



# CONSERVATIVE BATTLELINE ONLINE

*The "Bold Colors" Conservative Voice in Washington*

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## How To Win War on Terror

by Donald Devine



How stands the war on terror? The White House produced a fine report "9/11: Five Years Later" a few months ago but it has been almost universally ignored. The left avoids it because anything George W. Bush says must be wrong and the right because whatever he does must be right. It deserves an objective review based upon the actual evidence presented.

Unlike most reviews of terrorism, this one gives the facts. Unfortunately, most administration apologetics so far has been rhetoric, which the polls prove is not working. President Bush did reference the evidence in the report in a speech at the FBI Academy last July but even there only one paragraph was devoted to facts on disrupting international terrorism and one on domestic successes. The majority of the speech

was rhetoric and focused mostly on Iraq, where the unpopularity of the war drowned out the good news.

That is unfortunate because the report demonstrates great success in disrupting terrorism internationally:

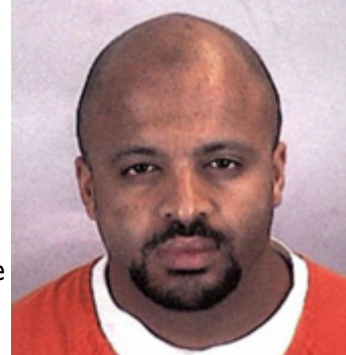
- In August 2006, British police arrested 24 people in London suspected in a plot to blow up as many as 10 planes bound for the United States, while Pakistani authorities made related arrests.
- In June 2006, 17 suspects were arrested by Canadian authorities on suspicion of planning attacks on major targets in downtown Toronto using three tons of ammonium nitrate.
- In June 2006, U.S. and Iraqi forces killed al-Qaida's operational chief in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and killed or captured several of his top lieutenants, including his Baghdad chief of operations and his top bomb-maker.
- In March 2006, the Jordanian General Intelligence Department disrupted planning by terrorists belonging to an al-Qaida cell to attack key civilian installations, including Jordan's Queen Alia International Airport.
- In December 2005, al-Qaida's chief of external operations, Hamza Rabi'a, was killed, dealing another blow to al-Qaida's leadership ranks.
- In November 2005, Jemaah Islamiya bombing mastermind Dr. Azahari was killed during a raid by Indonesian police.
- In May 2005, Pakistan apprehended the number three al-Qaida leader, Abu Faraj al Libi.
- In January 2005, Germany arrested two suspected terrorists planning attacks against U.S. and Coalition forces in Iraq.
- In 2005, Lu'ay al-Saqa, al-Qaida member and one of Zarqawi's chief lieutenants, was arrested in Turkey planning to attack cruise ships.
- In 2004, British law enforcement arrested an al-Qaida operative who provided detailed reports on American targets to senior al-Qaida leaders and was suspected of planning attacks against innocent civilians in London.



**Abu Musab al-Zarqawi**

- Kuwaiti, Indonesian, Philippine, Algerian, and Chadian security forces, among others, many of which were trained by United States Government assistance programs, have countered terrorist threats within their borders through disruptions, captures, arrests, and prosecutions.
- The Saudi security services have pursued, captured, or killed terrorists at a dramatic rate. Saudi Arabia has detained more than 600 operatives, fundraisers, and radical clerics in its fight against terrorism, and killed more than 100 terrorists.
- We are increasing the size of our Special Operations Forces to support foreign internal defense, counterterrorist operations, and unconventional warfare. The overall budget for our Special Operations Forces has increased by 107 percent to support the War on Terror.

Notice that all of these successes--other than the final one--report on actual "output" evidence, not on simple "input" increases in budget or administrative effort. The point of a war is to control the enemy and this report gives specific evidence the efforts are succeeding. It is also important to note that all of the successes were accomplished by foreign governments and were only assisted indirectly or secondarily if at all by U.S. forces. The locals know the troublemakers and how to control them. We do not as Iraq makes clear but we can be smart enough to use those who do.



Zacarias Moussaoui

For better or worse, the public has determined Iraq is a loser. For better or worse, President Bush is determined to keep at it whatever the political results. His best argument is that if the U.S. does not face the terrorists in Iraq, they will attack here. But how can poor, scrawny, rag-tag and visible terrorists can make it across the ocean into the U.S. if there is any decent homeland security effort? The logic of the president's argument is that terrorists cannot be prevented from entering the homeland.

Sadly, the logic seems supported by the facts. There are gaping holes in the anti-terrorism effort at the air and land borders and domestically. The White House report confirms this even if only by omission. The section on "securing borders and transportation" lists fourteen successes. But unlike those in the international accomplishment section not one is an output success describing deterred terrorists much less convictions. Undoubtedly some terrorists have been dissuaded by procedures. But all of the report examples of "success" are of spending more funds and instituting more procedures at the Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration, Treasury and so forth.

Focusing upon process rather than results ignores that each year DHS tests the air screening process at TSA and the screening system is almost always easily penetrated by sophisticated efforts. One homeland security expert told National Public Radio that professionals assume screening procedures can "only catch the fools." Even 9/11 was an amateur operation and never would have succeeded if the U.S. national government in the guise of the Federal Aeronautics Administration did not have a policy at the time requiring cabin crews to cooperate with hijackers and had not ignored warnings that pilot cabins should have been secured with impenetrable doors.

What about success internally in the U.S.? The report section "disrupting terrorism domestically" reads in its entirety:

- Since 9/11, significant convictions include Zacarias Moussaoui, for his role in helping al-Qaida carry out the 9/11 attacks, and the "shoe bomber" Richard Reid, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for attempting to destroy American Airlines Flight 63. Other convictions include:

- Hemant Lakhani, convicted in New Jersey and sentenced to 47 years in prison for attempting to sell an anti-aircraft missile to a man he believed represented a terrorist group intent on shooting down a U.S. commercial airliner;
- Lyman Faris, convicted in Virginia of providing material support to al-Qaida by surveying possible targets to attack in the United States, such as the Brooklyn Bridge, and reporting this information to al-Qaida;
- Lynne Stewart, Mohammed Yousry, and Ahmed Abdel Sattar, convicted in New York on charges in connection with passing messages to the Islamic Group, a terrorist organization, from Sheik Abdel Rahman, the Group's imprisoned leader;
- Sheik Mohammed Ali Hasan al Moayad and Mohammed Moshen Yahya Zayed, convicted in Brooklyn of conspiracy to provide material support to al-Qaida and HAMAS;
- Mohammed Junaid Babar, convicted in New York of providing material support to al-Qaida;
- Five brothers, Ihsan, Hazim, Ghassan, Bayan and Basman Elashi, convicted in Dallas of conspiring to export proscribed computer equipment to state sponsors of terrorism;
- Ahmad Omar Abu Ali, convicted in Washington, D.C., for providing material support to terrorist organizations in connection with the May 2005 bombings in Saudi Arabia;
- Uzair Paracha, in New York, convicted of identity document fraud and violating regulations issued under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act by acting as a conduit for material support to al-Qaida;
- Six U.S. citizens in Buffalo pled guilty to providing material support to al-Qaida and admitted to training in al-Qaida-run camps in Afghanistan; and
- Six defendants in Portland, Oregon, pled guilty to charges relating to their attempt to travel to Afghanistan to fight with the Taliban and al-Qaida against U.S. and allied troops.

Unlike at the borders, there are specific successes listed. What is most obvious, however, is that these mostly are the "fools." The report itself identifies only two convictions it considers "significant" and even Moussaoui and Reid almost asked to be caught and, of course, the former was recognized too late to prevent 9/11. A few others mentioned were serious threats but most were amateur sympathizers who were easily entrapped by FBI agents, were publicly obvious in collecting information or only gave material support to others. None of these "others" were in the midst of a real terror operation. The most serious case—not yet settled--consisted of American ex-convicts converted to Islam in prison aiming to kill "infidels" by blowing up synagogues and incidentally military bases that was more domestic and racial than Islamic. The more recent example of the six mostly Albanian American Muslims who were accused of plotting terrorism at Ft. Dix, New Jersey actually makes the point. Not only did they not have any firm plans but Dix is not a critical military target and they delivered a "jihadist video" to be developed by their local Circuit City, without which stupidity they would not have been apprehended! These guys were clowns, not terrorists.

The obvious conclusion why the U.S. has not had another 9/11 is that either the FBI cannot find the serious terrorists after five years—but then why have they not committed mayhem?—or, more likely, there are none to be found. Surely Al Qaeda itself is destroyed as an international logistics or even training operation. All it can do is produce videos and distribute them, mostly through public media, which could be harassed into being less cooperative. It only survives in remote mountains protected by the locals or where there is existing opposition and turmoil as in Iraq and Afghanistan. As FBI Director Robert Mueller told reporters recently, "We have seen an increase in the number of self-radicalized groups that...are not organized by overseas groups." Few of these have the means or will to carry out serious operations. Several of the plots taken to court actually were developed under the supervision of an undercover FBI agent and it is not clear they would have gone so far by themselves. There is no James Bond, 007-like evil Specter terrorist organization masterminding American terror operations.

The danger is not a central Al Qaeda but the idea embedded in its ideology that in turn appeals to many disaffected Muslims. These radical Muslims are a serious danger overseas, especially where Islam is the majority religion. They fit in and are often protected. These are determined and difficult to control. Yet, as the White House report proves, that is where efforts have had the greatest success. The foreign governments know their terrorists. Their very survival depends on controlling them. If we give them assistance and the tools, they can do the job. The only time this is not true is when we provide American targets for the terrorists in their backyard. That is the problem in Iraq and increasingly in Afghanistan. We should give these real terrorists decreasing opportunities to mount operations in such surroundings favorable to their limited resources.



**Pervez Musharraf**

The U.S. is doing many things right, especially cooperating with foreign governments to control their nuts. To do this we do not (or should not) ask how democratic they are only how efficient are their police (within some limits). Contrary to some on the right (and left), we need foreign friends even if their skirts are not so clean. Take Pakistan. Its autocratic President Pervez Musharraf recently removed the Supreme Court chief justice for questionable reasons and provoked a mass demonstration in the nation's largest city increasing in intensity until gun battles erupted killing 40 and injuring at least 150, followed by a suicide bomb killing 25. Mortar fire exchanges took place between Pakistan and Afghan troops at the border. Musharraf is far from perfect but if we want to win the war on terror is it more effective to lecture him and the others on democracy or hope that they keep supporting us in the war on terror? A Musharraf replacement might be a modern George Washington but his electorate is more likely to support an Omar/Telaban-type, with Pakistan's nuclear weapons to the victor. To control the real terrorist threat, the first priority is winning foreign cooperation under the real-politique doctrine—again within some limits--that the enemy of my enemy is my friend.

