



**Sen. Charles Schumer**

# CONSERVATIVE BATTLELINE ONLINE

*The "Bold Colors" Conservative Voice in Washington*

July 11 , 2007

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## Poor Personnel

by Donald Devine

Politics! Right here in River City, Potomac River city that is, “a five alarm fire” of partisanship according to non-partisan Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA), a political “stonewall” to that non-political head of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY). It is all so shocking.

What has raised the Democratic warhorses’ ire? There is political hiring and firing by the Bush Administration taking place right in the middle of Washington, D.C.! Imagine that. If only it were true. In fact, the Administration’s five month agony over its replacement of nine U.S. Attorneys is entirely due to its inability to engage forthrightly in political combat.



**Sen. Charles Schumer**

When initially questioned about the Department of Justice’s removal of the nine regional attorneys, Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty said they were dismissed for “performance related” reasons. Why? Like most politically tone deaf lawyers, he thinks there is something vaguely distasteful about politics so he will give any reason other than the legally appropriate one to explain peoples’ behavior. Of course, the Constitution requires that appointees be nominated by an elected president and must be confirmed by a political Senate. Politics is inherent in the American form of government, especially concerning personnel.



**Paul McNulty**

In the case of U.S. Attorneys, custom dictates a further political step. A president is supposed to obtain the prior approval of senators in his own party even before submitting the nomination, as Kennedy and Schumer well know and have benefited from. Firing? President Bill Clinton fired all fifty AGs at one stroke right at the beginning. As Schumer found in cross-examining an assistant to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, this was the original plan to start the second Bush term but, in attempting not to look too political, it was decided to only replace a relative few weaker links—leading to the whole present mess.

The case that raised the most hackles was the firing of David Iglesias of New Mexico. Schumer demanded to know why he was added to the replacement list and who recommended it. McNulty admitted he approved the addition in response to a complaint about his performance from Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM) for not pursuing voting irregularities cases vigorously. But he was hesitant to defend this entirely legal and appropriate information from a senator from the same state about a policy the Bush Administration wanted better enforced, from a senator who originally recommended the official.

In spite of its legality, McNulty and his boss Gonzales feel guilty about “committing politics” and were defensive. If they merely said at the beginning, it is our right as executives to dismiss political appointees at will the whole thing would have been over before it began. But real pols like Schumer and Kennedy can smell the guilt and pressed their advantage. So the two neophytes wilted under the heat and an assistant, a pure innocent named Monica Goodling, was set-up for a brutal Congressional grilling. None had the background of political knocks necessary for competing with pros. Goodling was a mere seven years out of law school, Gonzales had spent his entire career as a legal assistant and appointee protected by George W. Bush, and McNulty has served the last 20 years in a government job.

Yet, when a Bush appointee has the necessary skills he is denied a promotion and shifted to a less prestigious position for doing his job too well. That is what happened to acting Assistant Attorney General Bradley Schlozman at Justice's civil rights division. When he was appointed in May 2003, he "quickly became enmeshed in hiring decisions previously made by section chiefs," as the Washington Post phrased it, from a leak made by five agency lawyers "on the condition of anonymity." He also was accused of reassigning cases from staff attorneys he considered untrustworthy to those he considered reliable.



**Bradley Schlozman**

The career government lawyers did not like Schlozman challenging what they described as their "collegial work environment." So they leaked to the Post that he supposedly said some political things such as he wanted to "make room for some good Americans," which was characterized as racially motivated. He wanted new more conservative, perhaps more Republican, lawyers, which was "political." What neither they nor the reporter mentioned was that the positions are not in the regular civil service but are under Schedule A where policy views are a legitimate consideration. And the whole justification for political appointees is that they are supposed to lead the careerists in the direction of the election-endorsed presidential program, which Schlozman courageously pursued, not allowing bureaucrats to collegially do whatever they want.

The Post unwittingly exposed the nasty way personnel policy really works in Washington. Reporters need careerists to leak news stories so they assist them in getting back at political appointees who take their jobs seriously and provide leadership. The political official is labeled the bad guy with the power who picks on the helpless career employees, who are called "lawyers," "section chiefs" even "colleagues" in neutral and friendly terms. Actually, the political appointee is alone on the firing line while careerists are protected by innumerable bureaucratic rules and usually win.



**Monica Goodling**

Assistant AG Schlozman is gone and all five bureaucrats are still there or back after appeals to government agencies with which Schlozman's superiors settled out of fear of being charged with "politics." His replacement, Won Kim, promised Congress he would only consider his staff's "talent, competence and ability" and "nothing else," presumably including whether they are willing to take direction or whether their policy views were in accordance with the elected president's. In other words, the "collegial work environment" has been re-established and the career bureaucrats are back in charge.

It is pretty much the same throughout the government. Six years after 9/11, the Bush Administration has not implemented the law to create a new mission-directed

rather than career-protecting personnel system for the key departments of Defense and Homeland Security. The Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit last month overruled one of the judges blocking implementation but the new House Democratic majority stepped in to reassert the career protections and undermine the reforms. Rather than threatening a veto, much less daring to implement the reforms immediately—it is the nation's security after all--the Administration pledged to work with Congress for a compromise—of efficient protection against terrorism?

While attacking the Bush Administration for being political, Sen. Schumer had the audacity to place one of the civil rights division career employees in his office on a six month detail while she fought

against her Justice employer--and won. The Administration not only did not complain but offered to compromise further. That is what happens when only one side knows politics. Sen. Schumer is a political pro and the poor Goodlings now staffing the Bush Administration do not have a chance.

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Editor**

## Nationalizing Crime

by George W. Liebmann

The endorsement by the Washington Post and too many 'liberals' of the proposed 'hate crimes' bill exists in strange juxtaposition with recent articles and editorials on the U.S. Attorneys scandal revealing the abuse and over-centralization of the existing system of federal law enforcement. The significance of the proposed bill is not found in the ludicrous 'log-rolling' leading to the inclusion of women and the disabled as well as 'gays' as new categories of protected persons, but rather in its dilution of constitutionally mandated requirements of criminal intent, which would potentially 'federalize,' or rather nationalize, almost all crimes of violence and associated words .



George Liebmann

The dangers of this sort of vagueness are why the Supreme Court in 1812 refused to allow federal courts to define 'common law crimes' since the ensuing body of law would be "much more extended" and "in its nature very indefinite." "Behind the decision", according to one historian, was:

the concern that nonstatutory crimes would not be defined with sufficient particularity and could be made instruments of political repression...In retrospect it is obvious that the common law of crimes was a potent political weapon wielded by the party in power against its opposition...political leaders could and did use the doctrine of common law crime to stifle the opposition press and perpetuate themselves in office.

Both the Roosevelt court in *Screws v. United States* and the Warren Court in *United States v. Guest* stated that the federal criminal civil rights laws would be unconstitutionally vague unless circumscribed by specific intent to deprive a victim of a federal constitutional right. Without this, Justice Douglas said in *Screws*, the law " lacks the basic specificity necessary for criminal statutes under our system of government " Justices Frankfurter, Jackson and Roberts further cautioned that even as limited, the statute has dangers: "a 'policy of strict self-limitation' is not accompanied by assurance of permanent tenure and immortality of those who make it the policy. Evil men are rarely given power; they take it over from better men to whom it had been entrusted. There can be no doubt that this shapeless and all-embracing statute can serve as a dangerous instrument of political intimidation and coercion in the hands of those so inclined."

This supplies sufficient answer to the weasel words in the hate crimes bill about consultation with states. The obvious dangers to free speech which gave rise to Jefferson's successful opposition to federal common law crimes are also present in the 'hate crimes' bill, and are revealingly sought to be avoided by statutory exceptions which must be invoked and proven by defendants. Prosecutions under the bill would thus involve a witches' brew of controversial questions.

This "hate crimes" bill should be held up to law students as a model of bad draftsmanship, and any presidential candidate of either party voting for it should be deemed disqualified thereby.

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## Big Government Plan Fails

by Marc Rotterman

Back in the day when George W. Bush's poll numbers were through the roof there was much talk of a Republican realignment. President Bush was being compared to Ronald Reagan as a new leader for the conservative movement and the Republican Party. But he and his political strategists had a very different plan. The Bush Administration would outflank the Democrats by outspending them on education for the young, prescription drugs for the elderly and domestic programs generally to leave the other party no political issues left to gain political support.



The big government expansion spree began by siding with Sen. Ted Kennedy on "No Child Left Behind," ending up increasing federal spending on education by 99 percent. But that was small potatoes compared to the arm twisting that went on by Republican House Leader Tom Delay resulting in the passage of the Medicare Prescription Drug bill, the largest expansion of government since the New Deal.

Seeing a mandate with a mere 51 percent of the vote in 2004, President Bush rolled the dice and spent his political capital by making reform of Social Security his "signature issue" for the start of the second term. At the time many conservatives questioned the sequencing of the president's legislative agenda and would have preferred that the Bush administration lead with making the tax cuts permanent. After all, Republicans were in the majority and making the tax cuts permanent seemed much more doable to many of us than taking on social security, the third rail of American politics, and a program that is near and dear to the true believers in the Democratic Party and many others besides.

Before one could bat an eye, less than a year into Bush's second term, [the President's approval rating](#) was down near 40 percent. To recover, many thought that earmarks and even more government largesse were key to political recovery. But coupled with an unpopular and mismanaged war, the inability to secure the southern border, the ineptness of the response to Hurricane Katrina, the Jack Abramoff and the Mark Foley scandals, the stage was set for a disastrous 2006 election.

The result was predictable.

Republicans lost both the House and the Senate.

"Spend, spend, elect, elect" may work for the Democrats but it clearly did not for the Republicans. In fact, it has not worked for the Democrats in recent years either. The new Republican strategy was proved a disaster, not only against its conservative principles but in strict political terms too.

Now in July 2007 President Bush's approval rating hovers in the low 30's and the party is torn apart by the disconnect between the Washington elites and the grassroots, especially how President Bush collaborated with the Democrats on a proposed new immigration bill. The president even accused conservatives of "not wanting to do what's right for America" when it comes to illegal immigration. That went down to defeat also, resulting in further political weakness.

What is clear is that the conservative movement and the Republican Party are in a rebuilding phase. Ironically, despite the fact that most of the administration's domestic policies are anything but conservative, George W. Bush has replaced Ronald Reagan as the face of conservatism to many, especially younger voters.

The "Center Right" Republican majority forged by Reagan has been squandered by the pipe dream that big government programs solely for the sake of power rather than based on principle could forge a permanent Republican majority.

The damage to the country, the conservative movement and the Republican Party may take years if not decades to repair.

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## John Wayne's First 100 Years

by Spencer Warren

The hero of heroes, from an age when movie heroes really were bigger than life, the "Duke," John Wayne, was born one hundred years ago, on May 26, 1907, in Winterset, Iowa. The son of a pharmacist, young Marion Morrison later moved with his family to California, where he studied at USC. What was more natural than for a big, handsome kid to go into the young movie industry, and thus Wayne started as an extra in films in 1926.

