. The only part the author did not mention was how all of this will undoubtedly play out in her daughter's so far sad life. I cannot even begin to imagine how she will feel as she looks through what has been printed and filmed in the wake of her mom's death. Thank you, Amy Anderson

Editor: Lisa Fabrizio's article reminds us that Anna Nicole Smith was no Marilyn Monroe. She was just the latest in a steady stream of Marilyn Monroe wanna-be starlets. Somehow, Marilyn Monroe was able to rise above the tabloid pulp and establish an identity for herself that was not dependent on a constant stream of trashy publicity. Her contemporary imitators (Jayne Mansfield, Anita Ekberg, et. al) and modern would-be imitators (Anna Nicole Smith, et. al) remained totally dependent on the transient notoriety and petty scandals which make up tabloid and other trash-news reporting. Maybe it was being 'the first girl' in PLAYBOY (men never forget their first girl). Or, maybe Monroe really had something elusive and hard to define -- but definitely what the others have lacked. She did apparently catch the eye of at least one U.S. president, after all. In all fairness, the trash & tabloid journals depend as much on the would-be stars to hook their audience and sell advertising. The tabloids know their main quarry (the Anna Nicole-Smiths of the world) can not thrive or last, unless they get regular publicity, and that the only forums which can deliver are the trash/tabloid journals. Brian Lynch, Austin, TX

Editor: First of all, a belated thanks to Donald Devine two issues back for the history on the issue of Iraq, especially that he "had urged action against Saddam Hussein but not nation-building" way back in 2002. Somehow, that idea was hardly ever mentioned on TV before the war started. There was nothing said beforehand by most about the "Failed Policy" when we went into Iraq, took it with a breeze. The people then dragged down the Statue of Saddam, and patted our troops on the back. If we established democracy, and the insurgents never came in George Bush would have gone down into history as the president that established democracy in the Near East. Now with hind sight the liberals have come up with the term "failed policy" well after the fact. It seems the term "failed policy" is a hind sight term, a finger pointing term. I hesitate to vote for anyone who uses hindsight and finger pointing, a news reporter term. Marine vet, Jim Goleta, CA

**E-mail the
Editor**