



Professor Edward Feser

CONSERVATIVE BATTLELINE ONLINE

*The "Bold Colors" Conservative Voice in
Washington*

Issue 95 - November 7, 2007

[Conservative Restoration?](#)

From the Battle Line

[Conservative Restoration?](#)

by Donald Devine

[Conservative Confusion](#)

by David Keene

[Annapolis Blues](#)

by Daniel Pipes

Media Pass in Review

[TV More Moral?](#)

by S.T. Karnick

["Phony Soldiers" Ruckus](#)

by Brent Bozell

[Media Praise Soviets](#)

by Rich Noyes

Government Maneuvers

[Science of the Climate Act](#)

by Alan Caruba

[S-CHIP Fiasco](#)

by John Goodman

[U.S. Business Dangers](#)

by Bob Barr

Culture Wars

[What's With Nobel?](#)

by Dennis Avery

[AIDS Failure](#)

by Carey Roberts

[False Rape Charges](#)

by Glenn Sacks

Political Front

[Clinton Coronation?](#)

by George Liebmann

[Third Party Talk](#)

by Paul Weyrich

[GOP Race Wide Open](#)

by Scott Rasmussen

Reader Backfire

[Truths We Must Face](#)

by Joseph Barrett

[Soldiers' Angels](#)

by Bruce Eberle

[Reader Comments](#)

Conservative Restoration?

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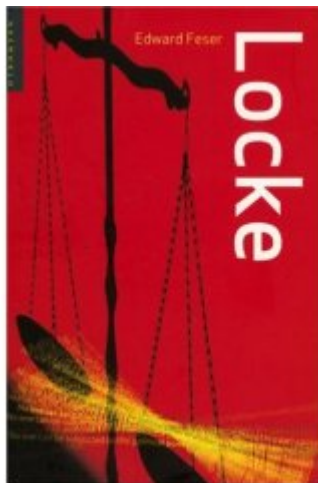
Issue 95 -November 7, 2007

There is a nascent philosopher on the loose and he wants to redefine conservatism. He is Edward Feser, a professor and author of several books, on John Locke, F.A. Hayek, Robert Nozick and the Philosophy of Mind. He apparently once considered himself a conservative-libertarian fusionist in the mold of the movement's founders--William F. Buckley, Jr., Frank Meyer, and Hayek. But he now insists upon going beyond fusionism, an up from fusionism, as Buckley (who once wrote "Up From Liberalism") might put it.

Feser is a tough guy. He wrote an article not long ago for the hip on-line magazine Tech Central Station, titled "Why Are Universities Dominated by the Left." Naturally, the academy went wild, with a professor attacking him on a "philosophy" blog filled with invective and promising that Feser was "committing professional suicide"--asking for "insight" into Feser's character to help make his prediction self-fulfilling. It did not deter Feser from publishing a second installment, "The Opium of the Professors."



Professor Edward Feser



Feser's foray into fusionist revisionism is a conversation among friends. But make no mistake, he is seriously challenging fusionist conservative philosophy and he is very convincing. Although his recent articles have set the stage, he gets down to business in his new book, "Locke." Rather than interpreting philosopher John Locke—who is so central to justifying America's founding--as belonging in the tradition of Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas, as Hayek does, Feser counts Locke (and Hayek) in the tradition of Descartes, the man Hayek faults as the father of modern hyper-rationalism and utopianism. Every serious admirer of Locke is aware that his "Essay on Human Understanding" is methodologically reductionist so most conservatives insist that all of his works be considered together in making an evaluation of his epistemology. Feser will have none of this—this is not "wholly satisfactory," --insisting the Essay be taken as Locke's last word regarding methodology.

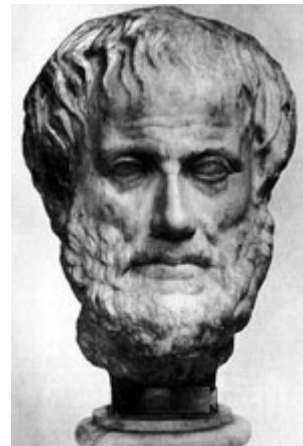
To Feser (following Alasdair MacIntyre), Locke's fundamental error is "he tried to preserve some elements of the classical or pre-modern moral tradition deriving from Plato, Aristotle and their medieval successors, while abandoning other elements without which the first ones lose their point." Feser concludes:

One must either endorse Locke's revisionist metaphysics—his rejection of objective essences in nature, his mechanism, his reductionist accounts of personal identity and free will and so forth—and abandon the traditional moral and metaphysical elements of his philosophy and thus anything that could plausibly be regarded as natural law or, if one wants to maintain those conservative elements, one must reject the revisionist metaphysics and also anything distinctively liberal. One must either be a radical or a reactionary. It is no longer possible (if it ever was) to be a Lockean.

What concerns Feser most is what has happened to Locke in modern times. He is concerned that Locke's conception of freedom and individualism has led to moral relativism. Locke rejects "innate

ideas," saying they cannot exist by themselves without being related to experience. He insists on a material side to nature. Without personal experience innateness is purely abstract and leads to arbitrariness and dogmatism. "Tis [consciousness] that makes everyone to be what he calls self and thereby distinguishes himself from all other thinking things; in this alone consists personal identity," says Locke. This, Feser fears "seems to entail that a human body utterly devoid of consciousness would not be a person." It is this loss of the objective idea of the person that Feser believes has led to the decline of the dignity of the human individual in the modern world.

In Locke's attempt to eliminate "innate ideas," Feser argues, he throws out objectivity, especially Aristotle's grounding in form and substance, and the whole concept of a traditional morality resting on a human nature. "For Locke, the self is not identical with any substance at all. For the scholastics, on whose view the soul is not an immaterial substance but the substantial form of the body, a person is neither a soul nor a body by itself but a composite of soul and body." Without Aristotle's objective "final causality" or the purpose of the thing or person, or medievalism's natural laws, human nature is merely subjectively defined. "Those who take a more or less Lockean view of personal identity are likely to defend abortion and euthanasia, for they are more likely to take the view that fetuses and patients... lacking as they do the rich conscious lives of normal adults, do not count as persons."



While libertarians and traditionalists might agree as fusionists that "using recreational drugs, watching pornography, engaging in extramarital sex and so forth" should not be enforced by law, what about their morality? Feser notes that Locke and Hayek did reject these as immoral but Locke did so because man is God's property and thus the individual has no right to harm himself against His law and Hayek, without a belief in God, did so because he finds the rejection of those behaviors pragmatically necessary for social life. But most modern libertarians would certainly reject the former reasoning and probably not concede that social utility defined morality either, leaving traditionalists not only without legal sanction but without social pressure to support their values. The end result of fusionism, Feser says, is libertarianism alone with no traditional morality and no fused Lockeanism.

Feser insists that one must be either radical or reactionary—either libertarian or traditional—rejecting fusionism, which insists upon synthesis, harmony, a middle way between the two. One could argue that Aristotle and his medieval successors (but not Plato) built their epistemologies on this fusionist ground but Feser is reluctant to separate Plato and Aristotle (as Hayek does) and finds that the essentials of the "classical or pre-modern moral tradition" are form, essence and final causality. In fact, the result of not reading natural law as requiring the reality of essences and that forms (universals) have a "final causality"—i.e., an objective purpose--IS modern subjectivism and relativism.

The "reactionary" direction Feser insists upon is a return to objectivity in morality, to return to medieval philosophy and its metaphysics of form, essence and final causality. Yet, to do so he must answer some questions. Why are Plato and Aristotle in the same tradition? Hayek says they are not because the former makes form and essence independent of experience and the later (like Locke) does not. In fact, Feser recognizes this: "Of course, for Aristotelians, this does not mean, as it did for Plato, that the forms exist totally independently of the material world, for they regard forms as existing in general somehow only 'in' the things they inform." Feser concedes that while Locke rejects innate ideas he accepts innate capacities such as sensations, reflection and cognitive abilities and innate practical principles and natural tendencies. Contrary to his conclusion, Feser even admits Locke recognizes a kind of real essence, that he accepts "a secondary and mediate signification to things themselves." But Feser objects to Locke's vagueness on the matter and especially to what "would become" in modern thinkers an opaque reality divorced from common sense.