He got a big break when he was cast in the lead as Breck Coleman in the epic Western, *The Big Trail*, in 1930. An unusually lanky, fresh-faced 23-year-old Wayne leads a wagon train on its



epic journey from Missouri to the promised land of California, conquering fierce weather, bleak plains, vast rivers, mighty mountains and, of course, hordes of Indians, not to mention treachery among the evil varmints hiding out among the brave pioneers. Self-consciously grand in conception, *The Big Trail* embodies the heroic themes of the Western legend (the pre-1960s traditional Western, that is) – the hardy pioneers doggedly overcoming one obstacle after another as they tame, settle and civilize a wild continent, led by the quiet man of strength, who is always courtly toward women and reluctant to draw his gun, but, once aroused, is deadly with his aim.

This picture was a hugely ambitious undertaking for the early days of talking pictures, which had replaced silents only the year before. Seen today, the film understandably creaks a bit, but it still packs a wallop in the newly restored two and a half hour, 70 mm. print. Directed by Raoul Walsh, this very early experiment in wide screen filmmaking remained unique until the development of standard wide-screen films in the 1950s. It classic scenes – the wagon train forming a circle for defense against the Indian attack, Wayne tracking down the murderous villain in a swirling snowstorm, the pioneers, set against the verdant panorama of the promised land, on their knees giving thanks to the Almighty for delivering them through all their perils, and the hero finally uniting with his beloved, their embrace framed by giant redwood trees. These essentials of the classic Western have never been more grandly realized on screen, and remind us this is the true conservative movie genre.

The young Wayne is very good and manages to carry much of this epic on his shoulders. But the film was not financially successful and big budget Westerns went into eclipse during the Depression. For the rest of the decade, Wayne toiled in relative obscurity as a star of B-Westerns, the cheaply made one hour films that formed double bills with the big pictures in movie theaters. He even became a singing cowboy!

He was rescued by the central figure in his career, director John Ford, in the 1939 classic *Stagecoach*. This tale of the interaction of a motley group of passengers on a dangerous journey through Indian country lifted the Western genre back into the top rank, where it reigned supreme for the next quarter century. Wayne is the Ringo Kid, who joins the stagecoach while on the run from the law. He falls for the prostitute with a heart of gold, Dallas (Claire Trevor) and stands by her against the hostility of the others. Once the Indians attack (as thrilling an action sequence as ever filmed, under Ford's commanding direction), Wayne climbs on to the stagecoach roof, firing away with his repeater and, needless to say, making every shot count. Finally rescued by the cavalry, the

stage arrives at its destination, the town of Lordsburg. Here Wayne does what a man has to do: alone, he goes after the three evil Plummer brothers, killers of his brother. They have it out on the dark, deserted main street. This entire Lordsburg sequence is an excellent illustration of Ford's genius as a director; its build-up to the climactic confrontation embodies much of the essence of the classic Western, only it is presented on a loftier, more intense level than might be expected by those who have seen only the many pale, cliché-like imitations in lesser films and television programs like *Gunsmoke*. Just as the shooting starts, Ford cuts to Dallas, nervously waiting for her man's return, hearing the gunfire off in the distance. Then, with Ford's camera remaining on Dallas, Wayne returns to her out of the night, and they clinch. This kind of dramatic subtlety, which leaves the violence offscreen, in the viewer's imagination, is not often found in movies nowadays.

Thanks to the great success of *Stagecoach*, Wayne was now back in "A" pictures to stay, but he was a second-rank star, not in the top category of the Clark Gables or Errol Flynn. Once the war came, many of these stars enlisted, but Wayne never signed up. He was deferred based on his age and number of dependent children. This, however, did not stop others joining, and it obviously clashes with what became his patriotic, super-hero image. Ford, who did volunteer, aged 46, and was wounded at the Battle of Midway (see <http://acuf.org/issues/issue85/070603med.asp>), always held this against Wayne. After the war, Ford built a club for veterans near Los Angeles called the Field Photo Memorial Farm (named for the Navy unit he headed), where he would stage elaborate Memorial Day observances and Christmas parties. Wayne was not invited.

During the war, Wayne fought the enemy in films like *Flying Tigers* (1942), *The Fighting Seabees* (1944) and *They Were Expendable* (1945). In the latter he played a PT-boat commander in the Pacific opposite Robert Montgomery, who in real life had done exactly that.

The film that launched him to the top and set his image for all time was Howard Hawks's cattle-drive epic *Red River* (1948). Wayne is Thomas Dunson, who leaves the wagon train to strike out on his own and found a cattle empire in pre-Civil War Texas. The two best scenes come early. In the first, Wayne turns away the desperate entreaties of his girl (Coleen Gray) that he take her with him when he leaves the relative safety of the wagon train. "Put your arms around me, feel how strong I am," she pleads desperately, adding he won't be working with the cattle at night. Intensely directed by Hawks, scenes like this show how films used to be more erotic than today's fare precisely because the actors kept their clothes on. She is dwarfed in Wayne's farewell embrace, then he pushes her away, stoically turns his back, mounts his horse, and rides off to find his destiny.

In the second scene, one that became a Wayne specialty, he finds the perfect land, untouched, where he will start his beef empire. Whereupon two Mexicans ride up, claiming unpersuasively that the land is owned by their boss, hundreds of miles away in Mexico. This doesn't sit well with Wayne. After a few words one of the Mexicans starts to draw, but before he knows it he's lying dead on the ground, Wayne's bullet in his heart. Wayne orders the second Mexican to go home and tell his boss the land is now Wayne's.

*Red River* established Wayne's persona as the Achilles of the Western, the indomitable, warrior with the deep voice who never flinches, never doubts, indestructible to the end. Here he drives his men against rustlers, Indians and nature, until they revolt against him. The film also made famous the unique Wayne stride, his rolling hips relentlessly driving forward his big 6'4-1/2" frame. One of his iconic images is found in the finale, as he marches through the cattle herd to do battle with his adopted protégé, Matthew Garth (Montgomery Clift), whom he feels has betrayed him.

Wayne next starred in Ford's three cavalry films of the late forties, *Fort Apache* (1948), *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (1949) and *Rio Grande* (1950). *Yellow Ribbon* gave him one of his most interesting roles, as he plays an older man, Captain Nathan Brittles, commanding an important scouting patrol as an Indian war threatens, in his final days before retirement. He also starred for Ford at this time as the leader of a trio of bank robbers who redeem themselves, saving a newborn whose mother has just given birth and died in the desert, in *3 Godfathers* (1948). This gives Wayne one of his best lines when, told by the judge at his trial that sentence will be suspended if he surrenders custody of

the baby, he refuses, saying in his inimitable slow drawl: "I ain't gonna break a promise to a dyin' woman."

Wayne followed these Westerns with one of the two roles for which he was nominated as best actor, the tough-love Sergeant Stryker, shepherding his boys through hell in *The Sands of Iwo Jima* (1949). This is a pretty standard war film of its period, which employed the three survivors of the famous raising of the Stars and Stripes on the island in 1945. It lacks the ambition and emotional/thematic depth that top directors like Ford and Hawks brought to Wayne's films.

Ford directed Wayne's best non-Western, *The Quiet Man* (1952). Filmed on location in the Emerald Isle in rich Technicolor, Wayne plays a retired American boxer, Sean Thornton, who returns to the ancestral home to try and find peace. He runs into the strict dowry marriage customs and the skinflint, bullying brother (Victor McLaglen) of the lass he fancies, Mary Kate Danaher (Maureen O'Hara). The plot is merely a vehicle for Ford to pour out his love for his ancestral home in his peerless, lyrical style. Among many breathtaking shots is the first one of Mary Kate, a country girl tending sheep in a field as Wayne spots her from the road; it is one of the most stunning images of chaste, female beauty ever put on screen.

Wayne's greatest role and greatest film – by general agreement – is Ford's 1956 Western, *The Searchers*. He plays Ethan Edwards, an Achilles-like warrior – "The Man Who Knows Indians" -- embarked on a seven-year quest to rescue his niece, Debbie (Natalie Wood), who was kidnapped when Comanches massacred her family. Ethan, a driven loner who never could settle down, becomes engulfed by his violent nature and desire for revenge: he becomes a mirror image of the chief, Scar, whom he is pursuing. This pursuit becomes increasingly maniacal because Ethan is enraged by the knowledge that Debbie, now grown, will have been taken as a squaw by a "buck." His rage becomes inflamed to the point he is bent on killing Debbie as well as wreaking revenge on Scar.

*The Searchers* thus represents the growing complexity of films in the 1950s. Ethan frighteningly displays the under-side of the Western hero's talent for violence, upon which the security of the frontier community depends. I suspect this film's renown – especially among the majority of critics, who are left-wing – is in some measure attributable to its racial theme (Ethan scalps Scar when he finally kills him). More important, Ford's visual sweep makes the first forty minutes among the grandest ever put on screen. But the powerful feeling of the homesteaders' modest outpost of civilization surrounded by the uncontrolled savagery of the wilderness (the Western as metaphor for America's place in the real world is obvious to us today) tends to become dissipated by the episodic plot and Ford's characteristic digressions into humor. I think Ford was trying to do more thematically than the traditional plot structure allows; this film may have been ahead of its time.

Nonetheless, Ford's subtle, indirect treatment of violence offers an important lesson for our contemporary unrestrained culture. Ethan's brother's family has been left alone on their farm while Ethan and the Texas Rangers have gone off chasing after what proves to be a Comanche ruse. It is night and the sounds of the wilderness make the family fearful; they shut the windows and send little Debbie alone, holding her doll, to hide at the family graveyard. Here she is engulfed by the shadow of Chief Scar; looking down on her, he lifts his horn and blows a loud signal. Ford then cuts abruptly to Ethan, who, having realized he's been deceived by the Comanches, is galloping back the forty miles to the homestead. Suddenly he rears in his horse as he sights the homestead from a promontory and Max Steiner's urgent music falls silent. Then the music resumes with a cry of horror, and Ethan looks down upon the farm—engulfed in flames. Reaching the scene, he calls out forlornly through the smoke for his sister-in-law, "Martha. Martha." He lifts a piece of a torn blouse. Next, from inside the dark shed, Ford frames a shot of Ethan looking in from the outside. He enters, looks inside, then halts, dropping his head in horror. (Photographed in silhouette, this is one of countless shots in Ford's movies that could be freeze-framed and hung in an art gallery.) Going back outside, he orders the late-arriving nephew, Martin (Jeffrey Hunter), "Don't go in there. Don't go in." He has to slug the boy to stop him. The scene ends as Ethan picks up Debbie's doll, which he finds at the burial ground.

Showing only one Indian, with little dialogue and absolutely no actual violence, Ford (assisted by the great Steiner's musical gift for heightening drama) creates a deeply disturbing, shocking picture of savagery, rape, and pillage. (For the difference between such artistic imagination and earthbound literalism, compare this sequence with Clint Eastwood's direction of the massacre of his family in *The Outlaw Josey Wales* (1976).)