Domestically, the pressure must be maintained on the fools because they can be dangerous. The FBI admits to a mere handful of Muslim undercover agents and only 40 who are proficient in Arabic, and none in Urdu and Pashto, so important for Pakistan and Afghanistan. They must develop more. A U.S. version of a counterespionage MI-5 not tied to a bureaucratic entity enmeshed in legalistic prosecutions like the FBI would help too but is unlikely politically until another major blunder. The good news is that the mass of Americans need not lose their liberties in the process since the real terror zealots come from a few nationalities and can be easily profiled even if it requires the hypocrisy of pretending not to do so. Winning the domestic war on terrorism only needs good police work—but it needs to be done more systematically yet selectively and more thoroughly, especially at the borders.



What we must not do is to be fooled that there is some enormous peril to U.S. survival that overwhelms every other American value. That is why Rudy Giuliani is leading for the Republican nomination—rampant fear. Since when did conservatives become so frightened over a threat that is so manageable with a bit of common sense? American good sense will prevail in the end but that could inadvertently lead to a President Hillary first (by Giuliani provoking a social conservative third party, for example). In the meantime, as President Bush said immediately after 9/11 if we let the terrorists change our ways, they will have won. The White House's own report shows the means to defeat the terrorists and to preserve our

freedoms at the same time by winning the real not the trivial terrorism wars.

*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.*

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## Million Moderate Muslims

by Daniel Pipes

"[Moderate Unicorns](#)," huffed a reader, responding to my recent plea that Western states [bolster moderate Muslims](#). Dismissing their existence as a myth, he notes that non-Muslims "are still waiting for moderates to stand and deliver, identifying and removing extremist thugs from their mosques and their communities."

It's a valid skepticism and a reasonable demand. Recent events in Pakistan and Turkey, however, prove that moderate Muslims are no myth.

In Pakistan, an estimated 100,000 people demonstrated on April 15 in [Karachi](#), the country's largest city, to protest the plans of a powerful mosque in Islamabad, the Lal Masjid, to establish a parallel court system based on Islamic law, the Shari'a. "No to extremism," roared the crowd. "We will strongly resist religious terrorism and religious extremism," exhorted Altaf Hussain, leader of the Mutahida Qaumi Movement, at the rally.



The Ankara march of April 14, 2007.

In Turkey, more than a million moderate Muslims in five marches protested the bid of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) to take over the presidency of the republic, giving it control over the two top government offices (the other being the prime ministry, currently filled by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan).

The first march took place in the capital city, Ankara, on April 14, organized by Şener Eruygur, a former general who is president of the Atatürk Thought Association. An estimated 300,000 secularists (i.e., moderate Muslims) held up banners with pictures of the republic's founder, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, chanting [slogans](#) along the lines of "We don't want an imam as president," "We respect belief, but not radicalism," and "Turkey is secular and will stay secular!"

A young woman carrying a huge Turkish flag, [Muge Kaplan](#), explained that the crowd is Muslim and believes in Islam, but it doesn't want Islam "to become our whole way of life." A farmer, Bülent Korucu, asserted that the crowd is defending its republic "against religious fundamentalists."

Repeating these themes, a second march on April 29 in Istanbul boasted [700,000 marchers](#). On May 5, [smaller marches](#) took place in the western Anatolia towns of Manisa, Çanakkale, and Marmaris.

Nor are the masses alone in resisting AKP's Islamists. President Ahmet Necdet Sezer warned that, for the first time since 1923, when the secular republic came into being, its pillars "are being openly questioned." He also inveighed against the imposition of a [soft Islamist state](#), predicting that it would turn extremist. [Onur Öymen](#), deputy chairman of the opposition Republican People's Party, cautioned that the AKP's taking the presidency would "upset all balances" and create a very dangerous situation.

The military – Turkey's ultimate powerbroker – issued two statements reinforcing this assessment. On [April 12](#), the chief of staff, Gen. Mehmet Yaşar Büyükanıt, expressed his hope that "someone who is loyal to the principles of the republic—not just in words but in essence—is elected president." [Two weeks later](#), the military's tone became more urgent, announcing that the presidential election "has been anxiously followed by the Turkish Armed Forces

[which] maintains its firm determination to carry out its clearly specified duties to protect" secular principles.

This resolute stand against Islamism by moderate Turkish Muslims is the more striking when contrasted with the cluelessness of Westerners who poo-poo the dangers of the AKP's ascent. A [Wall Street Journal editorial](#) assures Turks that their prime minister's popularity "is built on competent and stable government." Dismissing the historic crossroads that President Sezer and others perceive, it dismisses as "fear mongering" doubts about Prime Minister Erdoğan's commitment to secularism and ascribes these to petty campaign tactics "to get out the anti-AKP vote and revive a flagging opposition."

"Even if Erdoğan walked on water, the secularists wouldn't believe him," observes a former American ambassador to Turkey, [Morton Abramowitz](#). [Olli Rehn](#), the European Union's "enlargement commissioner," instructed the Turkish military to leave the presidency election in the hands of the democratically-elected government, calling the issue "a test case" for the armed forces to respect its political masters, a position the [U.S. government](#) subsequently endorsed.

Is it not telling that great numbers of moderate Muslims see danger where so many non-Muslims are blind? Do developments in Pakistan and Turkey not confirm my oft-repeated point that radical Islam is the problem and moderate Islam the solution? And do they not suggest that ignorant non-Muslim busybodies should get out of the way of those moderate Muslims determined to relegate Islamism to its rightful place in the dustbin of history?

*Mr. Pipes ([www.DanielPipes.org](http://www.DanielPipes.org)) is director of the Middle East Forum.*

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## Runaway Prosecutors

by Bob Barr

Durham County North Carolina District Attorney Mike Nifong may be headed to the unemployment line as a result of his blatant disregard of law and procedure in falsely accusing the Duke Lacrosse players of rape. But all may not be lost for the 56-year old Nifong, who might find a welcoming job in Texas. In fact, when you compare the North Carolina prosecutor's outrageous actions to some of those by his Lone Star State counterparts, he could go quickly from the bottom of the ethical ladder in North Carolina to the top tier in Texas.



Bob Barr

Take first the example of the district attorney in Swisher County, who imprisoned more than 40 people in the small Texas town of Tulia, most of whom were African-American, on drug charges that he knew were false. The abuse was later uncovered and the defendants released, but only after the innocent victims spent close to two years in jail.

But the king of prosecutorial misconduct reigns in Texas — the famous Ronnie Earle, who brought down U.S. House Republican leader Tom DeLay.

Earle was able to obtain an indictment against DeLay only after going through six grand juries, finally convincing a newly empaneled one to indict DeLay right before the statute of limitations was up. Moreover, Earle charged DeLay with breaking laws that were not even on the books. Nifong, who charged the Duke lacrosse players with crimes based on no evidence, would fit right in.

Earle worked long and hard to lay the groundwork for his action against DeLay, adding money and a media angle to help him along. Earle also trumped up charges that eight large corporations, including Sears and Cracker Barrel, made illegal campaign contributions, but then dismissed the indictments. The dismissals followed an agreement between the corporations and the prosecutor whereby Earle said nice things about the companies, which in turn agreed to make significant "contributions" to the University of Texas (after first balking at making multi-million-dollar payments to Stanford University in California). The funds went to an educational project highlighting Earle's pet theory of an unholy relationship between business and politics — tying in nicely with the theory of Earle's prosecution of DeLay.

Of course, prosecutorial abuses are not limited to North Carolina and Texas. Ask Kobe Bryant, Michael Jackson and even lesser luminaries like Richard Jewell and former government scientist Wen Ho Lee about their run-ins with overzealous state and federal investigators.

Still, the blatant manner in which modern-day prosecutors like Nifong and Earle have been able to manipulate the system raises troubling questions about the integrity of the prosecutorial process.

The silver lining, at least in the Duke case, is that persistent public attention resulted in sufficient public pressure to cause an authority higher than Nifong — the North Carolina attorney general — to step in and override the abusive behavior of the lower prosecutor. Were it not for such publicity, it is likely the now-exonerated college athletes would still be under the cloud of felony indictments.

In the DeLay case, massive publicity surrounded Earle's investigation, at least until the point DeLay resigned his congressional seat in 2006. But the inherently political nature of the prosecution and the intimidating nature of the unique power wielded by Earle, who alone

among his Texas colleagues enjoys statewide reach in cases involving allegations of corruption, has kept the prosecution alive.

Must all defendants like the Duke lacrosse players and DeLay, who find themselves on the receiving end of overly zealous if not unethical prosecutors, rely only on public pressure and the acumen of their own lawyers to rein in their tormentors? Are there additional remedies — such as strengthening the power of state bar associations to halt clearly unethical prosecutors; bringing some level of openness and fairness to certain, if not all grand jury proceedings; and empowering state attorneys general to intervene or at least be afforded tighter supervisory power over local district attorneys — that might be employed?

Perhaps these recent and ongoing examples of prosecutorial abuse will push states and the federal government to seriously consider such steps.

*Former Congressman and U.S. Attorney Bob Barr practices law in Atlanta. Web site: [www.bobbarr.org](http://www.bobbarr.org)*

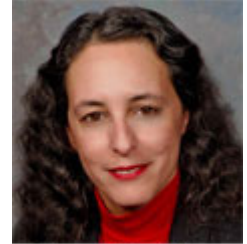
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## Sports Racism or Media Racism?

by Lisa Fabrizio

At the Kentucky Derby, Street Sense blazed through the field to become the first Juvenile champion in nearly thirty years to capture the roses. Floyd Mayweather prevailed over Golden Boy Oscar De La Hoya in a split decision to retain his reputation as the 'best pound for pound' fighter in the world. There was near perfection for seven innings over at Yankee Stadium, while the NHL and NBA playoffs crackled with excitement.



Lisa Fabrizio

After a magical weekend in sports, on Sunday night over at ESPN, the news was: White folks don't like Barry Bonds because...he is black. Yes, racism once again rears its ugly head in the sports world. Why do the media keep up this constant drumbeat of race in a realm where integration was achieved long before it was in the rest of America?