Since Feser makes these concessions, why is not Locke's essence not a "minor variation" of essentialism, in his own words, not "an advance over the medieval approach" as far as the reality of essences is concerned? Feser worries that such "conceptualism" is vague and subject to misinterpretation. But is it proper to blame Locke for what "would become" with probability rather than what it was with him? Yes, value would be sounder with objective forms and final causality. Is that possible with what we know today? The great Blaise Pascal was instrumental in introducing the empirical indeterminacy of probability that has not only affected philosophy but changed science, neither of which has fully resolved the issue to this day. Pascal was the first to disprove a central Aristotelian idea—that all nature was substance in motion--and thus that a vacuum was not possible. Pascal's solution was to posit two types of definition—in a dualism comfortable to scholasticism—the scientific and mathematical realm where forms are simply subjectively defined by the investigator for analytical purposes (Karl Popper calls this "methodological nominalism") and the real world realm where there are true essences that are embedded in reality and available to common sense, even if only in a probabilistic manner (Popper calls this "metaphysical realism").

It is not just Pascal (and Locke and Hayek and Popper) who give this reality role to common sense as justification for essence and final causality and do so because they believe reason cannot reach this far. Aristotle himself used a similar device prior to philosophy with "pre-existent knowledge" which he said was better known than reasoning from it and Feser acknowledges the importance of common sense to scholasticism. Is it possible for philosophy to justify such fundamentals or, as Joseph Ratzinger argues, can such ultimate questions "no longer be decided by arguments from natural science or even philosophical thought," as essential as they are in their own realm, since these methods have reached their limits by then?



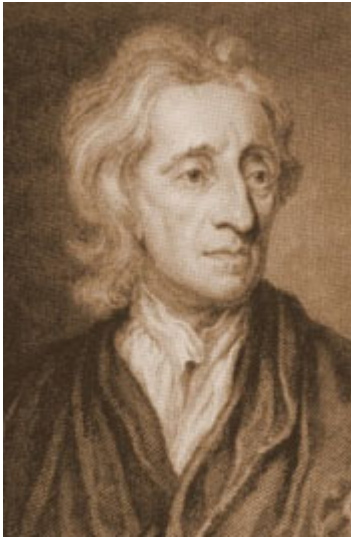
F. A. Hayek

If not, why is Aristotle not sufficient? Final causality, form and essence are sufficiently explained by him. Why bring St. Thomas, much less Jesus, into the picture at all? Feser freely admits that God the Creator is much more central to Locke than to other philosophers. Everything comes from Him, from life, liberty and property to the fact that man is God's property and as such is obligated to follow God and his nature's law but is given the freedom to reject them too. If Aristotle is sufficient, Christianity was not necessary. But Locke found that Aristotle was not sufficient. To Locke, the resurrection of Jesus and this proof that there was a life after death:

changed the nature of things in the world and gave the advantage to piety over all that could tempt it. The philosophers, indeed, showed the beauty of virtue; they set her off so as drew men's eyes and approbation to her; but leaving her unendowed, very few were willing to espouse her. The generality could not refuse her their esteem; but still turned their backs on her, and forsook her. . . . But now there being put into scales on her side, "an exceeding and immortal weight of glory": interest is come about to her and virtue is now visibly the most enriching purpose, and by much the best bargain.

The "philosophers" were not enough. Christianity changed everything to Locke. It was Jesus who divided and harmonized God and Cesar and St. Paul synthesized Greek and Jew only in Christ. Moreover, it was a material and historical event that changed everything, not a form. Indeed, Locke held that the "mere probability" of the truth of Jesus and His resurrection was enough to change everything.

Of course, Feser's real point is not about Locke per se but that without a concept of essence and final causality, it is impossible not to fall into utter moral confusion, which is the modern condition. While he does not say it, even the Frankfurt School's Jurgen Habermas admitted to Ratzinger that modernity had gone "off the rails" and needs something like religion to help it back on its feet. For if there is not a purpose to things, there is no purpose, no reason, no sense in anything. Feser's insistence that essence and final causality receive explicit recognition is fundamental to returning rationality to the modern skeptical world.



Feser's objections to Locke, Pascal, Hayek, Popper and company are that they have a "deflationary account of knowledge" and that their purpose is to pragmatically diffuse disputes over values rather than speak the truth. So is it probability that is the "revisionist metaphysics" that must be rejected? The issue is, as Feser notes, is it true, and convincing? Consider Pascal's famous "wager." If I wager for and God is -- infinite gain; if I wager for and God is not -- no loss; if I wager against and God is -- infinite loss; if I wager against and God is not -- neither loss nor gain. Pascal argues this leads reason to accept God's truth as the most convincing solution to common sense. Can essence and final causality be accepted by similar calculations within the world of common sense? This is not the certainty of Aristotle but it is a sparse certainty of a kind and it is also the reasoning of Locke, especially in the "Reasonableness of Christianity." It is a calculation most of the people of the world are capable of making as opposed to the unendowed and thus unespoused beauty of Platonic or even Aristotelian reasoning.

The great news is that Feser is writing a new book to resolve all of these questions. In fact, conservatism is in an intellectual and moral crisis and it sorely needs a Professor Feser to rationally fight his way through it all. We all need him to be successful or we all will surely either sink into the relativistic moral morass that so threatens the West or be forced to accept a theistically endowed monism such as Islam offers. Only Western harmonic fusionism has provided a middle way for the modern world but unless there is a restoration, it will become irrelevant to it.

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

**E-mail the
Editor**

Conservative Confusion

by David Keene

Issue 95 - November 17, 2007

Several hundred conservative activists met recently in Orange County, Calif., and Reno, Nev., to discuss issues, the GOP and the political role they hope to play in 2008 and beyond. Anyone who attended either meeting would come away convinced that while the conservative movement is alive and well in the West, its foot soldiers are as confused and disoriented as many of the movement's leaders.



David Keene

The California gathering, chaired by Michael Reagan, featured numerous California conservative politicians, pundits and writers who are even more disappointed with the governor they helped elect than their national counterparts are with President Bush and GOP congressional leaders. Those who came together in Reno were both a bit more libertarian and even more disgruntled.

Members of both groups say they share the values articulated in the past by conservative leaders like Bill Buckley, Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan, but when you listen to them closely and to their reactions to some of those invited to speak to them on today's issues and challenges, you have to wonder. Many of them, in fact, seem quite capable of holding contradictory views on a wide variety of issues without realizing that they do so.

For example, at the more libertarian meeting in Reno, the organizers put together a panel discussion that was essentially a debate on immigration policy at which those panelists who favored any immigration at all were lucky to escape with their scalps. These libertarians, in a conference-supported straw poll, voted for Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas) over Mitt Romney and Rep. Duncan Hunter (Calif.), the two GOP contenders who actually attended, but seemed as obsessed as the Bush Justice Department with internal threats to our national security from Muslims and Mexicans.

At both conferences, there were more than a few attendees who favor the presidential candidacy of former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani (R) either out of a fear that he may be the only contender who can handle Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) or because "he won't take any guff from terrorists and their sympathizers," as one put it. And in Reno, Hunter's protectionist policies seemed as popular among free-market libertarians as they might be in a union hall.

If you find all this confusing, you aren't alone. Several of the same activists discussing the need to abandon a GOP they believe has abandoned them argued within minutes that conservatives have to support Rudy for president because only he can save the nation from Hillary ... and they do so with a straight face.

As I flew back from these conferences, I spent some time thinking about these apparent contradictions and managed to convince myself that the problem stems in part from the fact that once one becomes an activist and obsessed with the issues of the day it is far too easy to forget the basic issues that led to that involvement as one keys off political allies and opponents with tactical rather than strategic agendas.

Indeed, many activists today are for or against things not because they have thought them through but because someone they admire says they should be. This is nothing new, but with the growth of political niche-marketing via radio, cable and the Internet, it can make for a rather strange brew. I have, for example, met countless conservatives who take a position largely because Sean Hannity or National Review or Bill Kristol have urged them to do so, and my liberal friends are just as prone to assume that anything their champions suggest must be right.

Opinion leaders are, of course, important, and I take some comfort in the fact that I believe the opinion leaders of the right are more apt to be correct on the issues than their liberal counterparts, but no one should follow anyone blindly. There was never a political leader more revered on the right than Ronald Reagan, but when he at one point favored a tax increase that his supporters in Congress and his party thought wrong, they didn't hesitate to stand up to his White House and suggest that, hero or not, he was wrong.

That sort of thing doesn't happen all that much anymore, but it should. Back in 1964, the late Barry Goldwater, who most of us consider the political founder of the modern conservative movement, stood up to his party's leaders and wrote in his "Conscience of a Conservative" that it was conservatives' obligation to judge for themselves whether a particular policy deserved support based on their answer to one relatively simple question: "Does it maximize liberty?"

One wonders how many conservatives ask that question today.