Ethan now sets out in pursuit of the Comanche band, accompanied only by Martin and Brad (Harry Carey, Jr.), who was "bespoken" to the older sister, Lucy, who also was kidnapped. Following some magnificent long shots of the trio set against the epic buttes and mesas of Utah's Monument Valley (whose spectacular landscape Ford loved to use as a grand stage for his Westerns), they come upon a set of tracks that have cut away from the rest. This concerns the experienced warrior Ethan, and he rides off alone, telling the others to stay put. Shortly thereafter he returns, dismounts and falls to the ground, silent, disturbed, even disoriented (most unusual for the implacable Wayne). Martin asks, "You all right?" "Why did they break off?" Then he notices that Ethan's "Johnny Reb" coat is gone. "Huh?" responds Ethan. "I'm not going back there." They ride off and later, Brad excitedly claims he has spotted Lucy in the Indian camp off in the distance "wearing that blue dress." Ethan slowly answers: "What you saw wasn't Lucy. What you saw was a buck wearing Lucy's dress. I found Lucy back in the canyon. Wrapped her in my coat. Buried her with my own hands." Brad shouts, "Did they...? Was she...?" Ethan yells: "What do you want me to do? Draw you a picture? Spell it out?" His voice breaking, he pleads: "Don't ever ask me. As long as you live, don't ever ask me more." Hysterical, Brad runs off toward the Indian camp: we hear a rifle shot and know that the savage wilderness has claimed yet another victim.

This is the biggest scene of Wayne's career and, ironically, it is one where he shows vulnerability. Few experts will agree with my criticism of the film, but we all agree on the unusual intensity, the fire in Wayne's performance. More than usual, he *is* the character he plays, not just John Wayne. *The Searchers* also gives Wayne one of his iconic lines, whose rhythm matches his distinctive mode of speaking and which he repeats a number of times, whenever he is challenged by Martin: "That'll be the day." It became a hit Buddy Holly song. The film's iconic scene is Wayne's most famous: in the final shot, he is left standing alone outside, as the homesteaders, reunited with Debbie, happily enter back into their cabin. He grabs his right arm and turns back to the wilderness; this protector of civilization himself is not suited to it.

Wayne was the number one box office star through much of the 1950's. His next excellent film was Howard Hawks's *Rio Bravo* (1959), which gave him perhaps his best screen name, Sheriff John T. Chance (as well as his sexiest leading lady, the young, then brunette, Angie Dickinson).. His final Western with Ford, and Ford's last masterpiece, was in 1962, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, opposite James Stewart. By now, the aging Ford was becoming disillusioned. Wayne once more is the noble embodiment of the selfless Western hero – Tom Doniphon -- who saves the community and civilization from the savagery of the wilderness (with Lee Marvin's crazy Valance substituting for the Comanches). But Wayne loses his love (Vera Miles) to the Eastern dude lawyer (Stewart) and dies in obscurity. Instead, Stewart rides his mythical heroics – in truth, Wayne's -- all the way to the U.S. Senate. The famous line, "When the legend becomes fact, print the legend" actually is ironical if not bitter. Wayne here is the tragic hero, in his most sympathetic role.

In the meantime, Wayne had produced and directed himself (as Davy Crockett) in his epic, *The Alamo* (1960). He saw this as a big patriotic effort at the height of the Cold War. But the main value of the film is that his weak direction helps one appreciate the artistry of Ford and Hawks.

Wayne continued starring in Westerns and some dramas through the 1960s. His illustrious presence was like a rock in a storm as counter-culture movies began to overtake Hollywood; the amoral Sergio Leone Italian "revisionist" Westerns starring Clint Eastwood became the new face of the genre Wayne had made his own. He made two more films with Hawks, of which *El Dorado* (1967) is one of the last really good traditional Westerns ever made. The last such really good movie Western and Wayne's final classic role, which won him the Best Actor Oscar, is *True Grit* (1969). Wayne brilliantly makes his self-parody as the aging, boozing, fat marshal, Rooster Cogburn, patch over one eye, come off simultaneously as a serious Western. The last iconic scene of his long career has him, on

horseback, reins in his mouth, taking on single-handed the villainous gang led by the always superb Robert Duvall. He orders the evildoers to dismount and hand over their guns, to which Duvall taunts, "That's mighty big talk for a one-eyed fat man." Whereupon Wayne roars, "Fill your hand, you sonofabitch," and, guns blazing, he fells each of his youthful antagonists.

Most of Wayne's final films are decent but forgettable. He kept turning them out – one or two a year – because he needed the money, having been married three times with seven children. His controversial 1968 Vietnam movie, *The Green Berets*, which is like his World War II-era movies only transplanted to Vietnam, earned hoots of derision from the liberal movie critics. Seen today, its view of the war seems a lot closer to the historical truth than theirs. (His record as a leader of the Hollywood blacklist of the 1950's is more mixed, as many innocents became swept up in a legitimate effort to expose the smaller number of secret communists, like Dalton Trumbo, who did insert their propaganda into films.)

Wayne was killed for the first time as a star in *The Cowboys* (1972). He did an amusing reprise of Rooster Cogburn opposite the one and only Katharine Hepburn in the film of that name, his penultimate movie in 1975. In his last film, *The Shootist* (1976), he plays himself: a visibly aging, fading giant, who has come to what he thinks is a quiet town to die from the cancer eating out his insides, only to be shot down in a saloon by a kid out to make a name, a victim of his own legend.

Wayne died in 1979, aged 72, of cancer. In 1955, while filming in Utah one of his worst movies, *The Conqueror*, in which he played Genghis Khan, Wayne and the rest of the film company were exposed to radioactive fallout from nuclear bomb tests that had been conducted in Nevada. In addition to Wayne, co-star Susan Hayward and director Dick Powell, an unusually large number of the cast and crew all later contracted or died of cancer. There is some credible evidence that their exposure may have been the cause. On the other hand, Wayne had smoked three packs of unfiltered cigarettes a day and drank heavily. Initially, he had "beaten the 'Big C'", lung cancer, in the 1960's. He succumbed to lung and stomach cancer.

In an era dominated by movie icons who were bigger than life, John Wayne was – and is – the biggest of them all. In a sense, those stars served some of the function of ancient gods in Greek myths; they represented ideal moral types whom we looked up to for inspiration. And Wayne was the embodiment of that most American – and, from our own perspective -- most conservative of genres, the Western. In our post-1960's era of extreme relativism and radical egalitarianism, many movie stars represent everyman, or lower. And the movie Western is virtually dead. But, thanks to film, Wayne – eternally young -- and the ideals of the many wonderful Westerns he helped make possible are still there to lift our eyes skyward.

Readers may be interested in a wonderful memoir of Wayne and John Ford, *Company of Heroes*, by the actor Harry Carey, Jr.

*Spencer Warren selected and co-hosted a month-long series of conservative films on Turner Classic Movies in 2000.*

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**E-mail the  
Editor**

## Martha Stewart's 98% Morality

by Timothy P. Carney

Two weeks ago I heard my colleague, Paula, in the office next to mine, exclaim, "I hate my sister." The sister inspired this remark by sending a taunting e-mail that included Martha's Stewart's *Going Green Checklist: 101 Ways to Get Started*." Apparently these siblings share a love for Martha Stewart, and the younger one wanted to rub it in my colleague's face that "Martha is on my side."

"But I do all these things," Paula shouted at the monitor, listing her checks on the checklist: "Eat what's in season," "Find new uses for old things," "Don't charge your phone overnight," "Line dry your clothes when possible." Paula's younger sister presumed that her big sis was anti-green because she is a conservative. Indeed, on at least one of Marthas'a 101 Ways, Paula isn't on board: "Vote for change." In this context, this clearly meant: "Vote for politicians who will use the might of government to mandate or subsidize these activities, and prohibit or punish their alternatives."



The younger sister's view seemed to be: you are either for more government, or you are against the environment. Put even less pleasantly: you have to choose between liberty and being green. She's not alone. When free-market policy wonk Susan Dudley of the Mercatus Center was nominated to head the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, one environmentalist website pointed out that Dudley opposes regulations of auto emissions but herself drives a hybrid: "In Dudley's worldview," the blogger wrote, "there's no inconsistency between making the personal choice to save on gas, while opposing standards to keep our air clean and our cars fuel efficient. Seems bizarre? It's called Dudleynomics."

It's probably evident to all readers here that there certainly is no inconsistency between trying to be a good steward of the environment and opposing environmental regulations. At least 98 of Martha Stewart's 101 suggestions make this clear. There is absolutely nothing contradictory about "Fix[ing] leaky faucets" or even "Dress[ing] sustainably," and opposing increased state control over our lives.

In fact, when you read down Martha's list, almost all of her ideas save you money (okay, not "buy[ing] organic food") and many of them save enough money that they're even worth your time. But many businesses have taken this "what's good for the environment is good for business" line too far. Sure, using less energy can often save a company money and thus fatten the bottom line—providing bigger returns for shareholders and saving more coal for the rest of us. But when you hear General Electric or Chevron talk that sort of talk, usually they mean: "We invest in worthless technologies, lobby for the right subsidies or mandates, and get rich." This, too, provides returns to shareholders, but at the expense of the taxpayers and our liberty.

These types, and their political patrons, often call for "market-based solutions" to environmental problems. But conservatives and libertarians aren't supposed to love every "market" that comes our way. We like markets that are freely entered or exited. If the government starts rationing carbon dioxide emissions, sure a market to trade CO2 credits will emerge, but, heck, government food rationing in the Soviet Union created all sorts of markets that wouldn't have otherwise existed—and we don't think that was good.

On the other side of things, we ought to resist falling into the temptation many conservatives and libertarians face, and decide that concern for the environment or waste is a flighty thing for dirty hippies. Younger conservatives, used to being contrarians on campuses dominated by imbalanced lefties, find it cute to advocate paving the rainforests. One prominent center-right activist in town likes to joke in his off-the-record meetings, "Kill trees because trees killed Sonny Bono." As jokes or

barbs to rile up self-righteous debating partners, these might be fine, but we shouldn't forget that conservation and stewardship of creation really are good things.

Libertarianism is a philosophy about *government*, not about a way of life. It doesn't prescribe which decisions you freely make. And conservatism tells us we should be wary of modernity's project of conquering nature. Simple morality tells us that it's wrong to use more of a scarce resource than you have to, and traditional ideas of virtue teach that sacrifice and frugality are good habits for our soul.

Indeed, reflecting on conservation as a virtue impels us to reject both extremes—disregard for the environment and heavy government intervention in the name of protecting the environment.

The impulse towards state action often arises from the frustrated realization of the guy who bikes to work to reduce his pollution, but realizes that his own little contribution won't reduce smog by any appreciable amount. He thinks he's not doing any good, because he's not noticeably changing the world. Therefore, he concludes that through politics—through government's ability to coerce the masses—is the appropriate way to show stewardship.

But this way of thinking is wrong because it ignores two important aspects of virtue. First, the nanny-stater forgets that coerced virtue is barely virtue at all. Freedom is a pre-condition of morality.

More importantly, doing the right thing is still doing the right thing even if it doesn't "make the world a better place" in some way we can see. Virtue is virtue not because it ensures the greatest good for the greatest number, but because a life lived according to virtue is a happy life—even if your little sister tries to make you feel like a bad person.

*Tim Carney is the author of [The Big Ripoff: How Big Business and Big Government Steal Your Money](#). He is the Warren T. Brookes Journalism Fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute.*

*This first appeared in [Brainwash](#).*

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## Real Historical Jesus

by Lisa Fabrizio

We all think we know him, or at least we're forever trying. Every Christmas and Easter, documentarians seek to redefine him, or simply to find him; but who is the real Jesus Christ? In the Catholic Church's tradition of sharpening doctrine by answering its critics, Pope Benedict XVI has taken on the task of pushing back decades of reconstruction of the 'historical' Jesus with *Jesus of Nazareth*, his first book since his election to the episcopal see of Rome.