Because, although not too many years ago, sports-writing was considered the "toy department" of journalism, the boys and girls in the press box have been eager to catch up to their counterparts in the 'real' world. And so, they are also no longer content with merely reporting the scores, trades and what have you; they must now generate the news. And, similar to the mainstream media, they need divisive issues in order to push the agenda of all J-school graduates: to change the world.

Class envy, which is the one of the main devices used by liberals and their media wing to influence the masses, is not available in the sports journalists' playbook for obvious reasons. The players are paid too much. But racism; there's the true straw that stirs the drink of controversy, even when that cup may be empty.

Last week it was the Old Gray Lady who once again fanned the perceived flames between white and black Americans. The Times [cried foul](#) against NBA referees, citing a study that "suggests that a racial bias found in other parts of American society has existed on the basketball court as well." Notice the accusation in the opening sentence of the piece; the racist NBA refs are no worse than the rest of America's bigots.

You would think that the NBA--where there is absolutely no hue and cry to balance the squads 'fairly' along racial lines, nor any hand-wringing studies to determine why whites aren't proportionally represented on team rosters--would be the last place where charges of *white* racism would be pursued, but you'd be wrong.

Forget for a moment that the study employs the usual kind of junk-science that liberals love; the real news here is that racism itself appears to be evolving. It seems we white Americans are racists even when we don't intend to be. [Listen to](#) Justin Wolfers, one of the study's authors, whose findings will no doubt spur the 'hate crimes' crowd in Congress on to greater heights:

Theories of discrimination used to be pretty simple. It used to be one group hated the other group. There was malice. Thankfully, those types of bias have receded. (But) there's an emerging consensus in psychology and law that there may be unconscious forms of bias.

Such conclusions make one long for the days of simple, malicious bigotry, before unconscious behavior had to be ferreted out by the likes of Mr. Wolfers. Epitomizing the idiocy of all this is a telling quote from Minnesota Timberwolves guard Mike James who said, "If that's going on, then it's something that needs to be dealt with. But I've never seen it."

Equally idiotic yet instructive was the [ESPN/ABC poll](#) so widely quoted during Sunday night's ESPN baseball game which featured the Phillies and Mr. Bonds' Giants. The poll, typical of those conducted by liberals--its total of 800 people polled included an oversampling of 200 blacks--still came to the conclusion that over half the country is rooting against Bonds pursuit of Henry Aaron's homerun record. The results would seem pretty clear cut to all but those who conducted the poll:

However, race plays a unique role. Black fans in the survey are more than twice as likely to want Bonds to break Aaron's record (74 percent to 28 percent), and 37 percent of black fans think Bonds used steroids, compared to 76 percent of white fans.

The interpretation goes on to further dredge the racial waters without ever pointing out that the presumed white racists don't wish to see Bonds break the record of *another black player*. Also missing is the inference that, despite the fact that Bonds has become gargantuan in a few short years, it may be blacks who are biased in their belief that no steroids were involved. It seems the specter of racism, actual or subconscious, isn't a switch-hitter.

If there is white racism among fans in the sports world--where the percentage of minority players far exceeds their representation in the general population--they have a funny way of showing it; eagerly parting with billions of their hard-earned dollars year after year. If there is any animosity on their part, it is most likely a result of efforts to prove that they are what they demonstrate they are not. At least not consciously.

[Lisa Fabrizio](#) is a columnist who hails from Connecticut.

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## Female Pay Myth

by Carey Roberts

Equal Pay Day has become one of our annual rites of Spring. And once again Hillary and her gal-pals were out in force, trying to convince us that women are undervalued and underpaid in the American workplace.

This year the gender victimologists came armed with a new report from the American Association of University Women, Behind the Pay Gap, which purports to show that one year after graduation, women are paid 80% of what men earn.



The AAUW's press release featured this startling statement: "Women earn less even when working in the same career field, likely due to sex discrimination." So no surprise, media coverage of the study trumpeted the 80% figure like it was revealed truth.

But women who are familiar with the AAUW's long-standing gender agenda began to question the study.

Mary Kay Ham sardonically wondered why she, as a highly-educated columnist, should be paid less than a dime-a-dozen brain surgeon. [Another blogger asked pointedly](#), "If an employer is only concerned about the bottom line, why would s/he hire a man at all to perform a job where an equally qualified woman will do it for 69% of pay?"

To settle the issue, I decided to [download the report](#) and see for myself.

I quickly noticed that the 80% figure is deceptive because it doesn't take into account differences in work hours, occupational choices, and other key variables.

When you do that, the wage gap shrinks dramatically. As the AAUW report finally admits on page 39: "The regression analysis of earnings one year after graduation for the combined sample of women and men shows a gender pay difference of 5 percent, controlling for educational and occupational choices as well as demographic and personal characteristics."

But it turns out the AAUW study omitted a number of important factors in its analysis, so even the 5% figure is exaggerated.

For example, many men coming out of high school enter the military and later go to college. These men command a bigger paycheck upon graduation. Likewise, men tend to accept big-city jobs with longer commute times. But the AAUW glossed over those facts.

Of greater concern is how the AAUW shoe-horned the many thousands of jobs into 11 broad occupational categories.

Take the medical profession which is evenly divided between the sexes, compared to nursing which is overwhelmingly female. The AAUW lumped all doctors and nurses into the same "medical professions" group. So you guessed it -- doctors are paid more than nurses, and that's discrimination!

And women who major in business administration gravitate to human resources administration, while men often specialize in finance. Employees who manage a corporation's

financial lifeblood tend to be paid well. But the AAUW put both groups into the "business and management" category. Yikes, more discrimination!

This isn't the first time the American Association of University Women resorted to smoke-and-mirrors research to further its political agenda.

Back in 1992 the AAUW published the report, *How Schools Shortchange Girls*. The report purported to show that American schoolgirls were being kept down by the ever-present patriarchy.

But Diane Ravitch, former assistant secretary of education, took issue with that conclusion, saying flatly, "The AAUW report was just completely wrong. What was so bizarre is that it came out right at the time that girls had just overtaken boys in almost every area."

To redeem itself, the AAUW finally came out with a second report. *Gender Gaps: Where Schools Still Fail Our Children* had to admit - a-ha! - that "National data indicate that girls consistently earn either equivalent or higher grades than boys in all subjects at all points in their academic careers."

But that oops-I-goofed document could not reverse the hysteria generated by the first report, which fueled the passage of the Gender Equity in Education Act in 1994, a law that contributes to the boy crisis we're now seeing.

But memories are short, and no doubt some will be fooled by the AAUW's gender wage gap tom-foolery.

But beyond the claims of sex discrimination, *Behind the Pay Gap* contains a put-down to all working women. That message reads, Ladies, you are unwilling to accept the financial consequences of your decision to work shorter hours and in less lucrative occupations.

That's patronizing and insulting to the women who don't believe they need a government mandate or gender quota to get ahead in life. Hopefully this time around not so many will be taken in by the AAUW's creative calculations.

*Carey Roberts is a staff writer for the New Media Alliance, Inc. ([www.thenma.org](http://www.thenma.org)). The New Media Alliance is a non-profit (501c3) national coalition of writers, journalists and grass-roots media outlets.*

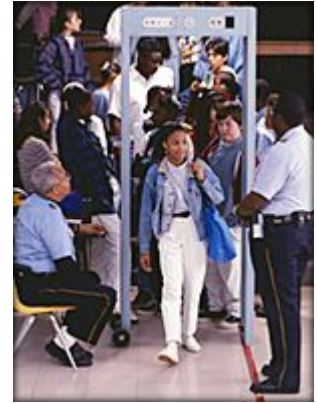
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## What Schools Teach

by Renny Hartmann

For the last half century, American education has been hell-bent on experimenting destructively with radical practices and methods, until most urban elementary students can't read at the fourth-grade level. Why people aren't rioting in the streets over this horror beats me. For minority communities, this education is the worst disaster since slavery. It has led directly to racial preferences and concomitant resentments, polarizing and dividing the nation. It cheats any student, minority or not, from true achievement.



Despite all of the high falutin' mission statements about schools as child-centered organizations, poor education creates a permanent drag on individuals and the economy for years. But instead of correcting the issue, we deliberately produce millions of ill educated, unemployable, wretched graduates. On whom we've already spent hundreds of billions. Officially a half trillion (federal, state, and local) dollars a year are spent for public education, but if private educational costs, remediation on the college, armed services, and job levels are accounted, almost a trillion dollars and still counting annually and still counting.

Regardless of much is spent for early poor education, one of the laws of primacy in psychology is, what you learn first you learn best. As Forrest Gump says, "Stupid is as stupid does."

If we want to know how this dreadful situation developed, we only have to take a cursory review at what education has been offering in recent years. Not much. If you don't believe me, look up and down the main concourse at any local mall or on any street corner for the green hair, belly rings, and tattoos. I rest my case.

The reason for the stupidity is decades of stupid educational theories and practices. I'll just run through a short list:

- Whole Language--reading without vocabulary, grammar, coherence, or syntax
- Whole Mathematics--math without numbers or right answers
- Social History--history without dates, or people, or places, or events
- Values Clarification--ethics without morals
- Nonjudgmentalism--a corollary to values clarification: non-decisions without ethics (and a subset of self esteemism)
- Sex Education--sex without ethics (some liberal male guy thought it up)
- Multiculturalism--everyone's culture without Western civilization and Christianity
- Multiple Intelligences--learning without thought
- Self Esteem—replaces pride and honor (bad words) without character and integrity
- Learning is fun—lying to kids without even using humor
- Cooperative education--group work without responsibility
- Cognitive Thinking--reasoning without knowledge
- Process--activities without end
- Relevant education--immediate gratification, preferably at the mall

Let's take a pop quiz. Here's a trick question: How many of the above are conservative or Republican ideas?

Sit outside any grade school--but don't get caught--and see the children eagerly running into their buildings. They can't wait to get to class. Monitors have to slow them down. How do we

murder their enthusiasm and natural curiosity? Maybe one answer is they already know the difference between real fun and fake adult fun.

Take a trip to any American fun spot like Six Flags or Disney World. What are people basically doing? They're standing in line for 45 minutes for an 8 minute ride on an abbreviated tilt-a-whirl, modified golf cart, or ersatz waterworks. Maybe kids enjoy it, but as a former kid myself, back in the day, in the Dark Ages, I don't remember that we thought standing in lines for hours to ride around in circles was great fun.