David Keene is the chairman of the American Conservative Union.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Annapolis Blues

by Daniel Pipes

Issue 95 - November 7, 2007

The Bush administration's plans to convene a new round of Israeli-Arab diplomacy on Nov. 26 will, I predict, will do substantial damage to American and Israeli interests.

As a rule, successful negotiations require a common aim; in management-labor talks, for example, both sides want to get back to work. When a shared premise is lacking, not only do negotiations usually fail, but they usually do more harm than good. Such is the case in the forthcoming Annapolis, Maryland, talks. One side (Israel) seeks peaceful coexistence while the other (the Arabs) seeks to [eliminate its negotiating partner](#), as evidenced by its violent actions, its voting patterns, replies to polls, political rhetoric, media messages, school textbooks, mosque sermons, wall graffiti, and much else.



Mahmoud Abbas, Condoleezza Rice, and Ehud Olmert

Damage will be done should the Israeli government make "painful concessions" and get a cold peace or empty promises in return, as has consistently been the case [since 1979](#). This lop-sided outcome would, once again, boost Arab exhilaration and determination to eliminate the Jewish state.

Contrarily, should the Israelis resist a joint U.S.-Palestinian position, I see a possible crisis in U.S.-Israel relations of unprecedented proportions – worse than [1975](#) or even [1957](#). That's because, in part, the stakes are so high. Secretary of State [Condoleezza Rice](#) has stated that "the United States sees the establishment of a Palestinian state, a two-state solution, as absolutely essential to the future of not just Palestinians and Israelis but also to the Middle East and, indeed, to American interests." If a Palestinian state is "absolutely essential ... to American interests," whoever stands in its way will presumably pay a heavy price. As I have been [arguing since November 2004](#), U.S.-Israel relations are hanging by a thread. Annapolis renders them yet more vulnerable to disruption.

Putting aside these deep and inescapable problems, the talks face two practical challenges: On the Palestinian side, "Fatah figurehead Mahmoud Abbas" (as Jerusalem Post columnist [Caroline Glick](#) calls him) is an extremely weak reed. "There is no responsible Palestinian leadership that could deliver a newspaper on time in the morning," the Jerusalem Report's Hirsh Goodman notes, "much less a peace agreement that would stand the test of time."

On the Israeli side, Ehud Olmert's prime ministry could crash if his skittish partners abandon the ruling coalition. [Shas and Yisrael Beiteinu](#) have warned against dividing Jerusalem and other steps. [Ehud Barak](#), head of the Labor Party, reportedly will reject any plan denying freedom of movement to the Israel Defense Forces in the West Bank. Foreign Minister [Tzipi Livni](#) could bolt if a Palestinian "right of return" is not renounced. That a [recent poll](#) finds 77 percent of Israelis think their government is "too weak to sign a peace agreement with the Palestinians in Israel's name" increases the chance of defections.

These grim prospects raise the question: Why, after nearly seven years of staying aloof from Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, has the Bush administration now succumbed to the bug? Some possible factors:

Iranian threat : Rice sees an opportunity for U.S. diplomacy in a Middle East realignment resulting from Iranian aggression, both actual (Hizbullah, Hamas) and future (nuclear weapons).

Inaction worse : If nothing is done, Kadima's already dismal standing in the polls will continue to fall and Fatah's tenuous hold over in West Bank will erode. The prospect of Likud and Hamas succeeding Olmert and Abbas pleases the Bush administration no more than it does those two men.

Legacy : Zbigniew Brzezinski has articulated the foreign policy establishment's [hopes for Annapolis](#) and its [dim view of Rice](#): "She realizes that her legacy right now is really very poor. If she can pull this off, she will be seen as a real historical figure."

Civil rights : Rice believes in a bizarre analogy between West Bank Palestinians and [southern Blacks](#).

Messianism : Both George W. Bush and Rice seem to view themselves as destined to resolve Arab-Israeli hostilities. [One interlocutor](#) recounts that "she believes this is the time for the Israeli and Palestinian conflict to end."

Rice's comment echoes both [George H.W. Bush](#)'s 1991 statement that "the time has come to put an end to Arab-Israeli conflict" and Israeli prime minister [Ariel Sharon](#)'s 2005 announcement of his intent "to resolve this problem once and for all." But, as [Irving Kristol](#) has memorably observed, "Whom the gods would destroy they first tempt to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Mr. Pipes (www.DanielPipes.org) is director of the Middle East Forum.

**E-mail the
Editor**

TV More Moral?

by S. T. Karnick

Issue 95 - November 7, 2007

It's rather startling how much of the culture is exploring moral issues in increasingly traditional terms. As is perhaps most evident in ABC's *Dirty Sexy Money*, an ever-more common approach among producers of TV fiction series is to take flamboyant story material and apply it to intensely moral ends. An important aspect of this trend, also highly evident in *DSM*, is the notion that the rich are a good deal more morally suspect than the middle classes.

Hence it should hardly surprise us that not one but two new shows on the CW this year are based on the premise that life among the wealthy in Manhattan is so bad that even self-imposed exile is better.



Interestingly, the point of both shows is that the moral weakness and decadence of the New York wealthy is what makes life there really rather miserable.

The villains in *Gossip Girl* (Wednesdays at 8 p.m. EDT) exemplify this premise. Based on a highly popular series of young-adult novels, the show deals with the problems of wealthy prep-school teens on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

The villains are spoiled teens Blair Waldorf and Chuck Bass. Chuck tries to seduce a freshman girl at a party, using alcohol and smooth words as his weapons of choice, and when they fail he resorts to physical assault. Fortunately, his intended victim was smart enough to send a text message to her brother, who arrives in the nick of time to dispatch Blair's brother with a solid punch in the nose.

The only difference between this and a late-nineteenth-century stage melodrama is the hero's having neglected to say, "Unhand her, you brute!" before laying fist to beezzer.

Blair, the other villain, is the typical socially dominating high school queen we've seen in many such dramas. Blair, however, does have a pretty decent reason to be bitter. Her boyfriend, Nate, cheated on her with Blair's best friend, Serena. Serena left town and exiled herself to boarding school in penance, and her return for the subsequent school year sets a chain of new disturbances in motion.

In *Life Is Wild*, a "blended" family moves from New York City all the way to South Africa in order to remove a particularly vile and narcissistic son from the self-indulgent and thoroughly unproductive life he has fallen into there. The father is a veterinarian, who is going to help cure animals in a native village, and the mother is a divorce lawyer who is going to help restore the family's tourist lodge (owned for years by her husband's family) and get it running again.

Although naturally suffering some trepidation about the job ahead and the conditions in which they'll be living, she's glad to get away from the troubles to which she's been party as a divorce attorney. The children understandably have some trouble adjusting, and the writers and performers make each one's difficulties unique and based on their personality and family history. It is very well done in that regard.

In the pilot episode, the troubled oldest son actually made a bit of progress and got past his own whims for a moment, which was presented in a plausible and psychologically realistic manner without becoming smarmy or pat.

Clearly the show raises important questions about how we learn morals and develop personal character, and is intensely interested in the idea of redemption, if only in earthly terms. This emphasis on moral issues in TV dramas appears to be a serious trend and a real concern for the people who make these programs and put them on the air. That's good news for all of us.

S. T. Karnick maintains the American Culture website, <http://stkarnick.com>.

**E-mail the
Editor**

"Phony Soldiers" Ruckus

by Brent Bozell III

Issue 95 - November 7, 2007

The ruckus over the Rush Limbaugh "phony soldiers" statement is dying down. It ought not to. There is a huge story here.

What did Rush say? In a September 26 conversation with a caller to his program who claimed the media never interview "real soldiers," but just people out of the blue, Rush added for emphasis, "the phony soldiers."

The left saw its opportunity and pounced with a vengeance. Led by the George Soros-funded and Hillary Clinton-inspired Media Matters outfit, it unleashed a scorched-earth attack on Limbaugh for insulting the military, stating that any servicemen or women who might oppose the war in Iraq had been defamed by the talk show host as "phony soldiers."



Brent Bozell

The television networks, newspapers, and leftist blog sites were ablaze with stories about Democratic outrage. There were calls for his show to be yanked from the Armed Forces Radio Network. There were demands that Clear Channel make Rush apologize, and that advertisers pull their sponsorship.

Presidential candidates denounced him. Congressional leaders -- the usual crowd of Reid, Pelosi, Harkin, Kerry, etc. -- denounced him. A formal congressional resolution condemning Limbaugh was drawn up by Rep. Mark Udall (D- CO) and reportedly had over one hundred Democrat (and one Republican) signers. The message was clear: Limbaugh's anti-military insult could not, and would not be tolerated.

How disingenuous was this leftist attack on Limbaugh? Let us count the ways.