Lisa Fabrizio

At the age of 80, when most men are in a state of a well-deserved inertia, Pope Benedict--who in 2005, after a half-century of service to the Church desired only to retire to a quiet life in his beloved Bavaria--has released these first ten chapters of a two-part work that has been four years in the making, because, as he states, "I do not know how much more time or strength I am still to be given."

His urgency stems from his fear that modern historical-critical attempts at finding Jesus have resulted in the common belief that "we have very little certain knowledge of Jesus." He laments that recent scholarship has detached Jesus from God; so that he has been reduced to an "anti-Roman revolutionary working--though finally failing--to overthrow the ruling powers; at the other end, he was the meek moral teacher who approves everything and unaccountably comes to grief."

Students of the Baltimore Catechism know why we were created: to know, love and serve God. But who is he? Mankind has always feared the unknowable, how much more so the unknowable Creator? How can man possibly approach such power and majesty as he sees daily in the created nature of the world? How can we love a God of pure power unless we are convinced that he is also pure love?

This book, taken in conjunction with his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est (God Is Love)*, is Pope Benedict's answer. This work, he stresses, is not one of official teaching but the culmination of his "personal search for the face of the Lord," and one that is intended for the illumination of all those who also seek him. As such, although there is a glossary included, it resounds not with complex theological jargon but sings in the language of love.

He begins by explaining that Jesus is new; the new Adam, and even the new Moses. He cites the Old Testament pledge that "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brethren--him you shall heed" (Deut 18: 15). He then recounts that although Moses had friendship with God, he was not allowed to see his face (cf. Ex 33: 18-23), implying that the promised "prophet like me" will be granted what Moses was denied: "No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known" (Jn 1: 18).

With this new Moses comes a new Torah; the essence of which is contained in the Beatitudes. And in delivering them in the Sermon on the Mount, he alarms the people because he was "teaching them as one having authority, and not as their Scribes and Pharisees" (Mt 7: 29). In other words, he is not only proclaiming the law but claiming equality with the Lawgiver. At this point, Benedict begins a fascinating discourse; almost a dialogue with the Jewish scholar Jacob Neusner, author of *A Rabbi Talks with Jesus*.

Neusner's book is itself a dialogue where he is present at the Sermon on the Mount and then follows Jesus to Jerusalem where he speaks with him about what he feels are exhortations to ignore two or three of God's commandments concerning the Sabbath and familial relationships, both of which are at the heart of the Jewish social order. The pope's response--which fills 25 pages--is a must-read for Jews and Christians alike and makes one ardently wish to be a fly on the wall at a mythical sit-down between Benedict and Neusner.

There are many such exchanges and references to writers such as Rudolf Bultmann, Joachim Jeremias, Pierre Grelot, Romano Guardini and Hans-Peter Kolvenbach that fill this book with insights and inspirations from all sides of the exegetical spectrum. And all these Pope Benedict explores with the utmost humility and compassion in this 355 page volume. Yet he returns over and over to the main thrust of the question of the identity and mission of Jesus of Nazareth:

What did Jesus actually bring, if not world peace, universal prosperity and a better world? What has he brought? The answer is very simple: God. He has brought God....Now we know his face, now we can call upon him. Now we know the path that we human beings have to take in this world. Jesus has brought God and with God the truth about our origin and destiny: faith, hope, and love.

Christian teaching suggests that Jesus Christ was either everything he said he was--most notably the son of God--or the world's most prolific and/or pathological liar. Those for whom this question remains unanswered would do well to begin their search anew by sharing in this profound meditation of the "Servant of the Servants of God."

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

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## What To Avoid in Health

by John Goodman

It is the season for health insurance reform, and that's dangerous. The odds of doing something bad are much higher than the odds of doing something good.

Here are four things to avoid.

### 1. Do not turn a tax subsidy into an entitlement.

The primary way the government encourages private insurance is through tax subsidies. Many reform proposals would completely change the nature of the subsidies; e.g., by creating a refundable tax credit. The risk is that the new tax subsidy could become an entitlement.

Medicare and Medicaid entitlements are already on a course to crowd out every other government program. We cannot survive creating more health care entitlements.

That means: government's commitment must be defined contribution, not defined benefit. Tax subsidies are going to grow roughly at the rate of growth of national income. Health care spending is growing at twice that rate. The new system of tax subsidies must also grow with national income, not with health care costs.

### 2. Avoid mandated coverage and mandated benefits.

Proposals to require everyone to have health insurance increase the likelihood that the government subsidy will become an entitlement. It makes no sense to mandate a benefit package if the cost of the package is going to grow at twice the rate of the subsidy. By keeping the subsidy restrained, you will force health plans to curtail costs somehow - with HSAs, restricting payments to evidence-based medicine, HMOs, etc.

Pay-or-play is much better than a mandate. Since you will never be able to enforce the mandate anyway (and rigorous attempts at enforcement would cost far more than they are worth), let people choose whether to be insured or not. If they choose to be insured, give them a subsidy; if they choose not to be insured, make them pay a tax penalty and put the unclaimed subsidy (or the tax penalty) into the safety net. Also, with pay-or-play you do not have to define a mandated benefit package, vulnerable to cost-increasing special interest measures.

### 3. Don't create perverse incentives for health plans.

Insurance pricing restrictions create perverse incentives. If people can switch plans annually at premiums that are unrelated to expected costs, the plans will seek out the healthy and avoid the sick. Once people are enrolled, the plans will over-provide to the healthy and under-provide to the sick. A much better idea is to give plans an incentive to compete for the sick.

### 4. Don't encourage people to forgo private coverage by expanding public coverage.

There should be no expansion of Medicaid and SCHIP in a way that encourages people to drop their private coverage in order to get free public coverage. Instead, the incentives should work the other way. We should use public money to encourage private insurance.

At the NCPA, we are producing a handbook on state health reform. The final document will soon be ready. However, we don't want to be like the FDA and deny people life-saving remedies. So here is the URL for the latest draft. [http://www.ncpa.org/email/State\\_HC\\_Reform\\_6-8-07.pdf](http://www.ncpa.org/email/State_HC_Reform_6-8-07.pdf)



**John Goodman**

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

Link to Journal of Legal Medicine article: "Applying the 'Do No Harm' Principle to Health Policy"  
<http://cdhc.ncpa.org/files/20070326JCG.pdf>

Link to Handbook on State Health Care Reform: [http://www.ncpa.org/email/State\\_HC\\_Reform\\_6-8-07.pdf](http://www.ncpa.org/email/State_HC_Reform_6-8-07.pdf)

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## Outlaw Fireworks?

by Bob Barr

Historians have long known the Chinese invented fireworks during the Han Dynasty (200 B.C.), but until a recent cache of ancient tablets was uncovered in an archeological dig, little was known about the early use of this product. Thanks to this recent discovery, we now know that even during the early years of their availability over two millennia ago, government officials viewed fireworks as the extremely dangerous, if not downright subversive substance that officials in Georgia have come to know them to be.



Bob Barr

For example, in one of the recently unearthed ancient manuscripts, a Chinese regional governor cautions the populace that "any use of the glorious but dangerous pao chuk ("bursting bamboo") by a private person shall, upon discovery, be punished by the immediate decapitation of the offender." "In this way," the ancient edict continues, "shall the harmony, peace, safety and prosperity of the people be maintained."

Actually, I have no idea if such an ancient writing was ever issued or uncovered. In fact, I doubt it. For one thing, the ancient Chinese apparently believed the explosive sound of a firecracker would drive evil spirits away. Their use was not only tolerated but probably encouraged. After the Italian explorer Marco Polo brought fireworks to Europe in the late 13th century, their use spread quickly throughout the continent, and by the middle of the 18th century, huge displays of fireworks at major public events became commonplace. In America, as in England, fireworks became associated with important public celebrations including, beginning July 4, 1777, anniversaries of the signing of our Declaration of Independence.

Not only have public fireworks displays become an American tradition, but until recently, young children and teenagers from Maine to Oregon were able to engage in the fun of lighting a few sparklers — the most benign form of fireworks — or launching a couple of bottle rockets from a Coke bottle in their backyard.

No more. In many modern-day American communities, including here in Georgia, the occasional "boom" of a small firecracker or the star-like brilliance of a sparkler has become as rare as a high school rifle team.

Even though in a nod to personal freedom in 2005, the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation "allowing" use of sparklers, a number of recent local ordinances severely limit or outlaw the actual use of even these benign devices.

For example, the commissions for Towns and Union counties in northeast Georgia just recently ordered a ban on fireworks of any kind, including the nefarious "sparklers." In a deft bit of sophistry, the drafters of the ban said their intent was not "restrictive," but merely "protective." Government isn't "restricting" private behavior, it is simply "protecting" the citizenry. In perhaps the best example of post-Sept. 11 Big Brother-ism, the ban explicitly urges citizens to report violators to the authorities.

The paranoia over fireworks in the Peach State is not limited to North Georgia. Ware County, in South Georgia, for example, proudly proclaims as part of its fireworks ban that violators will be fined up to \$1,000 and two months in jail. Can decapitation be far behind? Powder Springs, part of what some consider the enlightened Atlanta metropolitan area, has gone so far as to ban rolls of paper caps used in toy pistols. Other local governments have transcended prohibitions on personal use of fireworks and banned even the highly regulated public displays on July Fourth. The northwest Georgia municipalities of Woodstock and Cartersville fall into this category.

Now, I fully appreciate the fact that dry weather increases the risks of fires starting because of sparks or heat from any number of sources, including fireworks and outdoor grills. All potential fire-causing products ought to be used responsibly and maturely, and their negligent misuse punished. But to single out fireworks for draconian measures is neither responsible nor fair. Outlawing rolls of caps or threatening to send a parent to jail for lighting a sparkler for their toddler child illustrates government power at its worst, not its best.

This fireworks hysteria represents a troubling trend in modern-day government. Even though the number of fireworks-related injuries has decreased by some 90 percent in the past 30 years according to industry statistics, and even though only a relative handful of individuals cause injury or property damage from improper use of fireworks products, the knee-jerk reaction of government — especially, it seems, local government Republicans — is to prohibit everyone from using the potentially dangerous product. This is the same shibboleth that lies at the heart of the gun control arguments advanced by liberals over the past four decades.

One of the few bright lights in this nonsense is the city of Roswell, which considered banning its traditional July Fourth fireworks display, but decided not to. We might hope such a rare glimmer of common sense might prove contagious, but I wouldn't break out the celebratory sparklers yet.

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

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## Give Us DDT

by Sam Zaramba

Africa's sad experience with colonialism finally ended in the 1960s. Yet, a lethal vestige remains: restrictions on our malaria control efforts. This disease is the biggest killer of Ugandan and all African children. Yet it remains preventable and curable, and we are making progress.

A week ago, G8 leaders committed new resources to combat this mosquito-borne disease. Now they must honor this promise, by supporting African independence in disease control.

The United States and Europe eradicated malaria by 1960, largely with the use of DDT. At the time, Uganda tested the pesticide in the Kanungu district and reduced malaria by 98 percent. Despite this success, we lacked the resources to sustain or expand the program. Rather than partner with us to improve our public health infrastructure, however, foreign donors blanched. They used Africa's lack of infrastructure to justify not investing in it.