Today in class, older students (anyone in third grade or higher) no longer even think videos or Power Point programs are fun. It's a fight to keep them awake and following a plot, which is a term they've already forgotten. They've seen this and done that. They've funned out by the second week of kindergarten. So we should stop trying to fool them, and certainly stop lying to ourselves, and start arranging schools as periods of concentration and effort. Given a chance, students will make up their own fun, which likely won't include their teachers or any malingering liberals.

At the moment, we are neither providing fun, a complete joke as an educational method, nor teaching for knowledge. The result is students are stupid.

Remember the immortal message of that great philosopher and wordsmith, John Wayne: "Life is hard. It's even harder if you're stupid."

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**E-mail the  
Editor**

## Medicare Trigger Set

by John Goodman

The same law that gave us Medicare prescription drugs says that if Medicare's finances deteriorate sufficiently the President must propose a remedy and Congress must expedite its consideration. In releasing its annual report early this month, the Medicare Trustees announced that this financial "trigger" has been hit.

How dire are things? Very dire. Once the baby boomers begin to retire, the federal government will face a cash flow nightmare:

- In just five years, the government will have to stop doing one in every ten (non-entitlement) things it has been doing in order to keep its promises to the elderly.
- In 13 years, the government will have to stop doing one in every four things it currently does.
- And this forecast does not even include the impact of baby boomers on Medicaid, which is almost as big as Medicare.



**John Goodman**

All of this is spelled out in a terrific editorial by Professor Thomas Saving in the May 9, 2007 Wall Street Journal. Read it carefully (<http://www.ncpa.org/email/050907-saving-oped.pdf>) because you are unlikely to read about this problem anywhere else.

In its story about the Trustees Report, The New York Times mentioned the "trigger" in paragraph 14. The Washington Post had it in paragraph 9. In journalism, this is called burying the lead. In lay language, it is called missing the point.

One place the point has not been missed is on The New York Times editorial page, which rarely passes up any occasion to undermine efforts to bring the facts to light. The Times editorial writers, who apparently think the government can pay medical bills with IOUs it writes to itself, have bemoaned on several occasions about President Bush's reappointment of Saving and Syracuse University Professor John Palmer as Public Trustees of Social Security and Medicare. These two, originally appointed by President Clinton, have made an obvious impact on Trustee reporting: the reports now include the present value of the programs' unfunded liabilities and the impact of the cash flow deficits on government finances.

The latest Times editorial lamented that there even is a trigger. Why get distracted by cash flow deficits when the obvious solution... (after we run out of IOUs)...to this and all other financial problems is...to tax the rich.

Cest la vie.

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

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## **EEOC v Salvation Army**

by Paul Weyrich

Just when you think you have heard it all, along comes a story that is almost too ridiculous to be true. But it is. The idiocy of federal bureaucracies apparently is never-ending. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), which might easily be called the Department of Political Correctness, has decided to take on the Salvation Army. Yes, the Salvation Army, that phenomenally successful assistance organization which began in Great Britain over one hundred and forty-years ago. The Salvation Army, which has helped thousands of people in countries all over the world, is being sued by the EEOC.



Paul M. Weyrich

As most people are aware, the Salvation Army is a Christian evangelical organization the mission of which is to help the downtrodden, blind, sick, addicted and anyone else in need. "Army" personnel stand on street corners during Christmastime, ringing a bell on behalf of the poor. One of their most important ways to raise money is through donations of old clothes and household goods, which they sell in their thrift stores. They also operate soup kitchens and hire people no one else would hire. Since 1865 the Salvation Army has lived by Christ's admonition that as we do unto the least of our people we do unto the Lord. Now the organization is in trouble for insisting its employees learn to speak English.

It all started in a thrift store in Framingham, Massachusetts. Two Hispanic employees were given one year to learn English in order to speak the language of the country in which they live and the language spoken by other employees. They failed to do so; in turn the employees were fired. The EEOC filed a lawsuit against the Salvation Army claiming the employees had suffered "emotional pain, humiliation and embarrassment" as a result of the English-only policy.

First, the Salvation Army is a faith-based organization and is able to set rules for its employees that many public organization cannot. I am not a lawyer; however, I know that government should not be telling religious groups whom they can and cannot hire or fire. Specifically, when it comes to requiring English the courts have already ruled in the State of Massachusetts. In 2003 a federal judge in Boston upheld the Salvation Army policy requiring workers to "speak English to the best of their ability." The EEOC didn't like that ruling, so it is trying for one more favorable.

These are our tax dollars at work, yours and mine, paying the salaries of the EEOC lawyers who filed the lawsuit while the Salvation Army must use its own funds – funds that might be better used helping the poor – to hire attorneys to fight this case in court. What a waste of money on both accounts.

Then there is the EEOC itself, an organization which has spent the last 25 years or so filing lawsuits on behalf of real (and imagined) victims of every possible type of discrimination: sex, age, disability, race, etc. Often these lawsuits are against individuals and other times against large corporations or public agencies. A result has been thousands of hours spent by employers attempting to avoid litigation. I shudder to think of the amount of effort and money spent on lengthy seminars and briefings for human resource departments while American jobs have been disappearing overseas on almost a daily basis. One of the latest EEOC "campaigns" is to end background checks by many employers because they might discriminate against people who have served prison terms. Now sometimes people do deserve a second chance when they have paid their debt to society but shouldn't the employer get to decide whether to hire someone with a criminal record? Imagine a future time when an employer could be fined for not hiring someone with a criminal record. I have no trouble believing that this is what the EEOC would like to see happen.

In the Boston case I wanted to know if the Hispanic employees were American citizens. Nobody could tell me. They most likely are not, but that does not matter to the EEOC, which probably did not bother to enquire. You need not be an American citizen to use a federal agency to file a lawsuit on your behalf. In what other country is there an agency that would help you sue yet another government agency or a private company if you weren't a citizen? And provide you with an interpreter to do so? Not one that I can think of.

This case would be entirely moot if we had an "English First" rule in our schools and required everyone to learn English for employment. I have given up on the idea that such common sense will again prevail in our society. Must our government work against us? Must it take American taxpayers' money to hire lawyers who sue on behalf of non-citizens who cannot be bothered to learn the language even "to the best of their ability?" And to sue one of our preeminent charitable organizations in the process? Apparently it can – and it does.

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

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## School Choice Success

by Robert Enlow

A landmark new study finds that school choice programs throughout the country generated nearly \$444 million in net savings to state and local budgets from 1990 to 2006. Contrary to opponents' predictions, the analysis also finds that instructional spending per student has consistently gone up in all affected public school districts and states.

School choice saves. It saves children, and now we have empirical evidence that it saves money.

Released by our Friedman Foundation, "Education by the Numbers: The Fiscal Effect of School Choice Programs, 1990-2006" provides the first comprehensive analysis of how the nation's school choice programs have affected state and public school districts. Of the 12 voucher and tax-credit scholarship programs that began operations before 2006, every program is at least fiscally neutral, and most produce substantial savings. Seven more programs have been created since 2006.

"Programs giving parents freedom to choose in their child's education are growing rapidly in number and size," said Dr. Susan Aud, author of the study and a Friedman Foundation senior fellow. "And a program's fiscal impact has become an important political issue. This brings empirical evidence to that debate."

For years, opponents have claimed that school choice reduces spending in public schools. Yet the study's analysis of the states and school districts where school choice is available finds that this is not the case. Instructional spending in areas affected by school choice has uniformly increased.

In the face of this evidence, opponents of educational freedom will find it tougher to bend the truth. Our research adheres to the highest standards of scientific rigor. We've seen seven school choice programs start in just the last year because evidence of the benefits are growing just as rapidly.

Robert Enlow is executive director and COO of the Milton and Rose D. Friedman Foundation.

*The study can be downloaded [here](#). The Friedman Foundation has provided analysis to many states on the fiscal effect of proposed school choice measures. Consistently, the studies - for states like Arizona, New Hampshire, Utah, Virginia, Minnesota and Kentucky - point to substantial savings.*

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Editor**

## War on American Lawns

by Alan Caruba

I have lost track of when I first noticed that Greens were engaged in a war on chemicals, but it has been a long time. Almost any chemical, whether used in agriculture or for industrial purposes, and even chlorine which is vital to the purification of the water we drink continues to be under attack.

In the simpleminded view of the Greens, all chemicals are "toxic" and, therefore bad. Toxicity depends on the amount of any chemical to which one is exposed and we routinely use all kinds of chemicals to keep our homes and workplaces clean and safe. Chemicals are the building blocks of virtually everything we take for granted and enhance our lives in countless ways.



Alan Caruba

Recently I received a news release from the SafeLawns Foundation announcing it would "hold its launch rally on the National Mall in Washington, D.C." A parade of "high profile doctors, scientists, activists and politicians" were to help kick off a campaign designed to "cause a quantum change in lawn care behavior."

Among the activist speakers was a member of the Rachel Carson Council. It was Carson's book, "Silent Spring", that led eventually to the banning of DDT and the subsequent deaths from malaria for tens of millions of Africans unable to secure protection against the mosquitoes that spread the disease. Another speaker just happened to work for a company that sells so-called "organic" fertilizer. It was organically grown spinach that sickened many people earlier this year.

Among the things SafeLawns wants to do is ask universities and industries "to eliminate the use of lawn chemicals on their campus or headquarters lawns." If you like weeds and dead grass, you're going to love this.

Never content with giving people the freedom to make up their own minds, SafeLawns will ask States to participate in a "Safe Lawns Environmental Partnership" by passing legislation to "eliminate lawn care pesticides at day care and school grounds" similar to a law in Connecticut.

Real estate firms "will be offered the opportunity to participate in a Safe lawns Certification Program" so they may "inform buyers of organic lawns that are child and pet safe." A healthy, well maintained lawn is far safer for children and pets than one that is not.

Anyone familiar with the ways such noble-sounding organizations function knows that this foundation is going to spend a lot of money to convince the public that "millions of tons of toxic materials...wasting enormous amounts of fossil fuels...in the name of having a beautiful lawn" is dangerous to their lives and must be banned.

State by state, city by city, town by town, lawn by lawn, the SafeLawns Foundation will do its best to insure that no one will be permitted to kill the many insects that destroy lawns and that the diseases that attack lawns along with many weed species will be allowed to thrive.