1. Before reviewing the facts of the case, one has to shake his head in disbelief that anyone would accuse Limbaugh of an anti-military bias. A day doesn't go by when he isn't praising our military on his radio program. He's visited the troops on the battlefield in Afghanistan, and brought comfort to our wounded at the Walter Reed Army hospital. He's raised and donated millions to military charities. It is no wonder that he is the single most popular personality on the Armed Forces Radio Network.
2. Less than two minutes after uttering the words "phony soldiers," Limbaugh elaborated on the subject, explaining exactly what he meant by the term. He named one Jesse Macbeth as an example of a phony soldier. Macbeth had become an overnight darling of the far left, a self-described Iraq war veteran and Purple Heart recipient man who posted a YouTube video denouncing American military atrocities he'd witnessed. Except he was never awarded a Purple Heart. He was never in Iraq. In fact, he was never in the military, period. He was tossed out of boot camp after four months. Macbeth is now in prison serving a five-month term for falsifying Army records and applying falsely for veterans' benefits. Limbaugh was right.
- Limbaugh also pointed that that he wasn't the first to discuss the Macbeth phony soldier story. Brian Ross had filed a report on this man several nights before, on ABC's World News. Mr. Ross even used the term "phony soldier" -- and not a soul on the left found fault with that.
3. So the left returned with another charge: Limbaugh had used the plural, "phony soldiers," therefore Limbaugh's sole example -- Macbeth -- was inadequate. So are there any other "phony soldiers" out there? Jeffrey Sullivan, the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Washington, thinks so. Besides prosecuting Macbeth, he's prosecuted another five "phony soldiers." Jim O'Neill, the assistant inspector general for investigations at the Veterans Administration, confirms that the

federal government is presently conducting another 60 such "stolen valor" cases. Rush was right, in spades.

And when Rush fought back, that military hawk Sen. Tom Harkin took to the floor of the Senate to denounce him for engaging in a publicity stunt, for ratings. In other words, Rush had no right to defend himself.

4. The left knows Rush was correct, yet, just as with the spurious racist accusations against Bill O'Reilly the week before, the attacks continued for days, unabated. This is no accident, and no coincidence. Yesterday it was MoveOn. Today it's Media Matters. This is the far left at its repugnant worst, perfectly content to destroy a man's reputation through dishonest attacks if it will further its agenda. Josef Stalin would be proud of this movement.

Rush has beaten them all back now. In fact, as with the Petraeus/"Betray Us" attacks by MoveOn, this newest round of attempted character assassination backfired, and did nothing but re-energize conservatives. But this won't stop the left. Tomorrow it will be Sean Hannity, or Mark Levin, or maybe Laura Ingraham. This group plays for keeps.

And what of all those media outlets giving aid and comfort to the leftists who attacked Rush? Now that we know there are several dozen cases of "phony soldier" scandals, just as Rush suggested, how many stories have they devoted to them, thus vindicating Rush? Check for a Jesse Macbeth story in a Nexis database search on CBS, NBC, and NPR. Search Time, Newsweek and USA Today. Look up the Washington Post, the New York Times and USA Today.

You won't find a one.

Mr. Bozell is president of the Media Research Institute

**E-mail the
Editor**

Media Praise Soviets

by Rich Noyes

Issue 95 - November 7, 2007

NewsBusters is celebrating its 20th anniversary by looking at some of the worst instances of bias since inception.



its

The best place to begin is with the liberal media and communism.

Probably the worst display of pro-communist propaganda to air on an American network was the seven-hour series 'Portrait of the Soviet Union,' produced by (you guessed it) Ted Turner. It aired back in March 1988 on Turner's TBS, and was narrated by 'Jaws' actor Roy Scheider. Here are a few excerpts from the first night's installment:

Video (0:43): [Windows](#) (1.36 MB), plus [MP3 audio](#) (213 kB).

Here are some excerpts:

"The Soviet Union, draped in history, born of bloody revolution, bound together by a dream that is still being dreamt. It is the dream of a socialist nation marching towards the first communist state. The Soviet Union, a mighty union. " "Once, the Kremlin was the home of czars. Today, it belongs to the people."

"Atheist though the state may be, freedom to worship as you please is enshrined in the Soviet constitution."

Some of the other classic quotes were:

"A Gulag Breeds Rage, Yes, but Also Serenity"

—New York Times headline over article on last Soviet political prisoners being released, February 12, 1992.

"Few tears will be shed over the demise of the East German army, but what about East Germany's eighty symphony orchestras, bound to lose some subsidies? Or the whole East German system, which covered everyone in a security blanket from day care to health care, from housing to education? Some people are beginning to express, if ever so slightly, nostalgia for that Berlin Wall." —CBS's Bob Simon, March 16, 1990 Evening News.

"[Fidel] Castro has delivered the most to those who had the least....Education was once available to the rich and the well-connected. It is now free to all....Medical care was once for the privileged few. Today it is available to every Cuban and it is free....Health and education are the revolution's great success stories."

—Peter Jennings, ABC's World News Tonight, April 3, 1989.

"Frankly, to be a poor child in Cuba may in many instances be better than being a poor child in Miami, and I'm not going to condemn their lifestyle so gratuitously."

—Eleanor Clift on The McLaughlin Group, April 8, 2000.

"For Castro, freedom starts with education. And if literacy alone were the yardstick, Cuba would rank as one of the freest nations on Earth. The literacy rate is 96 percent."

—Barbara Walters on ABC's 20/20, October 11, 2002.

Rich Noyes is senior editor NewsBusters published by The Media Research Center.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Science of the Climate Act

by Alan Caruba

Issue 95 - November 7, 2007

An energy-rationing bill has been introduced to address "global warming." The "Climate Security Act" would impose caps on how much carbon dioxide (CO²) emissions can be allowed and would institute an elaborate program to "trade" allowances among the industries and business affected.

But upon what science is this bill based?

Little noted during all the headlines concerning Al Gore's Nobel Peace Prize was the fact that it was shared with the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Among skeptical scientists I know, the emails were flying. Several had served as part of the vast array of scientists whose opinions on the various IPCC draft reports were requested and then ignored.

A lot of these expert reviewers are among the 2,000 scientists that the IPCC and Al Gore are always citing as being part of the "consensus" on global warming. The problem for both is that many really, really, really disagree that any planet-threatening global warming is occurring.

One of them is Dr. Vincent Gray, a New Zealand-based climate scientist who has been a part of the reviewing process since the IPCC came into being. He is one of those scientists who will not and cannot be shut up despite the din of the IPCC propaganda.

Briefly, Dr. Gray has a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Cambridge University, England, and his long career has included stints in France, Canada, China, and New Zealand. He has published more than a hundred scientific papers on energy and materials, plus a dozen in climate science.

So, following the announcement of the Nobel, Dr. Gray wrote to Professor David Henderson who has called for a "review" of the IPCC and its procedures. This is a nice way of saying that the Panel is so widely viewed as just one more corrupt United Nations instrumentality, a lot of scientists think it should be tossed in a garbage can behind the UN building.

Permit me to share some of Dr. Gray's thoughts with you.

Commenting on his initial belief that the IPCC would proceed on the basis of "scientific ethics" and that its conclusions would result from "facts, logic and established scientific and mathematical principles", Dr. Gray's experience revealed that, "Penetrating questions often ended without any answer. Comments on the IPCC drafts were rejected without explanation, and attempts to pursue the matter were frustrated indefinitely."

"I have been forced to the conclusion that, for significant parts of the work of the IPCC, the data collection and scientific methods employed are unsound...normal scientific procedures are not only rejected by the IPCC, but that this practice is endemic, and was part of the organization from the very beginning."

"I therefore consider that the IPCC is fundamentally corrupt."



Alan Caruba

Dr. Gray concluded that the only reform "I could envisage, would be its abolition." Okay, okay, I hear all the environmentalists saying, "but he's just one crazy, old New Zealand climate scientist. Boo! Hiss!" Character assassination is just one form of the corruption that is endemic to the entire environmental movement.

Undaunted, Dr. Gray continued, "The two main 'scientific' claims of the IPCC are the claim that 'the globe is warming' and 'increases in carbon dioxide emissions are responsible.' Evidence for both of this claims is fatally flawed."

Aw, gee, I'm not a scientist you're saying. What do I know? Well, if you know enough to be reading this, you know enough to wrap your brain around Dr. Gray's assertion that "No average temperature of any part of the earth's surface, over any period, has ever been made." If the earth's "average temperature" cannot be determined, how can you know that it's dramatically heating? How can you predict anything about an unknown?