Today, half a century after the West rid itself of malaria, every single Ugandan remains at risk. Every year, over 10 million of our people are infected, and 100,000 of our mothers and children die from the disease. Recently our homegrown country music star, Job Paul Kafeero, died from malaria, reminding us that no one is beyond its reach. Yet many still say Africa's poor infrastructure makes indoor spraying too costly and complex a method to fight malaria.

Uganda is one of a growing number of African countries proving these people wrong. In 2006, Uganda worked with President George Bush's Malaria Initiative to train 350 spray operators, supervisors and health officials. In August 2006 and again in February 2007, they sprayed the walls of 100,000 households in the southern Kabale district with the insecticide Icon, as part of a comprehensive program that also includes bednets, sanitation, education, ACT drugs, larvacides and other insecticides, and rapidly improving patient care.

Nearly everyone welcomed this protection, and the prevalence of malaria parasites plummeted. Today, just 3% of the local population is infected, down from 30 percent.

The exercise pays for itself. With 90% fewer people requiring anti-malarial medication and other public health resources, more healthy adults are working and more children are attending school. When we repeated the initial exercise in Kabale and neighboring Kanungu districts this year, our spray teams required only short refresher training and were rapidly mobilized. Our health officials at the village, district and national level were able to educate communities, implement spraying programs, and evaluate operations. With each passing year, it will be easier and less expensive to run the programs.

We can make it even more cost-effective by switching from the current insecticide to DDT. It lasts longer, costs less and has more modes of action against malaria-carrying mosquitoes than Icon. DDT functions as spatial repellent to keep mosquitoes out of homes, as an irritant to prevent them from biting, and as a toxic agent to kill those that land. Because the spatial repellency effect works without physical contact, and because the chemical is not used in agriculture, DDT also makes mosquitoes less likely to develop resistance. Thus DDT is both more effective and more cost-effective.



**Dr. Sam Zaramba**

The US banned DDT in 1972, spurred on by environmentalists and Rachel Carson's 1962 book "Silent Spring." Many countries in Europe and around the world followed suit. But after decades of exhaustive scientific review, DDT has been shown to be not only safe for humans and the environment, especially when used for indoor residual spraying – but also the single most effective anti-malarial agent ever invented. Nothing else, at any price, does everything it does.

That is why the World Health Organization has once again recommended using DDT wherever possible against malaria, along with other interventions.

We are trying to do precisely this. In addition to distributing long-lasting insecticidal nets and 25 million doses of effective anti-malarial drugs, we will expand our indoor spraying operations to four more districts this year, where we will protect tens of thousands of Ugandans from malaria's deadly scourge. We are committed to storing, transporting and using DDT properly in these programs, in accord with Stockholm Convention, WHO, European Union and US Agency for International Development guidelines. We are working with these organizations and our communities, to build broad support and ensure that our agricultural trade is not jeopardized.

Although Uganda's National Environmental Management Authority has approved DDT for malaria control, Western environmentalists continue to undermine these efforts and discourage G8 governments from supporting us. The EU has acknowledged our right to use DDT, but some consumer and agricultural groups repeat myths and lies about the chemical. They should instead help us use it carefully and effectively for malaria control.

Environmental leaders must join the 21st century, acknowledge the mistakes Carson made, and balance the hypothetical risks of DDT with the real and devastating consequences of malaria. Uganda has demonstrated that, with the proper support, we can conduct model indoor spraying programs and ensure that money is spent wisely, chemicals are handled properly, our program responds promptly to changing conditions, and malaria is brought under control.

In this way, we will ensure a healthier and more prosperous future for our people.

Africa is determined to take charge of its future, and to rise above the contemporary colonialism that helps keep us impoverished. We expect strong leadership in G8 countries to stop paying lip service to African self-determination – and start supporting solutions that are already working.

*Dr. Sam Zaramba is Director General of Health Services for the Republic of Uganda. He is joined in this statement by Minister of Health Dr. Stephen Mallinga, Minister of State for Health Dr. Richard Nduhura, Minister of State for Primary Health Care Dr. Emmanuel Otaala, National Malaria Control Program Manager Dr. J.B. Rwakimali, Health Ministry Commissioner for Health Planning Dr. Francis Runumi, and the entire Ministry of Health for the Republic of Uganda.*

*A shortened version of this article originally appeared in the Wall Street Journal on June 12, 2007: [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB118160970924631993.html?mod=opinion\\_main\\_commentaries](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB118160970924631993.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries)*

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## Comet Climate Change

by Dennis Avery

Don't look now, but another big chunk of the "evidence" for man-made global warming suddenly disappeared. Poof! Researchers just reported that the world's most recent case of "abrupt climate change"-which occurred a mere 12,000 years ago-was probably due to a comet strike, not to "climate sensitivity."

The Younger Dryas occurred as an Ice Age was ending. As the climate began to warm, a huge and sudden rush of fresh meltwater broke out from the Great Lakes and swept out to sea. The water surge was monumental enough that the meltwater lowered the salinity of the ocean, shut down the Atlantic conveyor currents, which disperse the planet's heat, and threw the northern hemisphere back into another thousand years of Ice Age. It raised temperatures near Greenland by a startling 15 degrees C, even as it doubled annual rainfall.

Modern climatologists have savored the Younger Dryas event as massive evidence of what comes when we push the planet's climate too close to a "tipping point." Further human-driven warming, they say, will make such abrupt climate changes more likely, with searing droughts, torrential rainfall, and extreme heat.

The National Academy of Sciences issued a 2002 report titled Abrupt Climate Change: Inevitable Surprises, which said abrupt climate changes have been especially common when the climate system was being forced to change most rapidly. According to that theory, greenhouse warming today could be drastically increasing risks from climate change.

At least, that's what the experts said until the latest meeting of the American Geophysical Union in Acapulco on May 23rd when James Kennett of the University of California/Santa Barbara presented evidence of a dramatically different cause for the Younger Dryas event: a comet that struck somewhere near the Great Lakes.

"Highest concentrations of extraterrestrial impact materials occur in the Great Lakes area and spread out from there," Kennett says. "It would have had major effects on humans. Immediate effects would have been in the North and East, producing shockwaves, heat, flooding, wildfires, and a destruction and fragmentation of the human population."

Paleontologists had assumed a huge lake of meltwater accumulated near the Great Lakes due to the Ice Age ending, but had never located its possible site. Nor have they explained a thin layer of charred sediment found throughout North America that dates from 12,000 years ago. The sediment layer contains carbon spheres whose creation would have required temperatures of at least 4000 C. Electron microscopes reveal that the carbon beads contain tiny diamonds whose creation would have required enormous temperatures and pressures.

The U.S. sediment layer does not contain much iridium, which is the telltale signal of an asteroid strike. That argues for a comet, made up primarily of "dirty ice," rather than an asteroid like the one which hit Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula 65 million years ago and wiped out the dinosaurs.

Kennett says the ice sheet could have absorbed the impact of the comet's "dirty ice," even as the comet's heat produced the flood of meltwater. Kennett says the comet may have destroyed 15 mammal species and might have left only a few surviving humans from North America's early Clovis culture. America's bison survived, but much smaller in size and with a remarkable similarity in their DNA-indicating that they descended from a small group of comet survivors.



**Dennis T. Avery**

The comet theory comes as a crushing blow to the climate alarmists. It follows the publication of *Unstoppable Global Warming-Every 1,500 Years*, which assembles the historic and scientific evidence of a long, natural climate cycle that swings temperatures about 2-4 degrees C over its lifetime-accounting for the Medieval Warming, the Roman Warming and the Holocene Warming 5,000 years ago. Then came Henrik Svensmark's demonstration at the Danish Space Research Institute, of how cosmic rays link changes in the sun's irradiance to the formation of the low, wet clouds that cover more than 20 percent of the earth. The clouds are nature's thermostats, deflecting more or less heat back out to space depending on the sun's strength.

Now the alarmists have lost the "abrupt climate change" of the Younger Dryas. More and more, recent science is pointing to our modern warming as being part of a 1500-year cycle that stretches back at least a million years.

If the Younger Dryas was caused by a comet, perhaps we should rethink being frightened by the neighbor's SUV.

*Dennis Avery was a senior policy analyst for the U.S. State Department, where he won the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement. He is the co-author, with atmospheric physicist Fred Singer, of the book, Unstoppable Global Warming-Every 1500 Years, available from Rowman & Littlefield.*

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Editor**

## Wimbledon Equal Pay?

by Carey Roberts

We have it on the authority of Hillary Clinton that women playing at the Wimbledon tournament will finally receive their due this year: "Wimbledon agreed to pay their women tennis champions the same amount of prize money as their male champions. It only took 123 years for them to do the right thing," Mrs. Clinton recently exulted. [[www.hillaryclinton.com/video/13.aspx](http://www.hillaryclinton.com/video/13.aspx)]

Hillary has long been an outspoken advocate of equal pay for equal work. So does this news from the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club represent a breakthrough for the cause of female equality?



This year the winner of the men's and women's singles competitions will each cart home close to \$1.4 million in prize money. But one thing hasn't changed – the number of sets needed to win. Men will play best of five sets, while women only play best of three.

For years the Women's Tennis Association has been trying to bring women's earnings on a par with men's. But in all that time they never proposed to increase the women's matches to five sets. That offer would have settled the dispute years ago, and would have saved Maria Sharapova the need to threaten a bra-burning.

The truth is, women's tennis is beset by a volley of woes that include lack of star power, overcrowded schedules, non-stop injuries, faltering ticket sales, and limp TV advertising.

The problem became painfully obvious during last year's Australian Open. First Amelie Mauresmo of France, who plays bare-midriff style, was matched against Michaela Krajicek. But Krajicek succumbed to heat exhaustion and Mauresmo won by default.

In the semi-finals she was paired against Kim Clijsters of Belgium. In the third set Clijsters was hobbled by an ankle injury. Another win by default.

In the finals, Mauresmo played Justine Henin of France. But then Henin come down with a tummy ache. Default win number three.

At that rate, any grandma wearing pink tennis shoes could have won the Australian Open.

Things did not get better at the earlier French Open.

Remember grass-court phenoms Venus and Serena Williams? First Venus bowed out in the third round. And then Serena lost to Justine Henin in the quarterfinals, calling her own play "hideous" and "horrendous." Critics say their dabbling in acting and fashion has caused their careers to nose-dive. [[www.tennis-x.com/xblog/2006-10-10/97.php](http://www.tennis-x.com/xblog/2006-10-10/97.php)]

With Serena Williams out of the picture, Henin went on to play Ana Ivanovic, mauling her in two sets by an embarrassing 6-1, 6-2 score. The match lasted all of one hour. Well, maybe Ana's sex appeal will make up for her lack of athletic prowess.

In contrast, Rafael Nada and Roger Federer slugged it out for over three hours in the men's final. Nada finally prevailed through four high-powered, tension-filled sets.

In a sport heavily dependent on television revenues, a three-hour match brings in far more advertising money than a one-hour contest. Despite that fact, Rafael Nadal was paid the same as Justine Henin, each of them raking in one million euros.