Does that make any sense to you? Do you know anyone who has ever died from having a healthy, green lawn?

The truth about healthy lawns will be ignored or suppressed by the SafeLawns Foundation, but you can read it here and, I hope, share it with everyone you know because, if this malicious and evil group has their way, America will be deprived of something very valuable.

Let's begin with the way healthy, green lawns enhance the value of a homeowner's property and thus the neighborhood in which comparable lawn care is practiced. For corporations whose headquarters are surrounded by well-tended lawns, the favorable impression this makes says they too are an asset to the community. In general, a healthy lawn increases the value of any property by up to six percent.

Turf grasses help cool temperatures, acting as exterior "air conditioners" at ground level. Moreover, they trap dust and smoke particles from the atmosphere, thus cleaning the air homeowners and others breathe. A university campus that has a lawn care program is contributing to health of students and, of course, adding to the natural beauty of their surroundings.

As we have seen in the recent fires in California, well-maintained wide lawns around a home can often provide an invaluable buffer area to retard fire from reaching a home or other structures.

Turf grasses have other, unseen benefits because they increase the infiltration of water and clean it as it passes so that underground water supplies are cleansed for use. After their application, chemicals used to enhance and maintain healthy grown, are either absorbed by turf grasses or later burned off by the sun and broken down by rain or other water applied to the lawn.

The suggestion that parents are harming their children by maintaining a healthy lawn is an ugly lie. What parent doesn't instinctively know that a properly maintained lawn provides a cushioning floor where kids play? This is why cities have always striven to provide parks as an escape from concrete surfaces.

Lawns are great for absorbing noise and this is particularly true in urban areas. The serenity of a suburban street on which green lawns abound is testament to this.

Lawns play an essential role in cleaning the air as they generate lots of oxygen while absorbing the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) they need to prosper. A 50X50 lawn produces enough oxygen for a family of four.

There are many reasons why America's beautiful green lawns should be a source of pride, but the SafeLawns Foundation wants to turn them into a source of fear.

Fear, created and maintained by deception, is the primary tool of so-called environmental groups. When they show up in your town, protest those lies, protect your lawns. They do a lot to protect you.

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

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Editor**

## Greenpeace Versus the Poor

by Dennis Avery

The media is full of dire warnings about man-made global warming. Greenpeace and the UN say Americans must move quickly to give up 80–90 percent of their current energy use to prevent millions of potential human deaths from an over-heated planet. The haste to destroy the world's economy is strange considering: 1) there has been no significant global warming for the past nine years; 2) most of our current modest warming took place before 1940; and, 3) much of the scientific evidence gathered the last twenty years points directly to the sun as the source of our cyclical warmings and coolings over the last million years.



**Dennis T. Avery**

Oddly enough, Greenpeace is, at this same moment, proposing endless delays for a far cheaper way and proven way to prevent millions of human deaths—genetically engineered Golden Rice. Golden Rice, like carrots, contains beta carotene, which the human body turns into Vitamin A. Rich-world kids get their Vitamin A mostly from meat, milk and eggs, which Third World kids can't afford. Golden Rice yields far more bio-available Vitamin A to poor kids than do carrots or leafy greens.

The new rice could prevent a million kids a years in third world countries from going blind due to severe Vitamin A deficiency in their diets and reduce death rates from such diseases as measles, diarrhea, and malaria. It is estimated that two million lives a year could be saved by this inexpensive and simple dietary addition.

Greenpeace opposes Golden Rice on the vague generalization that genetic engineering is "too dangerous." Yet Greenpeace has documented no risks at all from Golden Rice or any other biotech food—let alone a risk that would stack up against the ongoing deaths of millions of kids per year.

At two million deaths per year, in fact, Greenpeace is rapidly becoming a real competitor to Rachel Carson in the global "deadliest killers" sweepstakes. Rachel duped us into believing that DDT was too dangerous to use, indoors, to protect kids in the tropics from malaria mosquitoes. Rachel and her willing followers' DDT phobia has triggered only about one million deaths per year, however, so Greenpeace is rapidly closing in on her total of needless human slaughter.

Golden Rice was developed by Swiss government researchers, and given free to a public-private partnership for cross-breeding into farmers' rice varieties. Greenpeace has worked to make biotech testing and approval so onerous that it took five years just to get a field trial of the Golden Rice seeds! And the field trial had to be in America, because no poor country had all the regulatory bells and whistles in place to conduct it. On the present schedule, it now looks as though it will take a total of 13 years and 14 million deaths to put Golden Rice in the mouth of any poor, at-risk child.

How unfair is it that Third World children are the major victims of both Rachel Carson and Greenpeace?

Since Greenpeace presents itself also as a leading authority on global warming, should we re-examine their stance on that issue too?

*Dennis Avery is a senior fellow for Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C. and is the Director for Center for Global Food Issues ([www.cgfi.org](http://www.cgfi.org)). He was formerly a senior analyst for the Department of State. Readers may write him at Post Office Box 202, Churchville, VA 24421*

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Editor**

## Doolittle Glory

by Spencer Warren

Sixty-five years ago, eighty American flyers, led by Lt. Colonel James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle, staged our first bombing attack on Japan. Only four months after Pearl Harbor, at a time when Imperial Japan was on the march in China, the Philippines, the western Pacific and southwest Pacific toward Australia, through the Dutch East Indies and Singapore, Malaya, Thailand and Burma, when the Nazi Panzers were striking deeper and deeper into Soviet Russia and Rommel was pushing back the British in Libya toward the Suez Canal, these brave young men struck the first offensive blow that inspired America, and free peoples everywhere.



President Roosevelt wanted to hit back at Japan as soon as possible after Pearl Harbor. But how could we strike Japan with most of our Pacific Fleet sunk or severely damaged? Navy and Army Air Force experts devised the plan whereby Army Air Force bombers – Navy aircraft could not carry enough bomb payload and their range was too limited – would take off from an aircraft carrier that would sail to within 400 miles of Japan. Such large, land-based aircraft had never before taken off from a carrier.

They turned to the renowned aviation pioneer, pilot and aeronautics expert Lt. Colonel Doolittle to supervise and plan the mission in detail. He chose the B-25B Mitchell twin engine medium bomber and with the Navy directed the special, top secret training of the crews – all volunteers, who were told only that they were going on a very dangerous mission. Doolittle also directed the many technical modifications required for the aircraft. Sixteen bombers (five men to each crew) participated in the attack. Although he was forty-five years old, Doolittle asked to lead the mission and went through all the training with his men. Dr. Thomas White felt the mission needed a physician, so he volunteered for gunnery training and served as a crewman.

The sixteen B-25s were loaded on the new carrier, the U.S.S. *Hornet*, which set sail with its task force from Alameda in California on April 2, 1942. Under the command of Vice Admiral William F. "Bull" Halsey, they joined up with another carrier, the U.S.S. *Enterprise* (all our carriers providentially were out of Pearl Harbor on December 7 th) and steamed across the Pacific. The task force of sixteen vessels included destroyers, cruisers and tankers – our battleships lay under the surface of Pearl Harbor. Utmost secrecy had to be maintained lest they give warning to the vastly superior enemy fleet.

Early on the morning of April 18, 1942, about 650 miles from Japan, they sighted an enemy picket boat, which radioed a warning. The boat was sunk, and it was decided to launch the B-25s immediately, one day early and about 200 miles farther from the targets. None of the aircraft had ever actually taken off from the deck of a carrier, but all launched safely. Flying single-file "on the deck" (200 hundred feet above the tips of the waves) to avoid detection, they climbed as they began their bombing runs about noon, striking military and industrial targets in Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe, Osaka and Nagoya. On one bomb the men inscribed these messages: "I don't want to set the world on fire – just Tokyo" and "You'll get a BANG out of this." Thanks to Doolittle's brilliant tactics, they achieved surprise and encountered only generally light anti-aircraft fire and few enemy fighters. The American and British embassies had yet to be evacuated, and the staffs ran to the rooftops when they heard the attack on Tokyo. They were thrilled, and the British drank toasts to the American flyers all that day and into the night. (Doolittle had to direct his men strictly to restrain their desire to bomb the Imperial Palace.)

Fifteen of the sixteen bombers proceeded to China, where a landing field was supposed to await them at Chuchow, beyond the area occupied by the Japanese Army. But they were running out of fuel and became engulfed in a heavy rain storm over the China Sea as night fell. As a result, eleven crews bailed out over land, one aircraft landed in a rice patty and three ditched in the sea along the coast, all in enemy-occupied territory. The experience of the crew of the ditched bomber *Ruptured Duck* was recounted in the famous magazine series and book by Captain Ted W. Lawson, *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*, which was made into an MGM movie in 1944 (with brilliant special effects of the raid, including some footage shot by the crews, and the aftermath in China.) Lawson lost a leg, but Doc White saved his life. One other crew headed for neutral (vis-à-vis Japan) Soviet Vladivostok, where they were interned; eventually, in 1943, they escaped from Stalinist Russia into Iran!

Not one raider was lost to enemy action. But two, Sergeants William J. Dieter and Donald E. Fitzmaurice, were killed when their aircraft ditched, and one, Corporal Leland D. Faktor, died after he bailed out. Eight were captured; of these, three – Lieutenants Dean E. Hallmark and William G. Farrow, and Sergeant Harold A. Spatz – were executed, forced to rest on their knees, by firing squad following a mock trail, on October 15, 1942. One, Lieutenant Robert J. Meder, died in captivity from barbaric mistreatment in 1943. The other four were tortured, starved and held in solitary confinement till they were liberated in August 1945. One of these, Corporal Jacob D. DeShazer, found faith studying a Bible he was given in captivity; after the war he became a missionary and served in Japan for more than thirty years.

All the other men, led by Doolittle – a leader with a capital L – made it to safety with the assistance of Chinese partisans and civilians. Having lost all his aircraft, Doolittle thought he had failed and would be court-martialed. Instead, his bold raid electrified a nation that had been reeling from defeat. He was awarded the Medal of Honor personally by President Roosevelt.

Japan, outraged by this attack on its “sacred” home island, retaliated by slaughtering an estimated 250,000 Chinese civilians while searching for the raiders. In addition to the inspiration the raid created at home, it contributed to Japan’s decision to attack Midway Island near Hawaii the following June. This proved to be the decisive battle of the Pacific War. Outnumbered, our three carriers’ aircraft sank all four of the enemy carriers, for the loss of our one, the U.S.S. *Yorktown*. Only six months after the disaster at Pearl Harbor, the United States had begun the long, arduous road to victory.