As for the IPCC claims about CO², Dr. Gray points out that "they have suppressed no less than 90,000 measurements of atmospheric carbon dioxide made in the last 150 years. Some of these were made by Nobel Prize-winners and all were published in the best scientific journals."

The IPCC has depended on computer climate models for its claims and there is now a volume of papers demonstrating how they have repeatedly been proven to be inaccurate. As Dr. Gray points out, if you cannot validate these models as actually capable of making predictions, "no self-respecting computer engineer would dare to make use of a model for prediction." Anyway, "No computer climate model has ever been tested in this way, so none should be used to prediction."

"The most elaborate of all their 'evaluation' techniques is far more dubious," said Dr. Gray. "*Since they have failed to show that any models are actually capable of prediction, they have decided to 'evaluate' them by asking the opinions of those who originate them, people with a financial interest in their success.*" (Emphasis added.)

"Sooner or later all of us will come to realize," Dr. Gray concluded, "that this organization, and the thinking behind it, is phony. Unfortunately severe economic damage is likely to be done by its influence before that happens."

But that's the point of the IPCC!

If you can require that ethanol be substituted or just added to gasoline, you drive up the cost of corn to where the cost of everything else—like food—dependent on it costs more. Moreover, requiring the addition of ethanol increases refinery costs that are, in turn, passed on to consumers.

If you mandate that wind and solar energy be substituted to provide electricity for that provided by coal (over 50% in the USA) and other sources, then you assure that these two totally inadequate energy producers will drive up the cost to consumers.

If every kind of industry contributes to CO², then you can create an elaborate "cap-and-trade" scam to sell "credits" for the permission to continue in business. The consumers will pick up the costs involved.

On the chance that Dr. Gray is *not* some crazy, old New Zealander, maybe we should all be in the streets calling for the abolition of the IPCC and the defeat of the Climate Security Act.

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

The full text of Dr. Gray's letter is available [here](#).

**E-mail the
Editor**

S-CHIP Fiasco

by John Goodman

Issue 95 - November 17, 2007

If you're always on defense, eventually you lose. No matter how inept the other side, if they always have the ball, eventually they will cross your goal line.

This is common knowledge among sports fans everywhere. Yet the insight still has not sunk in with Republicans in Washington.



John Goodman

What should be done? Let's concede for the sake of argument that government (society as a whole) has a legitimate interest in kids' health insurance. Almost a decade ago, Gene Steuerle (Urban Institute) and I proposed a "least bad" solution to this problem. He didn't collaborate with me on this iteration, however, so give me all the blame for what follows.

The proposal is to combine three bad Republican ideas into one good idea - at least a strategically good idea. The bad ideas are (1) the \$1,000 child credit, (2) S-CHIP and (3) the refundable tax credit - all brought to you courtesy of the GOP. Here is how to create a new Phoenix from the ashes of bad public policies:

1. The \$1,000 child credit (currently in the tax code) should be conditional on proof of the child's insurance. No insurance, no credit. What could be more simple? Almost any credible insurance would count - employer plan, S-CHIP, Medicaid, Department of Defense, etc.
2. Make the credit refundable for families who earn too little to pay income taxes. Even if they have no tax liability, families would pay for their child's insurance premiums dollar-for-dollar with tax "refunds" up to \$1,000. (To discourage waste, some portion of the amount could be deposited in a flexible Health Savings Account - one that could wrap around any insurance plan.)
3. Pay for the refundable tax credit with funds currently being spent on S-CHIP and Medicaid, and money that currently goes to hospitals for uncompensated children's health care.

Why is this proposal better? How is this plan better than the Democrat's S-CHIP expansion proposal before Congress? Let us count the ways:

1. In one fell swoop, the federal government makes up to \$1,000 available for health insurance for every child in America - without spending any new money!!!
2. In one fell swoop, we wipe away the current arguments over who's poor versus who's middle class; who's deserving versus who's not deserving; etc.
3. This plan encourages people to drop government coverage in favor of private coverage - instead of the other way around! In fact, with any luck S-CHIP would wither on the vine. The children part of Medicaid would also probably wither on the vine. (This result alone makes the whole thing worthwhile.)
4. No longer would low-income children move in and out of eligibility for Medicaid, S-CHIP, employer coverage, etc., as their parents' incomes rise and fall. Instead they would have a continuing relationship with insurers (and therefore with providers), regardless of family income.

Finally, if all this works well for children (almost all of whom are healthy), maybe we could consider extending the idea to adults (some of whom are actually sick).

John Goodman is president of the National Center for Policy Analysis.

**E-mail the
Editor**

U.S. Business Dangers

by Bob Barr

Issue 95 - November 7, 2007

There's trouble brewing in South America, especially for U.S. companies that maintain a visible presence in countries such as Colombia. In fact, the problems boiling over in Colombia have ramifications for American companies in any country in which there is significant internal strife. Two recent court cases highlight the legal dangers – civil and criminal – facing U.S. multinationals.

In mid-September, a federal judge in Washington, D.C. accepted a guilty plea entered to criminal charges by Cincinnati-based Chiquita Brands International. The plea, which avoided criminal charges against any current or former Chiquita executives, required the corporation to pay a huge \$25 million fine. The company also had to admit it had previously paid "protection money" to at least one paramilitary group in Colombia; a group that had been entered on a U.S. government terrorist watch list.



Bob Barr

Chiquita's guilty plea and fine, however, is not likely to be the end of a very rocky and expensive road for the company. The Colombian government, along with a number of families in Colombia who allege the payments by Chiquita to the paramilitary group were responsible at least in part for murders committed by the group and international labor organizations, all are calling for the extradition to Colombia of the former Chiquita officials they say should be held criminally liable. Civil suits in U.S. courts for damages against U.S. companies that allegedly harm foreign persons in foreign countries are permissible under a 2004 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In fact, the second recent legal case that ought to be studied carefully by all multinational corporations involved just such a situation. In that case, recently concluded in federal court in Birmingham, Alabama-based Drummond Company – a major producer of coal – prevailed over allegations that it had made payments to paramilitary groups in Colombia, who in turn murdered several union organizers. While Drummond prevailed in its civil action – which was the first such lawsuit brought since the Supreme Court's 2004 ruling expanding the reach of the 1789 Alien Tort Claims Act – like Chiquita, its lawyers are likely to have plenty to keep them busy for the foreseeable future.

For these and other multinational companies the dilemma in which they increasingly are finding themselves will become much more acute in the months and years ahead. In fact, Coca-Cola already is defending charges by international labor groups that it engaged in suspect practices in Colombia.

In countries like Colombia plagued by violent insurgent groups, U.S. companies are placed in a serious dilemma. On the one hand, they have a responsibility to their employees and their shareholders to protect the lives and livelihood of the employees and the fiscal resources represented by their plants and offices in the foreign country. At the same time, the host country's ability to consistently marshal the military and police resources to provide adequate protection is often little more than a mirage; and sometimes there is not even the pretense of adequate protection. The ability or willingness of the U.S. government, through the American Embassy, to step into the breach and protect the human and financial resources of U.S. companies is virtually non-existent – unless the companies happen to be in Iraq, where massive protection is the order of the day. Laws in many countries in which American companies operate do not allow or else strictly limit

the ability of the foreign companies to provide significant armed protections themselves.

As a practical matter, the only viable option available to companies facing threats to its people and physical resources may be paying outside groups to help maintain security. In the post-911 world, however, such moves may net the corporation criminal charges if the entities to which it has paid for protection happen to appear on a State Department watch list of terrorist organizations. The Chiquita case illustrates how an American company can be squeezed in such a scenario; the Drummond case represents a civil hammer that is likely to be employed more and more to pressure companies. And, waiting in the wings, is the Democratic-controlled Congress, which already is gearing up for hearings sought by labor groups to beat up on U.S. companies in Colombia and elsewhere.

American multinationals will be finding the list of options that will neither land them in jail or subject them to massive fines, fast vanishing. The U.S. economy and our balance of payments – both of which depend in part on robust and active investments abroad by American companies – ultimately will be the loser in all this.

Bob Barr is a former Congressman from Georgia.

**E-mail the
Editor**

What's With Nobel?

by Dennis Avery

Issue 95 - November 17, 2007

In 1964, Martin Luther King won the Nobel Peace Prize for leading the non-violent crusade against racism and slavery—bettering not only America but the entire world.

In 1971, Willi Brandt won the Peace Prize for leading Germany's peaceful reintegration back into the "world family of nations," healing the destruction caused by Kaiser Wilhelm and Adolph Hitler with two World Wars that caused at least 70 million deaths.