None of this comes as news to die-hard tennis fans. Given the choice between a one-hour bunny match with a lop-sided outcome versus a three-hour game that hangs on every cannonball serve and strategic backhand, most fans opt to see the men.

So aficionados who wanted to see the quarter finals at Wimbledon ponied up \$3,590 to see the men, compared to only \$1,590 to see the women. Even at twice the price, the men's tickets sold out sooner.

Sports columnist Alan Mascarenhas has concluded that by almost all criteria, "women's tennis is an inferior product." So if the ladies are bringing in far less revenue but taking home just as much money as the guys, where is their money coming from?

You guessed it -- out of the men's pockets.

So next time you see Hillary climb on to her equal-pay-for-equal-work soapbox, let's ask her this question: "Does three equal five?"

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

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Editor**

## Two Palestines

by Daniel Pipes

The Hamas victory over Fatah in Gaza on June 14 has great importance for Palestinians, for the Islamist movement, and for the United States. It has rather less significance for Israel.

Tensions between Fatah and Hamas are likely to endure and with them, the split between the West Bank and Gaza. The emergence of two rival entities, "Hamastan" and "Fatahland," culminates a long-submerged conflict; noting the two regions' fissiparous tendencies in 2001, [Jonathan Schanzer](#) predicted it "would not be all that surprising" were the Palestinian Authority (PA) to divide geographically. Subsequent events did indeed pulled them apart:



Daniel Pipes

- The [anarchy](#) that began in early 2004 spewed forth Palestinian clan chieftains and criminal warlords.
- [Yasir Arafat's death](#) in November 2004 removed the transcendently evil figure who alone could bridge the two regions.
- Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in mid-2005 deprived Gaza of its one stabilizing element.
- Hamas's victory in the PA elections of January 2006 provided a strong base from which to challenge Fatah.

Assuming Fatah remains in charge on the West Bank (where it is [arresting 1,500 Hamas operatives](#)), two rival factions have replaced the single Palestinian Authority. Given the expedient nature of Palestinian nationalism and its recent origins (it dates specifically to 1920), this bifurcation has potentially great import. As I [have noted](#), Palestinianism being so superficial, it could "come to an end, perhaps as quickly as it got started." Alternate affiliations include pan-Islam, pan-Arab nationalism, Egypt, Jordan, or their own tribes and clans.

Internationally, Fatah and Hamas engaging in [war crimes](#) against each other punctures a supreme myth of modern politics – Palestinian victimization. Further, as two "Palestines" squabble over control of, say, the [United Nations seat](#) granted in 1974 to the Palestine Liberation Organization, they damage a second myth – of a Palestinian state. "The Palestinians have come close to putting, by themselves, the last nail in the coffin of the Palestinian cause," the foreign minister Saudi Arabia observes, [Saud al-Faisal](#). A [Palestinian journalist](#) notes sarcastically, "The two-state solution has finally worked."

In contrast, the Islamist movement gains. Establishing a bulwark in the Gaza Strip gives it a beachhead at the heart of the Middle East from which to infiltrate Egypt, Israel, and the West Bank. The Hamas triumph also offers a psychological boost for Islamists globally. By the same token, it represents a signal Western defeat in the "war on terror," brutally exposing Israeli prime minister [Ariel Sharon](#)'s short-sighted, feckless unilateral-withdrawal policy from Gaza as well as the [Bush administration](#)'s heedless rush to elections. As for Israel, it faces the same existential threat as before. It gains from Hamas's near isolation from the West, from the fractured Palestinian movement, and from its having a single address in Gaza. Also, it benefits from having an enemy, Hamas, overt in its intention to eliminate the Jewish state, rather than dissimulating, like Fatah. (Fatah talks to Jerusalem while killing Israelis, Hamas kills Israelis without negotiations; Fatah is not moderate, but crafty; Hamas is quite purely ideological.) But Israel loses when the fervor, discipline, and stern consistency of totalitarian Islam replace Fatah's incoherent, Arafatian mish-mash.

The Fatah-Hamas differences concern personnel, approaches, and tactics. They share allies and goals. Tehran arms both [Hamas](#) and [Fatah](#). The "moderate" terrorists of [Fatah](#) and the bad terrorists of Hamas equally inculcate children with a barbaric creed of "martyrdom." Both agree on eliminating the Jewish state. Neither shows a map with Israel present, or even Tel Aviv.

Fatah's willingness to play a fraudulent diplomatic game has lured woolly-minded and gullible Westerners, including Israelis, to invest in it. The most recent folly was Washington's decision to listen to its security coordinator in the region, Lieutenant General [Keith Dayton](#), and send Fatah [\\$59 million in military aid](#) to fight Hamas – a policy that proved even more bone-headed when Hamas promptly seized those shipments for its own use.

One of these days, maybe, the [idiot-savant](#) "peace processors" will note the trail of disasters their handiwork has achieved. Instead of mulishly working to return Fatah and Jerusalem to the bargaining table, they might try focusing on gaining a change of heart among the roughly 80 percent of Palestinians, those still seeking to undo the outcome of the 1948-49 war by defeating Zionism and constructing a 22 nd Arab state atop Israel's carcass.

[Ehud Barak](#), Israel's brand-new defense minister, reportedly plans to attack Hamas within weeks; but if Jerusalem continues to buoy a corrupt and irredentist Fatah (which Prime Minister [Ehud Olmert](#) has just called his "partner"), it only increases the possibility that Hamastan eventually will [incorporate the West Bank](#).

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

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## Need To Lose?

by Alan Caruba

The firestorm of public outcry against the proposed immigration bill is testimony enough that the Senate and the House need to be reminded that selling out the nation is a very bad idea. There are very good reasons why nations have borders.

The bill is just one more way the Republican Party demonstrated that it has been steadily abandoning its fundamental principles. In essence, the Party has stood for sovereignty, the free market, fiscal prudence, private property, and small government. It was a party that historically has been reluctant to be drawn into foreign wars.



Alan Caruba

In his new book, "The Invasion of the Party Snatchers", Victor Gold who was a press aide to Barry Goldwater and a speechwriter in George H.W. Bush's administration, recalled the Republican rejection of Woodrow Wilson's League of Nations treaty in 1919. Gold reminds us that the party did not see the nation as "peace-keeper for the planet" because it saw that hubris as "the road to imperial ruin and war without end."

Regarding George W. Bush's pre-emptive war, Gold noted that, "...as to committing American troops to battle overseas, until George H.W. Bush ordered the invasion of Iraq in 1991, no Republican president since William McKinley in 1898 had initiated a war; nor, until Richard Nixon in 1969, had any Republican president opted to carry on a war initiated by a Democratic president."

Gold's book is a scathing look at the depths to which the present Republican Party has fallen and the way George W. Bush and his Vice President, Dick Cheney, have come to represent everything that Republicans have fought against from the days when Lincoln first led the party.

Gold makes no bones about it. He wants the present GOP to die so it can be born again to its former principles. The elections of 2008 are likely to bring out masses of Democrats who feel rejuvenated by the failures and missteps of the White House and the GOP. The recently reported falloff of financial support for the GOP, estimated to be as high as forty percent, might actually suggest they're doing something wrong.

More than a few Republicans who simply do not want to live in an America that intrudes into the most private decisions of people's lives, that throws overboard the Constitutional protections of privacy, judicial protections, and whose elected representatives have engaged in an orgy of spending, are desperately seeking real conservative leadership.

So far, however, the Republican candidate debates have more nearly resembled "The Weakest Link" than any promise of a strong commitment to conservative principles.

America has had its political dynasties, the Adams and the Roosevelt's, but they have been few and I think most Americans are wary of more Clintons. They are not likely to want any more Bushes after the last six years of the President's rejection of everything for which the Republican Party has stood.

The President has been utterly indifferent to the invasion of millions of Mexicans and others who have illegally crossed our borders, placing all manner of burdens on native born and naturalized Americans. He has made it known that he is eager to sign the proposed immigration "reform" law. This is a security and sovereignty issue of major proportions and it is a total sell-out whether it's Democrats or Republicans voting for it.

As yet little known to the general public, the President has advocated a "North American Union" that would eliminate the sovereignty of the United States, melding it with Canada and Mexico, to be run by bureaucrats along the lines of the European Union. Its official name is the "Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America" and it offers neither. This non-treaty's staff is zealously pursuing this, squirreled away in the Department of Commerce, far from the Congressional oversight needed to thwart its "harmonizing" efforts to change our trade and other regulations.

Bush has also turned to the Dark Green side, endorsing the utterly bogus "climate change" agenda that involves reducing "greenhouse gas" emissions. The fact that 95% or more of greenhouse gases consist of water vapor continues to be unreported and ignored by those who want to destroy the economies of industrial nations with "cap-and-trade" schemes. Global warming? It's the Sun. Get over it!

In the area of fiscal prudence, the GOP seems to have lost its wits. Looking back over his two terms in office, with the support of the Republican Party the President never vetoed a single spending bill in six years until the most recent one that put a timeline on further military engagement in Iraq. Despite efforts to address the vast default that awaits Social Security, the GOP added a prescription program to the bloated Medicare program.

The President's selection of Harriet Myers as a Supreme Court nominee and then of Alberto Gonzalez as Attorney General were suspect in the court of public opinion; the former withdrawing from consideration, the latter subject to much criticism. His two Supreme Court choices, Roberts and Alito, however, are a counter-balance of good judgment.

Gold reflects the widespread feeling that elected Republicans no longer have any regard for the voters. "I'd just like to know there were still Republican senators around who didn't think of the people who elected them as knuckle-walking Pleistocene morons." This can, of course, be extended to Democrats as well.

Gold warns that what has been passed off as a new kind of conservative politics under the aegis of the neo-cons and the pressures of evangelical groups is "merely a recycled model of the old Liberal politics that led to the decline and fall of the Democratic Party in the 1960s."

We are left to wonder how long it will take for those who regard themselves as Republicans to desert today's GOP, mostly by refusing to vote for its candidates, while waiting for new leadership to replace those that have eviscerated it.

*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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## Dems To Keep House

by Paul Weyrich

Bad news for the Republicans. Stu says the Democrats will continue to hold the House. Stu who? Stuart Rothenberg, that's who. So who is Stu and what does he know a year and a half from the next Congressional election? Let me explain. In 1975 I began to put out the weekly political report. It was meant to be temporary but our supporters at Free Congress Foundation loved it so I was stuck with it. It became too much of a burden so in due course I hired Susan Marshner to take that burden off of me. She did but she needed help. So I told her to get somebody else. She advertised and conducted a lot of interviews. Alas, she told me she had found the ideal candidate. He was a political science professor from Bucknell University. Hire him, I told her, before he gets away. She did. That was a mere 27 years ago. This guy, it turned out, was fantastic.



Paul M. Weyrich

He wrote more accurate copy than anyone we had ever known. In due course, Susan left to marry and she left this Stu fellow in charge of the Political Report.

He did such a good job that the reputation of the publication grew and grew. Flash ahead several years. Stu said he wanted to move out on his own. He would try to make a living by selling subscriptions to his political report. Wow, I thought—a gutsy move. If anybody could do it Stu could. The publication had built such a good reputation under his direction that I hoped he could translate that into support for his own publication. He called it the Rothenberg Political Report, distinguishing it from other publications. That wasn't the last we saw of Stu. When we launched our television network in late 1992, I asked him if he would do an hourly show. He did the funniest, most clever program ever on television. I hope he never charges us for producing that show. He had the able assistance of Stephen M. Lilienthal, whose deadpan expression masked an unusual mind. But I digress. Stu not only made it on his own but he became one of the nation's most prominent political pundits.