This is the “epic deed” recounted in Colonel Carroll V. Glines’s definitive book *The Doolittle Raid*.

The raiders have held an annual reunion every year since the late 1940’s. Fourteen of the eighty survive, and seven attended this year’s reunion in San Antonio, Texas, joined by Doolittle’s son, Colonel John Doolittle, his daughter Jonna Doolittle Hoppes (author of a new memoir about her grandparents), and Colonel Glines. The honor roll of raiders attending includes:

Major-General David M. Jones, Pilot, Crew #5

Lt. Colonel Richard E. Cole, Co-Pilot, Crew #1

Staff Sergeant David J. Thatcher, Engineer-Gunner, Crew #7 (the *Ruptured Duck*)

Major Thomas C. Griffin, Navigator, Crew #9

Master Sergeant Edwin W. Horton, Engineer-Gunner, Crew #10

Colonel William M. Bower, Pilot, Crew #12

Lt. Colonel Robert L. Hite, Co-Pilot, Crew #16

Hite was one of those who endured forty months of savage captivity in Japanese hands. Jones and Griffin later were shot down by the Germans and were held as POWS for two and a half and almost two years respectively, until their liberation in April 1945. (For a time they were imprisoned in the camp featured in the movie, *The Great Escape*. Jones was a tunnel digger.) Photos and biographical information on the raiders can be found at [www.b-25yellowrose.com/reunion/](http://www.b-25yellowrose.com/reunion/) (Click on raiders' biographies in the left column.)

Today, not many Americans under age fifty can identify the Doolittle Raid, or the Battle of Midway, for that matter. What does that say about our education system and the people who run it?

*Spencer Warren is ConservativeBattleline's media critic.*

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Editor**

## Gordon Smith Again?

by Bill Sizemore

Gordon Smith, one of Oregon's two United States Senators, is a Republican. You can tell he's a Republican by checking his registration in the state's voter files. Sure enough, there it is: Republican. The problem is, you can't tell Gordon Smith is a Republican by his voting record. In fact, after examining his votes carefully, one can conclude that Republican or not, Gordon Smith is not a conservative.



Recently, the American Conservative Union released its annual scorecard for all members of the United States Congress, both House and Senate. Several of Gordon Smith's Republican colleagues in the Senate scored a perfect 100 percent. The cut-off for what the American Conservative Union considers a conservative is 80 percent.

Gordon Smith has a lifetime score of only 74.5 percent, but his score for 2005 was a meager 58 percent. That means that in 2005 Gordon Smith did not vote conservatively nearly 50 percent of the time. That's a lot of bad votes, making Smith one of the least conservative Republicans in the United States Senate. Let's examine how his voting record fleshes out on specific issues.

First - hate crimes legislation. Oregon's Gordon Smith has taken the lead in the U.S. Senate as a major driving force behind efforts to pass hate crimes legislation. Hate crimes legislation calls for increased criminal sentences based on what a person is thinking when he commits a crime. In other words, if you assault a gay person, it would be a worse crime than assaulting a straight person. You would get a harsher sentence, because of what you were thinking when you committed the assault. If you assaulted a little old lady, you would get off easier than if you assaulted a gay or lesbian, because a "hateful, (i.e. discriminating)" thought" would be assumed by the courts.

Senator Smith's support for hate crime legislation has won him the endorsement of some of the national gay and lesbian organizations. It has not, however, won him many points with conservatives.

Another issue raising conservative brows is Smith's support for light rail. I first crossed swords with the senator on this issue when he was the President of the Oregon State Senate back in the mid 1990s. At the time, Smith was twisting the arms of fellow Republicans, trying to get them to vote for several hundred million dollars in state money for a \$3.4 billion light rail project for the Portland area. (The rest of the money was to come from a huge local property tax increase, federal money, and some money from a neighboring state.)

If you knew Oregon, you would be asking why a senator from Pendleton, a city on the east side of the state and 200 miles from Portland, would be twisting arms, wielding threats and offering political bribes to fellow Republicans for votes on a ridiculously expensive (\$100 million per mile) mass transit project for Portland? How would that help his home district?

You see, Gordon Smith had decided at the time that he wanted to be a United States Senator, not a measly state senator. Gordon Smith wanted to join that elite Club of 100. He also knew that a Republican cannot win statewide in Oregon, unless he garners at least 33 or 34 percent of the vote in vote-rich Multnomah County where the City of Portland is located. A Republican can win every county in Oregon, except Multnomah County, and still lose the election unless he gets around 34 percent of the Portland vote.

Truth is, Gordon Smith was pushing a \$3.4 billion light rail project in hopes that it would gain him enough votes in Portland to win him a seat in the United States Senate. As it turned out, a couple of friends and I stopped his North South Light Rail Project and come election day, Gordon Smith ended up with only 29 percent of the vote in Multnomah County and consequently lost that coveted senate seat to Congressman Ron Wyden, a liberal Democrat from Portland. A year or so later Gordon Smith ran for a newly vacated U.S. Senate seat and won the prize he had sought so fervently.

Moving quickly along - Recently, self-proclaimed "pro-life" Senator Gordon Smith voted for embryonic stem cell research, a type of research that knowingly results in killing human embryos. Meanwhile, adult stem cell research has proven to be far more valuable and useful than research using stem cells from human embryos. The embryonic stem cell vote should have been an automatic "No" for a pro-life conservative, but not for Gordon Smith.

Gordon Smith also joined a small handful of Republican Senators voting against drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve (ANWR). There are reportedly billions of barrels of oil beneath the frozen tundra; all ours for the taking. The drilling process would affect less than one-hundredth of one percent of the total acreage of the reserve and would have almost zero impact on the local wildlife. Yet Gordon Smith, currying favor with the environmental crazies of the world, voted against drilling in ANWR, further subjecting America's entire economy to dependence on oil from the Middle East, the most unstable, politically volatile region of the world.

Gas prices have now topped \$3.00 a gallon (by a fair bit in some parts of the country) and the hotbed Middle East is once again the focal point of the world. But you need not worry. Thanks to the junior senator from Oregon, we won't disturb the mating habits of Arctic caribou by drilling in a tiny fraction of their habitat. Remind yourself of that, the next time some gas station attendant explains that you will need a co-signer, if you want to fill your gas tank.

Recently, Gordon Smith was one of only two Republican senators to vote with the Democrats to set a time table for withdrawal from Iraq. Regardless of how one feels about the war or how we got into Iraq, al Qaeda has chosen to make Iraq their focal point for terrorism. Al Qaeda's highest priority in all the world is to defeat the United States in Iraq and send us home with our tails between our legs. An American defeat in Iraq would inspire them to export terror to American cities, schools, shopping malls, and sports arenas. Volunteer suicide bombers would line up for "service," gloating over the weakness of American resolve. And that's not to mention the hundreds of thousands of human lives that will be lost when we exit the country and a very bloody civil war breaks out, as it surely will. Iran and al Qaeda will see to that.

Even if we should never have gone to Iraq in the first place, we "broke it" and we owe it to the good people of Iraq to fix it. And we owe it to the more than 3,000 Americans who have died there to insure that they did not die in vain.

Back to Gordon Smith. As if the "timetable vote" weren't bad enough, Smith even commented publicly that our military presence in Iraq might be "criminal". Yes, he actually used the word "criminal". With American soldiers on the ground, risking and giving their lives everyday, this reckless comment was one of the most foolish statements I've ever heard from a Republican officeholder. That single remark made me ashamed that Gordon Smith represents my home state and the Oregon National Guard, and that he calls himself a Republican.

Can a greater case be made against Republican Senator Gordon Smith of Oregon? Hate crimes legislation; boondoggle mass transit funding; voting against drilling in ANWR; voting for a timetable for withdrawal from Iraq and calling our troops' presence in Iraq "criminal". That ought to be enough of an indictment. But there's more.

Gordon Smith recently stood proudly alongside Oregon's liberal Democrat governor endorsing a huge increase in the state cigarette tax to fund more government health care. Since when is socialistic, government run health care a Republican mantra? Sure, such programs pull at the heart strings, but where do they ultimately lead us?

That's not all. Gordon Smith also voted against funding for building a fence along our border with Mexico and wants to see a "path to citizenship" for the 10-12 million illegal aliens currently living in our country. In other words, Gordon Smith wants to provide legal amnesty for those who broke our laws and ignored our sovereign border. Gordon Smith wants to make them citizens. Gordon Smith wants to let them vote. Maybe he thinks they will be grateful for his support and vote Republican. Yeah, just like all of those Portland Democrats voted for him after he tried to deliver them billions in light rail funding.

We could go on ad nauseam about Gordon Smith's non-conservative votes and positions, but let's review just one more major issue to round out the indictment: Social Security.

For years, Gordon Smith has been sitting on the powerful Senate Revenue Committee, including when his own party was in the majority. The entire time, Smith did nothing to address the one fiscal issue that could sink the entire American ship: The looming social security crisis. Even after George W. Bush took the lead on the issue on national television, risking his political future, Gordon Smith, who was in a perfect position to address the looming crisis, chose to do nothing. He chickened out. He placed his own political future ahead of an entire generation of Americans.

The reality is, if we do not make meaningful progress towards social security reform; if we do not do something that protects those currently dependent on social security and also allows future generations the freedom to set up private retirement accounts and gain control of their own retirement destinies, this country will face a fiscal crisis unprecedented in American history, at least back to the Great Depression.

We face outright generational warfare. Young people will be forced to pay unconscionably high social security taxes to fund the pensions of millions of Baby Boomers, who are no longer working. Those young people will be understandably angry that so much of the money they earn each paycheck is absconded for the benefit of others. Meanwhile, Bay Boomers understandably will demand the pensions promised to them from a Social Security trust fund that is trillions of dollars in the hole; a hole dug by Gordon Smith and countless other politicians who have spent other people's pension money buying votes and winning elections.

The ugly truth about social security sounds more like one of those union pension fund scandals than the actions of the United States Congress, but the scandal is just as real because all that pension money is just as gone.

So where does all this leave us? At the national level, Democrats are licking their chops at the prospect of defeating Gordon Smith. After all he has done for liberals in Oregon, they still want to take him out, simply because he is a Republican. To them, a Republican in name only is still a Republican. Smith's political vulnerability is no secret. National pundits consider him the most vulnerable member of the U.S. Senate in 2008.