In 1970, it went to my friend Norman Borlaug, the Green Revolution plant-breeder who: 1) saved 1 billion people from almost-immediate starvation, 2) prevented the plowdown of 16 million square miles of wildlands for more low-yield crops; and 3) just incidentally laid the foundation for the material abundance now spreading around the planet.

Now fast forward to look at recent Peace Prize winners:

In 1994, Yasser Arafat, the thuggish Islamic zealot who was lavishly paid to perpetuate Moslem/Jewish conflict in the Middle East. Arafat helped lay the groundwork for today's round-the-world suicide bombings.

In 2001, The UN's Kofi Annan: Did he end the genocide in Darfur? Stop the war in Kosovo? How about the billion-dollar UN corruption of Saddam Hussein's "oil for food" program—assisted informally by his son?

Now we get Al Gore, a ho-hum U.S. politician catapulted to rock-star status by a moderate and natural global warming cycle, which has been hysterically inflated by the Green movement, willing media collaborators, and massive government funding for unproven computerized climate "models." (Note: Mr. Gore's movie has just been found guilty in a British court of 11 serious untruths and/or unsubstantiated claims.)

Gore says:

- *Ice core evidence shows rising CO² levels raise earth's temperatures.* In fact, ice cores show the temperatures rising about 800 years before the CO² levels go up.
- *Mt. Kilimanjaro's melting glacier is proof of man-made warming.* In fact, the melting is due largely to local deforestation.
- *The Antarctic ice is melting.* Most studies say it's stable or adding ice.
- *Hurricane Katrina was caused by global warming.* Historic records show far more major, landfalling Caribbean hurricanes per decade from 1700–1850, during the Little Ice Age, than now.
- *Global warming could stop the Gulf Stream, and cause an Ice Age in Europe.* Recent studies offer no support to help Mr. Gore on this one.
- *Global warming is causing species extinctions and coral reef bleaching.* In fact, not one species has gone extinct due to warming. Coral reefs adjust to new temperatures—by bleaching.
- *A study shows polar bears drowning due to vanishing ice.* In fact, four polar bears drowned in a bad storm.



- *Greenland's ice could melt suddenly, causing a dangerous rise in sea levels.* In fact, it will take thousands of warming years to melt Greenland's ice cap.
- *Global warming is drying up Africa's Lake Chad.* The UK government agrees this is not true.
- *Gore's scary graphics show cities drowning in a 7-meter sea level rise, creating millions of refugees.* In fact, the 20th century increase was 6 inches and we've seen no acceleration. Even the UN climate change panel doesn't agree with Mr. Gore's scenario.
- *Rising seas have forced people to flee Pacific islands to New Zealand.* There is no record of any evacuation triggered by sea level rise.

Just one last question for our new Nobel Peace laureate: Why did most of our moderate modern warming take place before 1940 (with 1934 being the warmest year) and why haven't we had any warming over the last nine years? Could it possibly be the moderate natural 1,500-year cycle revealed in the ice cores and seabed sediments?

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. Readers may write him at the Center for Global Food Issues (www.cgfi.org) Post Office Box 202, Churchville, VA 24421.

**E-mail the
Editor**

AIDS Failure

by Carey Roberts

Issue 95 - November 17, 2007

Over the last 25 years, scientists have sampled a smorgasbord of strategies to halt the spread of AIDS: anti-retroviral drugs, vaccines, HIV testing, and so-called "safe sex" advice. Yet this modern-day Black Plague still spreads unchecked and now claims 3 million lives each year. "Unqualified failure" is the phrase that leaps to mind.

But a few years ago someone came up with a bright new idea – why not have persons take a protective drug just before becoming exposed to the deadly Human Immunodeficiency Virus? Hence the idea of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis – PREP – was born. Enterprising scientists cranked out research proposals and drug companies revved up production lines.

One promising drug was tenofovir, a medicine far cheaper than the other medicines. Groups like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation lined up to invest millions to test this new wonder potion.

In Cambodia scientists wanted to try out tenofovir with prostitutes, known to be at especially high risk. But activists got wind of the study and began to stage protests at international conferences. Needless to say, the study never got off the ground.

A second attempt in the Cameroon fared somewhat better. The researchers managed to enroll 400 sex workers ("sex workers" -- isn't *that* an interesting euphemism?). But then activists accused sponsor Family Health International of treating the women as "veritable guinea pigs" and a local TV station ran an exposé on the controversial study. In 2005 the Cameroon Ministry of Public Health pulled the plug.

Time for Plan B.

If tenofovir is too controversial, why not teach at-risk women to apply a vaginal gel that contains a virus-killing agent? The researchers theorized the vaginal microbicide would stop the transmission of the dreaded HIV virus into the woman's body and halt the heterosexual spread of the disease.

So once again they shopped around for prostitutes, this time launching their study in three African countries. But the initial results proved disastrous -- the women who used the vaginal gel more than three times a day had an *increased* risk of acquiring the feared HIV.

That wasn't the result they had hoped for. But the foundations had oodles of research money to hand out and scientists had resumés to expand. Plus, the activists were now claiming vaginal gels were a boon to female autonomy and self-empowerment. Who could argue with that?

So Family Health International launched a full-scale study in South Africa, Uganda, Benin, and India, this time using a new compound called cellulose sulphate. But early analyses revealed, once again, that women who used the vaginal gel were *more* likely to get the HIV virus. The decision was made this past January [to abort the high-profile study](#).

Headlines in the local newspapers screamed, "Medical research trial guinea pigs contract HIV" and "Study to prevent AIDS left me infected." Persons claimed that women were being "bought" to sleep with HIV-infected men. Women enrolled in other vaginal gel studies began to pull out. And one man burned his partner's gel supplies.



But the question still remained, why were the women who used the gel more likely to become infected?

That mystery was solved a few months ago. An article in the recent August issue of *AIDS Education and Prevention* announced this common-sense finding: "Frequency of sex increased significantly after enrollment. This increase appears to be owing to perceived protection from HIV and greater sexual pleasure afforded by the gel."

Yet the authors did not suggest the vaginal gel might have been responsible for imposing a gruesome death sentence on unsuspecting persons, and proffered no hint of remorse.

From the very beginning, the campaign to stop Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome has been held hostage by a variety of groups wielding narrow ideological and political agendas: the gay rights lobby demanding that public health programs not stigmatize homosexuals; the radical feminists with their gender liberation crusade; the Zero Population Growth zealots; and the funding organizations with their left-leaning schemes.

And let's not forget the United Nations AIDS program that has been known to inflate disease statistics in order to justify its lavish budget.

When all is said and done, the deadly virus continues its ghoulish march. But there *is* a proven way to stop the global AIDS epidemic: Have sex only with a single partner in a long-term committed relationship.

It's that simple. One of these days, we'll all figure that lesson out.

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

**E-mail the
Editor**

False Rape Charges

by Glenn Sacks

Issue 95 - November 7, 2007

The University of Maryland is under fire for denying activists from the Clothesline Project, a campus rape-awareness event, permission to publicly name alleged rapists. The university cites the danger of lawsuits from those named, and that's certainly a reasonable fear. Yet the university should also oppose naming alleged rapists because it could defame and harm innocent men.



A significant percentage of allegations of sexual assault are false. According to a study conducted by former Purdue sociologist Eugene J. Kanin and published in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, in more than 40 percent of the cases reviewed, the complainants eventually admitted that no rape had occurred. Mr. Kanin also studied rape allegations in two large Midwestern universities and found that 50 percent of the allegations were recanted by the accuser.

In 1985, the Air Force conducted a study of 556 rape accusations. More than one-quarter of the accusers admitted, either just before they took a lie detector test or after they had failed it, that no rape occurred. A further investigation by independent reviewers found that 60 percent of the original rape allegations were false.

Craig Silverman, a former Colorado prosecutor known for his zealous prosecution of rapists during his 16-year career, says that false rape accusations occur with "scary frequency." As a regular commentator on the Kobe Bryant rape trial for Denver's ABC affiliate, Mr. Silverman noted that "any honest veteran sex assault investigator will tell you that rape is one of the most falsely reported crimes." According to Mr. Silverman, a Denver sex-assault unit commander estimates that nearly half of all reported rape claims are false.

Listing cases of false rape allegations could fill volumes. One example: Six young men recently faced a potential life sentence in prison after Tamara Anne Moonier, a young Orange County, Calif., woman, accused them of kidnapping and raping her at gunpoint. The men are free today only because one of them taped the encounter, leading Ms. Moonier to admit she lied. The video showed Ms. Moonier actively directing the participants during the sexual encounter.