Stu still publishes his weekly Rothenberg Political Report. When it comes to our office I am not allowed to see it for a couple of days while everyone else digests it first. We all read it because we want to know what is going on in the world of elections and politics.

Stu has been more accurate in his predictions than anyone else I know. It is amazing—or perhaps it is not so amazing when you consider the work he puts into his publication week after week. Of course he has help but he is the boss who sifts through all the material and goes out on a limb.

Stu has looked at all of the House of Representative races in play, both Democratic and Republican. At first it appeared as if the Democrats were doing so well that one could expect major gains in 2008. However, Rothenberg now believes there are a few cracks in their wall. He believes that, while the Republicans might win a few seats next year, the Democrats will still be in control of the House.

That is bad news for the Republicans. They have targeted enough races to enable them to win the majority they lost in 2006. Rothenberg says it won't happen. You can take that to the bank.

But, you say, the polls suggest that the rating of Congress is worse than that of President George W. Bush. And that is pretty low. True enough. If you break down those polls you would find that what makes the rating of the Congress so low is dissatisfaction of the Democratic base.

All Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senator Harry M. Reid (D-NV) need is to pass some legislation and it doesn't matter if Bush vetoes it, as long as they get things done they are okay. They have enough House Members to pass almost anything. Forget all that stuff you read about those conservative Democrats. There are not enough of them to make a difference.

In the Senate, on the war, which is what those low ratings are all about, they have the help of quite a few Republicans. If they are reasonable maybe they can raise the sixty votes necessary to get almost anything through the Senate. Remember that the Democrats have only a one-vote margin in the Senate.

There are sufficient Democrats and Republicans who want to vote for the Immigration Bill that if the filibuster were overcome it would pass. It just isn't clear at this point who wants the measure to be considered again.

Anyway, returning to the main subject, those poor Republicans have so many Members whom the FBI is investigating that, guilty or not, the damage has been done.

Unless all of those House Republicans were to be specifically cleared those seats most likely would switch parties. Certainly the Democrats have their problems, William Jefferson (D-LA) and his cold cash for one. But there is an imbalance. The Democrats have one or two in trouble. The Republicans have at least seven, maybe more.

Even if a few freshmen Democrats have voted with their leadership and not their district, there are not enough to compensate for those Republicans who are in trouble. And as Rothenberg has pointed out, the Democrats have managed to come up with credible candidates in Republican districts so that the GOP now has to defend more districts than otherwise.

I recall Stu when he was about the only pundit to see the Democratic trouble in 1994. And for the next five elections he correctly predicted that the Republican majority would remain intact.

He saw trouble for the Republicans in 2006. That's why when he says the Democrats will hold the House I listen. Certainly it is early and the Republican propaganda tells you otherwise. I'll go with Stu anytime.

Something big could happen to change the situation. Were that to occur Rothenberg would say so. Thus, if a year from now he sees something that would allow Republicans to re-take the House you will hear it from Stu. Why? Because for 27 years he has had his ear to the ground. He knows what is happening. Barring that unlikely development, you can safely predict that the Democrats will retain control of the House, regardless of the Presidential election. If you are asked how you know, tell your questioner that Stu told you.

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

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Editor**

## Thompson's Rise

by David Keene

Startlingly, Fred Thompson has managed to emerge as a top-tier candidate for the Republican Party's 2008 presidential nomination without either declaring himself a candidate or spending much money.

As a result, the former Tennessee senator is now in the process of assembling a campaign team, testing the waters and preparing for what everyone believes will be a formal announcement sometime this summer.

If it works, he'll be able to say, "I seen my opportunity—and I took it," because he appears to be in the right place at the right time and could benefit from the almost palpable craving among many Republican base voters for an alternative to the three current top-tier candidates, whom many Republicans, for different reasons, are reluctant to embrace.

Each of them—former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Arizona Sen. John McCain and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney—has his supporters, but none of them has come close to closing the sale with rank-and-file Republican voters.

McCain was considered the front-runner in the early betting and has the largest personal base within his party. He attracted the early money and hordes of Washington establishment types who joined up because they wanted to be with the man they thought would blow away the competition.

What they and he have discovered, however, is that while he has a base within the GOP, many Republican voters simply don't like him and won't support him. The strategy he followed required him to solidify and expand his support early, and it turned out he just couldn't do it. He doesn't appear capable of moving much beyond what he had when he announced, isn't comfortable running the sort of campaign he's been forced to run this time, is letting his notorious temper show and is beginning to slip badly in most polls.

As a result, his money is drying up, some of those who hopped on board early are looking for a way out and he's beginning to come across as a tad too strident and desperate. He can hang on, of course, because he's a fighter and does have a base that won't desert him, but his best days are behind him.

Mitt Romney is a slick performer and is doing well in targeted markets, but he's having a difficult time gaining traction. He's viewed by too many as a tad too slick and just a bit too flexible on matters of principle. It's not too late and it's conceivable that he can use Iowa and New Hampshire to get things going, but he has yet to connect with voters in any meaningful way.

Rudy Giuliani has very different problems, and they are likely to prove even more devastating in the long run because he doesn't have the base support McCain can fall back on or the upside potential of Romney. He's taken his post-9/11 image as a celebrity tough guy about as far it'll go. He's been betting that he can use the "war on terror" and his tough leadership image to trump the social-issues positions he's taken over the years—as well as the cultural resistance to a New Yorker—but it doesn't seem to be working.

If his positions on abortion, gay marriage and guns were his only problems, he might be able to finesse them, but his real problems run much deeper. He is, after all, a man who as mayor of New York went ahead and appointed a friend police commissioner after having been warned that he had suspicious Mob ties, later tried to foist him off on the White House as a perfect candidate to head the Department of Homeland Security and then told reporters he didn't remember being told the fellow might be "mobbed up."

He remains the putative front-runner only because McCain is dropping like a rock and Romney isn't



David Keene

gaining much traction, but every day more and more Republicans are realizing that Rudy was never really "America's Mayor." He was New York City's mayor and has proven quite different from the image that attracted many to him at the outset.

All of this adds up to an opening for someone like Thompson who has tenuous support right now as "none of the above." The question, however, is whether the former senator will be able to take advantage of the opening.

Those expecting the second coming of Ronald Reagan are apt to be disappointed, but there are no Reagans out there. A consistent conservative who can connect with voters and convince Republicans that there could be more to 2008 than simply opposing Hillary Clinton will draw a lot of support.

The bottom line is that if Thompson doesn't disappoint those desperately seeking a viable alternative to the Big Three, he could take it all.

*[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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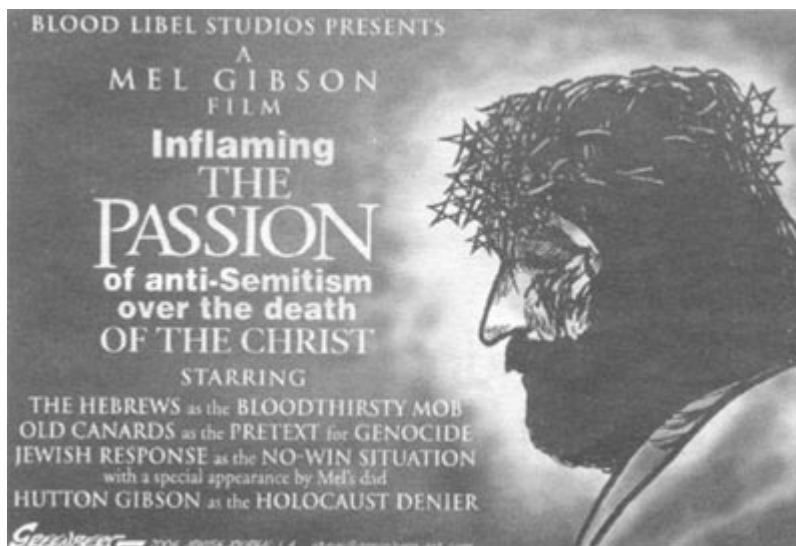
## Imus and Free Speech

by Tim Sullivan

I enjoyed your essay "Imus Double Standard," on freedom of speech and yes, outrage is in the eye of the beholder and also subject to fashion. Freedom of speech means generally, no prior restraint but it does not protect one from the consequences of Free Speech, you know like getting a punch in the nose.

There was once a doctrine in law called "fighting words."

Below is a satirical ad regarding the movie "The Passion" and was part of the attack on Mel Gibson prior to his movie going into production. There was some defense of the movie but no criticism of this attack on the movie and Mel.



I read an essay by Honor Tracy called "Mind You I've Said Nothing" where she said when sober the Irishman can look a person and immediately know the most kind and flattering things to say but the same Irishman when drunk can look at the same person and know immediately the most hurtful things to say to that person. Sounds familiar and on target to me.

Now we also have the buildup of Al Sharpton by the MSN as a respectable spokesman for Black America when we know he is an evil purveyor of libel from his New York City days.

Don Imus was hired to say outrageous things and at the worst, his employers should have let the whole thing blow over or taken him off the air for a few days with a minimal comment.

In general, adults should avoid using language that hurts the feelings of others or groups in general. I thought that the Danish newspaper cartoons of Mohammad were uncalled for and calculated to enrage the Muslim world.

On the other hand, the Egyptian blogger, the Big Pharaoh, mocked his fellow Muslims for their reaction and posted a humorous story about a mocking contest in Israel to see who could draw the most anti-Semitic cartoons. The blog included some of the cartoons.

I get a lot of emails saying the most outrageous things about Muslims and some about Mormons.

There was an essay recently in the WSJ on line Opinion Journal saying the ACLU is now will to limit speech when it comes to certain minorities.

I also remember that it was fashionable, back in the 1970s, when "All In The Family" was on the air, to call working class Italian, Irish, Polish etc. White Ethnics.

But remember this, when Al Smith lost in 1928 the big joke was that Smith sent the shortest telegram ever to the Pope saying, "UN PACK. I always thought that was funny.

All the best, Tim Sullivan

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## Iraq and Vietnam

by Warren Coats

Following the kidnapping of a fellow Bearing Point consultant in Baghdad and all four of his security team, I am again being asked what we should do in Iraq (as if working there gives me the answers).

The easy but irrelevant part of the answer, agreed to by everyone but W and Tony Blair, is that we never should have attack Iraq in the first place. Or as David Halberstam put it in "The Best and the Brightest" about Vietnam: "If the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the press and the public had know of the extent of the intelligence community's doubts, there would have been a genuine uproar about going to war." (from the Economist magazine's Obituary).



Unfortunately, I have no better answer to what to do now than Halberstam's conclusion of his great book in 1972: "Time was on the side of the enemy, and we were in a position of not being able to win, not being able to get out...only being able to lash out.... And so the war went on, tearing at this country; a sense of numbness seemed to replace an earlier anger. There was, Americans were finding, no light at the end of the tunnel, only greater darkness."