While the Democrats are planning and scheming to beat Gordon Smith in the 2008 General Election, I am wondering whether Smith ought to make it out of the Republican primary. With a 2005 score of only 58 percent from the American Conservative Union and a lifetime score of only 74.5 percent, with so many votes that read like the voting record of a left wing Democrat, a lot of conservatives will have a hard time voting for Gordon Smith again.

I, for one, am convinced that there has to be a better choice. The Republican primary is after all still a year away.

*Bill Sizemore is president of the Oregon Taxpayers Union.*

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Editor**

## Feinstein's Rules

by David Keene

Anyone who knows much about real power in Congress knows that almost every member of the House and Senate lusts after a seat on the Appropriations Committee and hopes one day to achieve the status of Cardinal. The Cardinals, of course, are the folks who chair the various Appropriations Committee subcommittees and literally control the billions of dollars that pass through their hands.



David Keene

California Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) chairs the Senate Rules Committee, but she's also a Cardinal. She is currently chairwoman of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies subcommittee, but until last year was for six years the top Democrat on the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (or "Milcon") sub-committee, where she may have directed more than \$1 billion to companies controlled by her husband.

If the inferences finally coming out about what she did while on Milcon prove true, she may be on the way to morphing from a respected senior Democrat into another poster child for congressional corruption.

The problems stem from her subcommittee activities from 2001 to late 2005, when she quit. During that period the public record suggests she knowingly took part in decisions that eventually put millions of dollars into her husband's pocket—the classic conflict of interest that exploited her position and power to channel money to her husband's companies.

In other words, it appears Sen. Feinstein was up to her ears in the same sort of shenanigans that landed California Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R) in the slammer. Indeed, it may be that the primary difference between the two is basically that Cunningham was a minor leaguer and a lot dumber than his state's senior senator.

Melanie Sloan, the executive director of Citizens for Responsible Ethics in Washington, or CREW, usually focuses on the ethical lapses of Republicans and conservatives, but even she is appalled at the way Sen. Feinstein has abused her position. Sloan told a California reporter earlier this month that while "there are a number of members of Congress with conflicts of interest ... because of the amount of money involved, Feinstein's conflict of interest is an order of magnitude greater than those conflicts."

And the director of the Project on Government Oversight who examined the evidence of wrongdoing assembled by California writer Peter Byrne told him that "the paper trail showing Senator Feinstein's conflict of interest is irrefutable."

It may be irrefutable, but she almost got away without anyone even knowing what she was up to. Her colleagues on the subcommittee, for example, had no reason even to suspect that she knew what companies might benefit from her decisions because that information is routinely withheld to avoid favoritism. What they didn't know was that her chief legal adviser, who also happened to be a business partner of her husband's and the vice chairman of one of the companies involved, was secretly forwarding her lists of projects and appropriation requests that were coming before the committee and in which she and her husband had an interest—information that has only come to light recently as a result of the efforts of several California investigative reporters.

This adviser insist—apparently with a straight face—that he provided the information to Feinstein's chief of staff so that she could recuse herself in cases where there might be a conflict. He says that he assumes she did so. The public record, however, indicates that she went right ahead and fought for these same projects.

During this period the two companies, URS of San Francisco and the Perini Corporation of Framingham, Mass., were controlled by Feinstein's husband, Richard C. Blum, and were awarded a combined total of over \$1.5 billion in government business thanks in large measure to her subcommittee. That's a lot of money even here in Washington. Interestingly, she left the subcommittee in late 2005 at about the same time her husband sold his stake in both companies. Their combined net worth increased that year with the sale of the two companies by some 25 percent, to more than \$40 million.

In spite of the blatant appearance of corruption, no major publication has picked up on the story, the Senate Ethics Committee has reportedly let her slip by, and she is now chairing the Senate Rules Committee, which puts her in charge of making sure her colleagues act ethically and avoid the sorts of conflicts of interest with which she is personally and so obviously familiar.

*[David Keene](#) is the chairman of the American Conservative Union and a managing associate with the Carmen Group, a Washington, D.C.-based governmental-affairs firm.*

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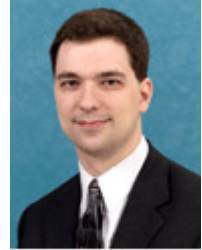
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## Stop Farm Politics

by Brian Riedl

Despite repeated claims of returning to an era of pay-as-you-go budgeting and fiscal responsibility, the Democratic Congress is preparing to enact a \$7 billion emergency package (H.R. 2207), without any offsets, that includes:

- \$3.5 billion in crop and livestock disaster assistance, despite record high farm incomes;
- \$31 million to extend the Milk Income Loss Contract program for one month, which would alter the program's spending baseline to add \$2.4 billion in spending over 10 years;
- \$500 million for wildlife suppression;
- \$425 million for the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act; and
- \$60 million in fisheries aid.



Brian Riedl

With its massive new expenditures and lack of offsets, the House's emergency package violates the House leadership's pledge to enforce PAYGO budget discipline.

This paper focuses on the \$3.5 billion in farm disaster assistance, which was not even requested by the Department of Agriculture. Such disaster aid raises legitimate questions about taxpayers' obligation to repeatedly bail out farmers who suffer any business instability, a luxury not afforded to any other industry.

Last November, voters sent a strong message in favor of spending restraint, a message that many conservative Republicans and "blue dog" Democrats pledged to enforce in the 110th Congress. Moreover, fiscal restraint and PAYGO budget discipline was a central tenet of the Democratic leadership's agenda. The decision on this unnecessary disaster aid will demonstrate whether lawmakers heard the voters or whether Congress has already returned to politics as usual.

President Bush has rightly threatened to veto this extraneous spending that would worsen America's perilous budget picture if it reaches his desk. Responsible lawmakers should oppose emergency agriculture aid for five reasons.

### 1. Subsidized Crop Insurance Already Exists.

Although farming is a mostly profitable business, the threat of extreme weather and pests does leave farmers susceptible to occasional crop losses. This instability is covered through the crop insurance program, which subsidizes 60 percent of all premiums for the 242 million acres that farmers have enrolled in the program.

In 2000, Washington tripled crop insurance subsidies in an effort to eliminate the need for farm disaster payments. The budget-busting 2002 farm bill was also promoted as large enough to reduce the need for disaster payments. Yet even with generous farm programs and subsidized crop insurance, Congress has passed a disaster aid bill *every year* since 2000, at a total taxpayer cost of \$36.5 billion. For Washington to both generously subsidize crop insurance and then offer additional disaster aid is duplicative and unnecessarily costly. Congress should not worsen this situation with more irresponsible aid.

### 2. The Farm Economy is Booming, and So Are Farm Subsidies.

The farm economy is currently enjoying a record boom. Overall, net farm income totaled \$279 billion between 2003 and 2006, the highest four-year total ever. The farm industry's current

11.9 percent debt-to-asset ratio is the lowest ever measured and does much to explain why farms fail at only one-sixth the rate of non-farm businesses.

Consequently, farm subsidies do not fill the role of keeping most farmers solvent as they did when they were created during the Great Depression. A Department of Agriculture (USDA) report states that "on average, farm households have higher incomes, greater wealth, and lower consumption expenditures than all U.S. households." The average farm household earns \$81,420 annually (29 percent above the national average) and has a net worth of \$838,875 (eight times higher than the national average) and is located in a rural area, where the cost of living is low.

Despite the booming farm economy and high farmer incomes, Congress is actually accelerating the rise in farm subsidies. After averaging less than \$14 billion per year during the 1990s, annual farm subsidies have topped \$25 billion per year in the current decade, following the passage of the most expensive farm bill in American history in 2002. Hardworking Americans should not have to subsidize this thriving and profitable industry.

### **3. The Livestock Compensation Program Is a Proven Boondoggle.**

This disaster legislation includes funding for the Livestock Compensation Program, a disaster assistance program for livestock farmers. A recent *Washington Post* investigation discovered that the program encourages disaster declarations for counties without disasters and distributes aid to farmers without requiring proof of any disaster.

When the Livestock Compensation program ran in 2002 and 2003 to compensate farmers for a drought, the majority of payments went to farmers in areas with moderate or no drought at all. Prodded by Congress, the USDA reportedly urged state and county officials to find anything that could be interpreted as a disaster, which would in turn make the county's farmers eligible for aid. In all, more than 2,000 of the nation's 3,141 counties were declared agriculture "disasters," including:

- Whatcom County in Washington, for a distant earthquake that registered only a 3 magnitude on the local Richter scale, and caused no reported damage;
- All 254 counties in Texas, for "farm disasters" such as a storm two years earlier and the Space Shuttle Columbia explosion, prompting a local farmer to tell reporters, "The livestock program is a joke, we had no losses, I don't know what Congress is thinking sometimes"; and
- Fifty-three of Wisconsin's 72 counties, many for a small storm that had occurred two years earlier, prompting even local farmers to call the disaster aid an unjustified "waste of money."

Nor did the individual farmers have to prove any actual losses. Washington simply sent them "disaster assistance" checks based on the number of livestock they owned. In short, this disaster aid has almost nothing to do with actual disasters. The Livestock Compensation Program has proven to be a classic subsidy masquerading as disaster aid.

### **4. Farm Subsidies Are Tilted to Large Agribusinesses.**

Farm subsidies are distributed in ways that make little sense. Nearly 90 percent of all subsidies go to growers of just five crops (wheat, cotton, corn, soybeans, and rice), while the vast majority of farmers specializing in fruits, vegetables, and all other crops survive in a free market without subsidies.

And it is not small family farms or cash-strapped farmers who get the bulk of subsidies, but big agribusinesses. Farm subsidy formulas are designed to benefit large agribusinesses, not family

farmers. Most farm subsidies are distributed to commercial farms, which have an average income of \$191,000 and a net worth of just under \$2 million. Such large farms can better weather price fluctuations and pest infestations, making taxpayer-funded aid a healthy target for reform, not expansion. If farm subsidies were really about alleviating farm poverty, lawmakers could guarantee every full-time farmer an income of 185 percent of the federal poverty level (\$38,203 for a family of four) for just over \$4 billion annually, one-sixth the current cost of subsidies.