The politics of the Clothesline Project - which encourages women to see themselves and other women as victims and to rage at the patriarchy - can unintentionally encourage young women to make spurious accusations. For example, during the 2005 campuswide sexual assault awareness week at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., then-23-year-old Desiree Nall told police that she was raped by two men in a college bathroom. Fear and panic swept the campus as police initiated a manhunt for the rapists.

Police noticed many inconsistencies in Ms. Nall's story, and one female police investigator stated that there was "no evidence to support the sexual battery complaint filed by Desiree Nall." According to press reports, Ms. Nall, then the president of the Brevard County Chapter of the National Organization for Women, eventually told police that she was "not a victim of a sexual battery, as earlier reported in her sworn statements."

One TV reporter said that many believed that Nall was "trying to make a statement by calling attention to herself in a fake rape case." Another reporter wondered, "Did she take her cause too far?" Feminists' lack of concern over the harm caused by false rape allegations is evident in the fact that even today Nall remains in the leadership of Brevard County NOW.

Jessica Valenti, author of the book *Full Frontal Feminism: A Young Woman's Guide to Why Feminism Matters*, has criticized the university's prohibition. She explains that for women, "There's power in naming."

She is correct; the protesters have a lot of power. They have the power to destroy an innocent young man's reputation, college life and career. They have the power to imperil an innocent student's safety by setting him up for vigilante retribution. It's a power that should not be afforded.

Glenn Sacks' columns on men's and fathers' issues have appeared in dozens of the largest newspapers in the United States. He invites readers to visit his website at www.GlennSacks.com.

This column first appeared in The Baltimore Sun

**E-mail the
Editor**

Clinton Coronation?

by George Liebmann

Issue 95 - November 17, 2007

A rash of recent newspaper stories have proclaimed, a year in advance of the Presidential election, Sen. Hillary Clinton to be the next Democratic nominee, and the next President. The fixation of these stories is on campaign contributions and poll results, a sort of 'inside baseball' that our great newspapers now seem to regard as central to their informing function. But the oceans of ink expended in recirculating data provided by campaign organizations shed remarkably little light on what her interests in life are, what sort of public officer she has been, what her education has been, what methods she regards as acceptable or unacceptable, what campaign promises she has made and what their implications are, what sorts of people she surrounds herself with, what standards she will apply in making appointments, whether her political style is characterized by candor or the opposite, what importance she attaches to the less fashionable guarantees of the Bill of Rights, the vertical separation of powers, or federalism and localism, whether she is tolerant or vengeful in her attitude to those who differ, and whether she is a realist, a chauvinist, an opportunist, or a 'liberal imperialist' in her approach to international relations. Such questions have not been seriously asked about her, or about any of the other candidates. They deserve answers.



George Liebmann

The conviction of many that Mrs. Clinton's presidency will be the Clinton Presidency redux finds little support in history. Men and women equipped with power do not necessarily behave as their close relatives have done. For this we have the example of the current President, as well as innumerable illustrations from the history of monarchies. Filial ties, based on a common upbringing and social background, are apt to be deeper than spousal ones in predicting political behavior, even that of parties to a less unconventional marriage than that of the Clintons. The behavior of Edward VIII, we may recall, bore little resemblance to that of either his father or his brother. Kaiser Wilhelm II did not vindicate the hopes placed in his short-lived father. The list of available examples is a long one. Bill Clinton, a man who desired to be universally loved, may be regarded as the most benign emigrant from Arkansas since Al Capp's Schmoo. The bunker may be his wife's natural habitat.



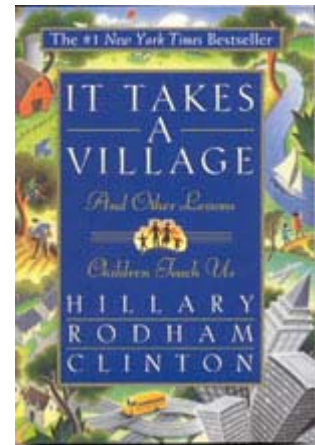
What we do know prompts more questions. What, to ask a very British question, is Mrs. Clinton's 'hinterland'? What interests does she have in life other than the acquisition and exercise of political power? What are we to make of her much-vaunted educational reform campaign in Arkansas, productive of many speaking opportunities but few tangible achievements? What of her tenure as Chairperson of the federal Legal Services Corporation, which thought that political contributions to state referendum campaigns was a suitable use of federal funds? What of the over-enthusiasm for the criminalization of politics attributed to her during her stint as a Watergate special prosecutor, or the investigations of the New York police department threatened while Giuliani was a Senate candidate, which disappeared when he withdrew?

What of the health care task force, with its anti-democratic premise that 'complexity is our ally' and its fiscal projections, deflated by the Congressional Budget Office, asserting that the improvements could be fully financed by 'savings' and an increase in the cigarette tax? This was not the style of David Lloyd-George who declared, in presenting the National Insurance Act of 1911 to the House of Commons "it will cost money, and it will be worth it!". Nor was its substance respectful of professional values, stampeding once-independent physicians into 'managed care' groups. Mrs. Clinton says she has learned from this experience. And what has she learned? To do more for the insurance companies! That the system is

complex, that the country is diverse, that its civil service is not up to French or British standards, and that reforms require local governance and market signals—this we have not heard from Mrs. Clinton. The United States cannot be a Greater Sweden.

Mrs. Clinton's memoirs, unlike those of her husband, reflect no intellectual curiosity, quest, or pilgrimage. What does she read, what has she read, what impact has it had? This we do not know. As for methodology, we do know some things, and they are not encouraging. Does her presentation of an award to Anita Hill, for her 'courage' in being dragged forward by congressional staff to make ten-year-old allegations that were both unprovable and irrelevant presage further use of sexual defamation as a political weapon, or have lessons been learned from the Lewinsky saga? Will dissenters within her party be denied speaking rights, like the elected Governors of Pennsylvania and Kansas in 1992? Will there again be a clean sweep of U.S. Attorneys, invoked by the Bush administration to justify its purge of 'difficult' U.S. Attorneys, or has something been learned from this experience also? Mrs. Clinton professes to believe that the first action was legitimate, the second not. But it was Mr. Churchill who advanced as one of the tests by which freedom might be known in the modern world "Are the courts of justice free from all association with political parties?"

What of her promise of universal federally-funded preschool? What does that say to parents who want to stay home, at least part-time, during 'the magic years' when their children are very young? "Parents", Bertrand Russell once said, "are apt to be fond of their children and do not want them to be fodder for political schemes. The state cannot be expected to have the same attitude." What of the \$5,000 child bond she has proposed? Why is this use of funds deemed more prudent than a comparable investment in science education in high schools? Or is the virtue of this scheme that it does not make trouble for the teacher's union, however inconsistent it may be with the notions of earned entitlement that have informed most successful American social legislation: the Homestead Act, the Social Security Act, the G.I. Bill, the Welfare Reform law (which Mrs. Clinton opposed and which her husband twice vetoed)?



What of "Hillaryland", a staff rivaled in its secretiveness only by that of the Vice President? Have any of its denizens drafted a successful statute or administered a successful program, or are they all obsessed with electoral mechanics, and only electoral mechanics? Are pollsters and political consultants likely again to participate on equal terms with the Secretary of the Treasury in meetings to determine domestic policy? Are we to have another 'affirmative action' domestic cabinet, whose members spend inordinate amounts of time dodging indictments, seeking pardons, or enjoying expense accounts, or will our problems of transportation infrastructure, secondary education, and mismanagement of public lands be effectively dealt with? Is the moral authority of the administration likely to be squandered by early and obvious payoffs to interest groups?

What does Mrs. Clinton believe about the budget deficit, about social security, about medicare? She has declined to say. She appears to be against raising the retirement age in a rapidly aging society, against private accounts, and against benefit reductions. The remaining options are not pretty ones: increased wage bases, which erode political support for social security and fall heavily on small businessmen, increases in already high and regressive payroll tax rates, or the vigorous operation of the printing press. Where does Mrs. Clinton stand, or is she to be given a free pass?

Finally, there are the questions of separation and division of powers. With respect to both Iraq and Iran, Mrs. Clinton has voted to aggrandize presidential power. Her defense of the writ of habeas corpus, and her opposition to the confirmation of Alberto Gonzales, were scarcely robust. In her memoirs, she refers to the posse committatus act as something in the nature of an obscure nuisance. Her husband greatly expanded federal criminal jurisdiction; she has been an enthusiastic supporter of the 'hate crimes' bill. What, in her view, are the limits on federal executive and prosecutorial power, or are there any? Has there not been essential continuity between the Justice Department of Reno and that of Ashcroft and Gonzales; between the thinking that led to the Kosovo War and the

first bombing of a European capital since 1945 and that which led to the Iraq War? Is she pleased by the present state of Kosovo, or does she, like the press, avert her eyes?