As I watch the losses mount ( Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Lebanon,...) and contemplate how we managed to get W's good friend Putin to threaten to re-aim Russia's missiles at Europe, it is only the beautiful Tuscan sun that keeps me from being pessimistic.

I hope the sun is shining on your life.

*Warren Coats is an international monetary consultant.*

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## Reader Comments

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Editor: The article "Imus Double Standard" could have come directly from my own mind. Ethel Parkes

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Editor: I read your recent editorial on "Imus Double Standard." Very informing, and somewhat enlightening and I thank you for it. "In my opinion", if you really want lay it at the feet of the working, common man, take a look at Jason Whitlock's piece that came out right after this whole crock hit the fan. Time magazine is totally irrelevant, and this whole mess is about that rodeo clown, Al Sharpton, and his worthless cronies. Jason Whitlock nails it, and did it justice on the Lou Dobbs Hour. All your philosophers and Hollywood jerks are useless in situations like this. It takes bold, plain truth to set it right. Thanks, Jim

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Editor: Nice article on "Imus Double Standard" and the fallout--well crafted and argued. Tom Tripp

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Editor: "Imus Double Standard?" Don did nothing wrong to throw him off the air. If he is not allowed to speak his views on his talk show, then why do we have to listen to all the other media's twisted, lying, liberal sided views of the bad and not mentioning any of the good happening in this country? I think we get a better coverage of the truth from TALK RADIO than any other source of news coverage available. If Americans do not agree with Don Imus talk show views they have a choice of many others to listen to. Joe

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Editor: Regarding, "Imus Double Standard," Imus, who is white, is fired for a "hos" joke. Charles Barkley calls NASCAR women toothless ugly and ignorant. People complained and TNT President said "Charles was making a joke" Imus did the exact same thing but he is fired. Fire Barkley and fine TNT? Oh, we can't...is it because he is black? Robert Hippe

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Editor: In regard to your "Tell Us What To Eat" editorial, I was livid when Sheryl Crow had the gall to make her "one sheet per visit" comment, knowing how the entertainers demand conservation from we lowly people while they fly around in jet planes, living their high life, etc. When she adopted her baby, I thought about her "one sheet" demand, wondering if she is using regular diapers (and foregoing disposable), and skipping the baby wipes, etc. Then, I saw the photo of her with her new son. She was feeding him with a Playtex bottle, you know ... it's the type that uses a disposable plastic liner! Ergo, I use as much toilet paper as I wish every visit, and I don't feel a bit guilty. But, one thing has changed. I have a profound dislike for Sheryl Crow and others who spout double standards to me. I recycle, try to conserve, try to buy and eat fresh foods, but I'll be darn if I'm going to let these people dictate to me everything they think I should do. Thanks. J. Collins

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Editor: Forget the trial separation from George W. Bush suggested in Craig Shirley's "Bush Malaise." How about a divorce? Maybe it's time to think of all the reasons to impeach Bush. If he is so out of touch with the people, what is he going to try next? Sincerely, Debbi Barton

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Editor: Count me in with Craig Shirley's article "Bush Malaise", and I'm not paying alimony! He's going left at Mach II, starting with his partnership with Teddy. Enough is enough, what the he-I is wrong with him! God Bless, Walt Malley

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Editor: Craig Shirley is wrong. He like many conservatives thinks that conservatives were a majority or that most Republicans were conservative. Whether Craig likes it or not we need every Republican we can get in office. It is precisely talk like Craig's that got us into the mess we are in now. If this Republican or that doesn't do what we want then we conservatives won't help them. Well you didn't and now we are in the minority. What we have been missing for so long is leadership. Taking your ball and going home is not the answer. We need to elect Republicans lots of them, yes even rhinos. Get the majority back and at the same time dig up some real leaders instead of the go along to get along pussies we have been enduring for so long. Dividing and fighting ourselves is just plain stupid. Robert E. Solum

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Editor: Craig Shirley's article "Bush Malaise" rings true. But it leaves out the next steps. Conservatives in and out of Congress will begin the process to impeach George W. Bush if he signs amnesty legislation. I along with the 600 wealthy Americans on my infrequent email distribution list began diverting donations away from the Republican Party prior to November 2006 elections. Though a card carrying Republican all my life and donor to Bush and a myriad of Republican vehicles, the leadership of the Party cannot be supported. It is not recognizable as Republican on the immigration issue and several other issues. Bud Bromley

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Editor: As far as Craig Shirley's article "Bush Malaise," I for one have already left the Republican Party and will re-register as an Independent. I am sick and tired of the same old same old. Jay C. Wallace

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Editor: I uncovered the same information as you did in your recent article, " U.S. Citizens Must Prove It?" by Wes Dyck, William Beach and James Sherk in speaking to my Senator's office in Florida. It made me irate that Americans would have their privacy invaded in this manner yet illegal aliens are given legal status with a perfunctory 24 hour background check. I thought that illegal aliens are only doing the jobs that Americans won't do! If this is the case then it would be very easy to check to see if those workers are illegal or legal in those few jobs Americans are not doing. Why do we need to check every worker? Sincerely, Kenneth C. Kanige, Boca Raton, FL

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Editor: Excellent article sir on " U.S. Citizens Must Prove It?" by Wes Dyck, William Beach and James Sherk. I am a Democrat turned Republican. All for what? I can't stand the Democratic positions on abortion, homosexuality and now immigration reform. If conservatives fold on this latter issue, that well could be the end of the two party system in America--and since so many of us feel this way,

there could be no more equitable justice in this nation again. As I see it, this country could be headed for a civil war again created by the present conservative members of congress! Conservatism as now offered is broken. Leviticus 26 states.....those who have no regard for God's laws, will be ruled by their enemies--those who hate you. Doesn't this look like exactly what is happening? Thanks again for the common sense you exhibited in this article. God be with you. Stan Kon, Oswego, NY

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Editor: We totally agree with " U.S. Citizens Must Prove It?" by Wes Dyck, William Beach and James Sherk. Why is the Government not questioning illegals instead? They cater to illegals and it is disgusting especially to those of us that came legally. It is a total sell-out to Mexico what is happening and if the president of Mexico disagrees with any laws, they are changed, from the fence to Minutemen to Guards in Jail and the Drug Dealer loose. What is going on? US Citizens have to have a Passport to go to Mexico. There are all kinds of laws if non-citizens want to move there. It is difficult to fathom and we are not alone. Let us build the Fence, Seal the Borders, question owners who hire illegals, empty our jails and deport them. This must stop and the President is to blame. The whole mess is disgusting. Law and order please, that is what 85 percent of Americans want not chaos. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Wm F Thompson. Alamo, CA.

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Editor: Paul Weyrich's article "Thompson Time?" was brilliant! I am not a scholar by any means, just a Christian housewife, mother, grandmother and small business owner. However, I feel I can detect great orators that have a positive effect in change or stability in the lives of all nations. The litmus test with me is the gut wrenching emotion I feel and how I savor every word as I listen. Also, does this person come off believable and sincere, and what evidence in his or her daily life reflects the same fervor? Maggie Thatcher had this influence along with Jean Kirkpatrick. One huge man was left out in your piece that will leave a huge imprint on the world in the last three centuries. Place Rev. Billy Graham's speeches among the greatest in history. Listen to his speeches around the late sixties. Regards, Gwen Muhlig

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Editor: As Brent Bozell's "Gumble Apology?" shows, this man is a sicko in my opinion (Michael Moore's term) and he definitely needs to apologize for his horrible rudeness to Mr. Knight. To brag about it, is really sick. Jim Creitz

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Editor: I completely agree with Brent Bozell's "Gumble Apology?" My only defense is that I do not ever watch a show that Mr. Gumble is on. Victor A Tetreault

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Editor: Brent Bozell's "Gumble Apology?" brings up the question, How can we help in this incident to make the Left accountable to the same rules that they impose on the Right commentators? Can we write CBS and demand to have an apology not only to Robert Knight from Mr. Gumbel but to the audience that is not amused but is rather offended by such a crude remark? If so, give us the address where we can direct this complaint.....and it is as good as written. Regards, Joan Wallis

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Editor: Regarding the Bryant Gumble matter, I agree wholeheartedly that he should apologize but don't hold your breath. It's only conservatives and Republicans who ever apologize. Mildred Wilcox

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Editor: Here is what I wrote to CBS. "For some time I have witnessed the outrageous behavior of Bryant Gumble taking on those of us who have a religious conviction or are conservative in our thinking. Sooner or later you will have to wake up and see that people who watch your network will stop. Watch your rating sir. If you do nothing to become involved with Mr. Gumbel and his insults, your silence will mean consent of his behavior. All in my family (three children with spouses, 5 grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews and some real nice friends) will be Bcc...a copy of this memo to make an intelligent decision on whether or not to watch your network or of supporting those sponsors of Mr. Gumble's program. This outrageous behavior happened while he was filling-in for Regis Philbin on "Live with Regis and Kelly." Bryant Gumbel actually boasted about once calling the conservative culture-critic Robert Knight "a f\*\*\*ing idiot" (Mr.Gumbel used the actual word on the air), at the end of a June 29, 2000 interview on CBS's The Early Show. This is showing me, that CBS has now fallen to new lows. The words of Louis Adamic seem fitting for this, "There is a certain blend of courage, integrity, character, and principle which has no satisfactory dictionary name but has been called different things at different times in different countries. Our American name for it is 'guts.'" Do you have any on this matter? I don't really wish to leave you on a sour note so, how's this? We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors.... but they all exist very nicely in the same box." God Bless, James Chicosky

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Editor: In "Anti-Immigration?" Don Calabria says conservatives just want legal immigration. If so, why are they trying to reduce or eliminate the H1B visas which are a way for the best and brightest to enter the country LEGALLY? Best regards, Larry Haverly, President, Haverly Systems Inc.

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Editor: I would just like to state an opinion of mine, or rather maybe just a question, "Why do the news media and radio people spend so much time on promoting only those people running for office who seem to have the most money while other men running for President and who do not have millions to spare for their campaigns are neglected radio and TV time?" The only true conservative that I know of so far is Duncan Hunter. On his web site he lists over 20 core principles which he stands for. He formed a bill on the border fence which was passed in Oct. 2006 which has never been talked about in the News....but, he has helped stop California's illegal immigration and drug trafficking for the past year or more because a fence was built along the CA border. I would trust him to keep his promise on securing the border more that someone who just talks about it. I believe that most people in the U.S. would welcome a true conservative, a person who is conservative in his spending.....and I could list many other areas that he has voted as a true conservative and has not changed his thinking just to win votes. Thank you for allowing me to state my concern about our next coming election. Wilma Miller, Oklahoma

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Editor: You represent yourself as a conservative organization. You seem to be searching for a conservative, Reagan-type person to replace the Republican "top tier" who are being rejected by the public. The question is: Why do you continue to ignore and fail to mention the gentleman, wonderful statesman, most Reagan-like, and the person with the most knowledgeable of finance and foreign policy of all the presidential candidates - both Republicans and Democrats? He is loved and respected by his constituents and won his last election to the House with 61% of the votes while fellow Republicans were being thrown out of office. He was the winner of the polls following the first three Republican "debates". Why do you not even mention the one person with the ability to save our country at this very critical time in history? Why do you continue to ignore the most honest and respected candidate of all - the one with unquestioned integrity - Dr. Ron Paul? Jim Janes