Lawmakers, Fortune 500 companies, and even celebrity hobby farmers such as Ted Turner, David Rockefeller, and Scottie Pippen have collected subsidies that dwarf what the average family farmer receives. Subsidizing large agribusinesses that grow certain crops while excluding family farmers who grow other crops has earned farm subsidies the title of "America's largest corporate welfare program."

### **5. Farm Subsidies Lack Economic Sense.**

Farm policy is based on the premise that crop surpluses have driven down crop prices, and, so, farmers need subsidies to recover lost income. However, the federal government's remedy is to offer subsidies that increase as a farmer plants more crops. But planting more crops creates greater crop surpluses, further driving prices down and spurring demands for even greater subsidies. Then, while paying some farmers to plant more crops, Washington turns around and pays other farmers *not* to farm 40 million acres of crop land each year. The economic incoherence of farm subsidies is stunning even by government standards.

Farm subsidies are also implemented with complete disregard for taxpayers. A recent *Washington Post* investigation discovered that some suburban families are receiving large farm subsidies for the grass in their backyards--subsidies that many of these families never requested and do not want.

Finally, farm subsidies harm farmers and consumers by restricting international trade. Because 96 percent of the world's population lives outside the United States, international trade is vital to American farmers. Yet, due to an average global agriculture tariff of 62 percent, just 25 percent of U.S. agricultural products are exported. American farmers cannot win access to global markets without paring back their own farm subsidies.

### **Conclusion**

Lawmakers have spent much of the past two years trying to add expensive disaster payments to already-generous farm programs. In 2006, the Republican congressional majority attempted to attach \$4 billion to the Iraq supplemental bill until President Bush threatened to veto it. Senators subsequently added the same \$4 billion to last year's Senate agriculture appropriations bill, which never passed.

Ignoring voters' calls for spending restraint, the Democratic congressional majority added \$4.5 billion in farm spending to this year's Iraq supplemental bill, before splitting it off into its own bill. For various reasons, organizations representing taxpayers, consumers, environmentalists, international trade, third world countries, and even farmers themselves have united around the shared conclusion that the current farm subsidy system is failing. No industry should be entitled to tens of billions in annual subsidies, subsidized insurance, and disaster aid. Rather than pile on more corporate welfare in "emergency" agricultural spending, lawmakers should follow President Bush's lead and reject this unnecessary, irresponsible proposal.

*[Brian M. Riedl](#) is Grover M. Hermann Fellow in Federal Budgetary Affairs in the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation where this study first appeared.*

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Editor**

## Tribes and Civilization

by Warren Coats

I arrived in Dubai on my way to Kabul to the breaking news of the Virginia Tech massacre. I was secretly hoping that the shooter (did we switch to shooter because it was more gender neutral than gunman?) would be the deranged ancestor of a Plymouth Rock pilgrim. He turned out to be a deranged legal Korean immigrant and VA Tech student. It could have been much worse, though that may not be a good choice of word. Thank God that his poor family has finally spoken up.



The embarrassed reaction in Korea set me thinking about the strong role that tribe, clan, and family have always played in civilized life. The protection of the clan may have helped make civilization possible, but this hard wired affinity to family and suspicion of, if not aversion to, "otherness" is now a potential impediment to a good life. The fierce commitment to ones ethnic group here in Afghanistan (Pashtun 42%, Tajik 27%, Hazara 9%, Uzbek 9%, Aimak 4%, Turkmen 3%, Baloch 2%, and other 4%) is a driving and potentially ruinous reality in public life and could subvert efforts to establish a viable and just democracy.

Denying the reality of such emotions is neither honest nor helpful. Like the embarrassed Koreans I am embarrassed when one of my fellow Americans misbehaves abroad and proud when one does well (e.g., an Olympic Gold medal). Though I am a WASP, my shame or pride is pretty much the same whatever her color or ethnic background. She is a member of my team. I know there are other good teams out there, but America is my team and I care how it performs. Civilized societies find constructive ways to temper, live with, and balance these powerful instincts. I also think that America is exceptional, not just another team, in providing a society in which we may each pursue our own goals and ambitions freely while allowing others to do the same. It is because of this exceptionalism that our moral failures of recent years (e.g. torture and imprisonment without charges, etc.) are so especially appalling, a point I have made many times.

When I made my first appearance of this trip at Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB – Afghanistan's central bank), young Masood, the girl Friday (house boy really) at the IMF office in DAB, unlocked the security door and greeted me warmly with his big smile and double handshake. His bare feet, which makes them easier to wash before prayer, added to the family like atmosphere in the well fortified IMF suite on the third floor of DAB. I love returning to familiar people and places.

On this occasion Masood, who spends a lot of time making tea, opening the locked door and watching TV, asked me: "Sir, what is the meaning of 'Make yourself at home?'" I am not sure whether his question came from an English lesson he might be taking, something he heard on English language TV, or something he heard me say to a visitor to my office (the one with sandbags in front of the window that is nearby). I did my best to explain. The next day as I left he asked: "Sir, what is the meaning of 'Good fences make good neighbors?'" Being an economist I naturally said something about the virtues of well defined property rights, but feel free to send me how you would have answered him.

*Warren Coats is an international monetary consultant.*

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## Who Pays Taxes?

by NTU

For Tax Year 2004

Percentiles Ranked by AGI	AGI Threshold on Percentiles	Percentage of Federal Personal Income Tax Paid
Top 1%	\$328,049	36.89
Top 5%	\$137,056	57.13
Top 10%	\$99,112	68.19
Top 25%	\$60,041	84.86
Top 50%	\$30,122	96.70
Bottom 50%	<\$30,122	3.30

Note: AGI is Adjusted Gross Income  
Source: Internal Revenue Service

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## Reader Comments

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Editor: "Today's Big Threats?" is a fantastic article! I have said for months that Americans, even those who consider themselves conservatives, want more government whether it is jobs or daycare or healthcare. "Leviathan on the Right" by Michael Tanner discusses the GOP falling apart too. Excellent article: I forwarded it on to hundreds! People need to know, those that still care anyway. Michelle Litjens, Oshkosh WI

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Editor: I am an 89 year old male. I read your article about David Brooks, "Today's Big Threats?" I was always suspicious about Brook's view of government. You confirmed my view by showing that he is not a conservative in the image of a Ronald Reagan or Barry Goldwater. The fact he is working for the New York Times explains a lot. But what thrilled me most, Mr. Devine is to be introduced to you. I'm going to bookmark your website because I want to be certain that I continue to feed at the trough where I can regale my tired mind with your stimulating insights. I am a earnest student of the Bible. I had never seen a Bible until I was fourteen years old. When I read John 5;24-25 "He that heareth my word, and believeth in Him that sent Me hath everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but is passed from death unto life." Both of my parents came from Italy, so I was raised as a Roman Catholic. When I read that one verse, I did not return to the Church of my birth, but as I daily read the Bible through the years, I gravitated to things and ideas that reflected the spiritual principles of God's word. Your writing shows you to be guided by such principles as are to be found in the Word. I am so pleased to make your acquaintance!! Aldo Carozza

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Editor: The problem with Daniel Pipes' "Helping Moderate Muslims" is how can you be sure who "moderate Muslims" are? If you read various Surahs, you will find out that not only is it permissible to lie to the non-believers, but it is a Muslims duty to do so if it suits the purpose of furthering Islam. So how does one know if who you are speaking with is sincere or just playing along? Best Personal Regards, Vladimir Val Cymbal

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Editor: Reading "Cho Against the West" by Jerry Bowyer one might wonder what courses they were teaching at Virginia Tech. We know that nearly all "English Department professors" are liberals and extreme left-wing ones at that. Was Cho's play "McBeef" actually an assignment to write a play critical of America and the Catholic Church as required by the instructor? A couple of years ago I graduated from college and one of the last courses I took was "Modern American Drama", the required reading materials were-- 'Long Days Journey into Night', 'Death of a Salesman', 'Raisins in the Sun', 'Glen Gary, Glenn Ross', and 'Angels in America'. If you want to talk about Cho's excessive use of profanity, hate, and abusive language, several of these plays are nonstop full of them. If this is an example of required reading at other Universities, no wonder why Cho copied their style. I would personally like to see someone write a book about this guy and talk to everyone in every class he had to see what types of books they read, what type of writing assignments they were given? The attitudes, politics, and any relevant comments made by the teachers. What exactly he said to the girls that accused him of stalking them. Who were these women, (I don't mean names), what courses were they taking? (feminist studies, aka man hating)? How did they come into contact with them? What was their attitude to him? A careful study of this guy might reveal what caused or triggered this event. Remember mentally ill people like him do not view the world in a rational manner.

Their actions are not driven by logic and thought, but are responses to stimuli. Find out what the stimuli was and maybe we can prevent or at least reduce the probability this type of occurrence from happening again. Wylecote

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Editor: Thanks to Alan Caruba for his excellent article, "Guns and Virginia Tech"! I think Fred Thompson is the solution. I have been working solid for the past two months on what is now a huge concerted internet effort to 'draft' him into running. Also, if you haven't had the opportunity to see the following video then, I highly recommend it as an insight to the denial and unbridled fear of the anti-rights crowd; "Regurgitating The Apple: How Modern Liberals Think" (appx. one hour in length.) <http://www.heritage.org/Press/Events/ev030507a.cfm>. Thanks again Alan! Chris Sanders

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Editor: Thank you for Alan Caruba's "Guns and Virginia Tech" and its realistic report of how gun ownership could have helped save lives. JJ

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Editor: "Politics at Duke" by Carey Roberts is all well and good--and then some. And then, even some more. But does anyone think for one pico-second that these folks are going to reconsider their transgressions, their warped sense of reality which spurs them on to continued similar actions, that they will have some sense of shame and remorse at damaging the lives of the innocent, that they will learn to be more thoughtful in the future, etc? No, they remain content that the story is right even if all the facts are wrong. Maybe Savage has it right, liberalism in the US today is a mental disorder. K. Howard

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Editor: My belief is that Doug Edelman in his "O'Reilly Spin on Hornbeck" and I and O'Reilly himself all need to wait and see. As I understand it, there are court and other proceedings still to come. I do not think that all the facts are out. O'Reilly still may be correct; it is just too soon to say. When all the facts come out, then if O'Reilly is wrong, I will join you in demanding the appropriate apology etc. David H. Dell, J.D., C.P.A, Elmhurst, Illinois

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Editor: Regarding "No Federal Crosses" by Bill Marina, at what point do we say enough? We should say "Right Now." Evelyn Lyles

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