How can a President lead, without disclosing her views and purposes? Elections are where mandates are obtained. And what reason is there to think that accountability and constitutional government can survive a President who has never held a proper press conference? It is not too soon to seek answers to these questions.

*George Liebmann, a Baltimore lawyer, is the author of *The Common Law Tradition: A Collective Portrait of Five Legal Scholars* (Transaction Books, 2005).*

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Editor**

Third Party Talk

by Paul Weyrich

Issue 95 - November 17, 2007

Recently there has been considerable talk about a third party, which originated from an informal meeting in Salt Lake City called by Robert K. Fischer, President of Fischer Furniture, Inc., Rapid City, South Dakota. The session gathered steam when Dr. James Dobson, perhaps the most influential pro-family leader, stated that he would consider a third party if an unacceptable GOP candidate were nominated for President.



Paul M. Weyrich

The statement immediately caused a media firestorm. Gary L. Bauer, who is an associate of Dobson, denounced the idea, saying this would guarantee Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) the election. Tony Perkins, President of the Family Research Council, usually seen as a close collaborator of Dobson, distanced himself from the third-party idea.

Morton C. Blackwell, President of the Leadership Institute and Virginia Republican National Committeeman, believes that it is easier to overthrow a political party than it is to form a third party. Blackwell is the expert in practical politics.

I agree with Blackwell although perhaps it would be useful to examine the criteria needed to create a third party. Such an examination could be relevant if one of the parties would embrace a position anathema to a major segment of its grassroots. If the Democratic Party were to embrace the Second Amendment and call for the right to bear arms there would be a grassroots revolt. Such an occurrence could be sufficient to collapse the Democrats and pave the way for a third party. Likewise, if the Republicans, the pro-life party since 1980, were to repudiate that position there would be a substantial grassroots walk-out, perhaps enough to pave the way for a third party.

I believe it would require three steps to create a new and viable third party. First, major figures from either existing parties would need publicly to defect. For instance, if the two Oklahoma Senators, Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) and Governor Mitt Romney held a press conference stating that the Republican Party no longer represents their beliefs and views, in turn, they would be creating a new party, perhaps called the Christian Democrats.

Secondly, the third-party effort would require a multi-millionaire prepared to spend his own money for a Presidential campaign. This individual would be required to spend millions in order to earn a ballot position within each state. Having earned the ballot for the new party and seeing that his candidacy were going nowhere, this great American might well drop out, leaving the third party ballot positions to somebody else, perhaps Governor Romney, who could be nominated at a hastily called convention. To leave the ballot positions to the current situation would be utter chaos. The multi-millionaire would be indispensable.

Third, the new party would require the defection of a major media outlet. The Democrats would require THE NEW YORK TIMES or the WASHINGTON POST. The Republicans would require Fox News Channel. True, Roger Ailes, whom Rupert Murdoch selected to put together the Fox News Channel, was a Republican operative before the Nixon Presidency. Ailes is known as one of the most able operatives in the nation. Under his leadership Fox News Channel has been a tremendous success. Not only is Fox News Channel the top cable news channel but it is giving cable networks a run for their money. Ailes has achieved this by having a Republican base with a conservative twist. In other words, while the channel favors the Republican Party, it always is open to a conservative viewpoint.

In my opinion, these three developments would be required for a third party to be successful. If important political figures were to distance themselves from the GOP it would not necessarily be a ticket to Clinton's election. True, the Republicans would be divided but if a multi-millionaire not only

assisted the third party in obtaining ballot positions and invited his fellow multi-millionaires to join the cause still would need the allegiance of some key political figures.

If Fox News Channel would implicitly not go along with the new party, an alternative could be the WALL STREET JOURNAL. That paper has not been pro-life as such but now that it is owned by Murdoch it might implicitly go along. If it were clear that the Murdoch empire were along side the GOP and were hostile toward the Christian Democrats, the third party effort would fail. That is why Morton Blackwell stated that it would be easier to overthrow the Republican Party than to start a new party. All three developments would be required for a third party.

If the walkout of Republicans grassroots were dramatic enough and if it enticed major figures to join, which in turn caused millionaires to follow along and caused major media continually to provide favorable treatment, a third party could work. Hubert H. Humphrey's dramatic walkout from the Democratic Party in 1948 into the arms of a new party combined with a sympathetic media and still it didn't work. Why? There was no other major defection and no money followed.

Could Dobson, himself a major figure, trigger all of the ingredients for a new party if there were a walkout from the GOP? I doubt it. Loyalty is too strong. Maybe Dobson could find multi-millionaires to help but having a major media operation to be sympathetic would be almost impossible. He could try the 1,100 local and national radio talk-show hosts. But managing that in a short time frame would be next to impossible. I am afraid that were Dobson to pull out we would be looking at President Hillary Rodham Clinton in 2009.

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

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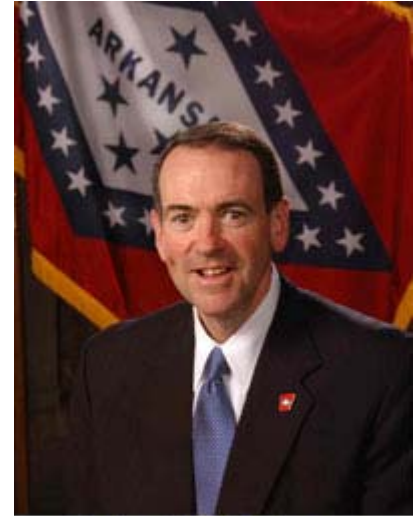
GOP Race Wide Open

by *Scott Rasmussen*

Issue 95 -November 7, 2007

In the race for the Republican Presidential Nomination, the more you look at the numbers, the more you realize how wide open the race really is.

During this past week, many pundits noted how well [Mike Huckabee](#) did in the [Rasmussen Reports poll of the Iowa caucus](#). Far fewer commented on the fact that six-out-of-ten Likely Caucus Participants say they might change their mind between now and January 3. Think about that for a moment. How can anybody really be ahead or behind if 60% of the participants are willing to change their mind.



Mike Huckabee

Other polling from last week shows that, on a national basis, [John McCain is still struggling to stay in double digits among Likely Republican Primary Voters](#). His negative ratings among the GOP base remain far too high for someone hoping to capture the [party's endorsement](#). But, in general election polling, McCain is in a dead heat with both [Hillary Clinton](#) and [Barack Obama](#). In those match-ups, he's doing better than any of the other GOP hopefuls.

Where does that leave the race? First, it leaves Republicans less optimistic than Democrats about their chances of winning the White House. [Less than a quarter of Republican voters think any of their team's candidates are Very Likely to win it all in November 2008](#). Among Democrats, [50% believe Hillary Clinton is Very Likely to win](#).

Second, it shows that the months of campaigning have done little to sort out the prospects of leading candidates. At this point, it's fairly easy to note that [Tom Tancredo](#), Ron Paul, and Duncan Hunter are not going to capture the nomination.

It's also fairly easy to suggest that Mike Huckabee and John McCain are very, very long shots. It is hard to see them getting the nomination without major mistakes from all the other campaigns. But, given the volatility of the race, it's not quite possible to rule them out.

Among the top three candidates—Giuliani, Thompson, and Romney—it remains much easier to show why each of them should lose the nomination rather than win it. But, barring a major surprise, one of those three will be the Republican nominee in 2008.

*Scott Rasmussen, president of Rasmussen Reports, has been an independent pollster for more than a decade. Rasmussen Reports' [Election 2006](#) coverage has been praised for its accuracy and reliability. Michael Barone, Senior Writer for U.S. News & World Report and co-author of *The Almanac of American Politics*, mentions, "One clear lesson from the Republican victory of 2004 and the Democratic victory of 2006 is that the best place to look for polls that are spot on is [RasmussenReports.com](#)."*

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Editor**

Truths We Must Face

by Joseph Barrett

Issue 95 - November 7, 2007

Truth 1. Social issues will not be important in the 2008 election.

Truth 2. There is no viable Conservative Movement. There is not one conservative group that has the knowledge or where-with-all to carry a Swing Precinct in a Swing or Battleground State. Even Virginia has become a battleground state.

Truth 3. 21% of all Americans have walked away from this President and his party. They voted for him in 2004. Poof. Now they are gone.

Truth 4. The Reagan Revolution was a one night stand. No one tired to make it durable. No one thought to get a ring. People now read into it what they want to read into it. The House of Bush walked away from Ronald Reagan as soon as they were sworn in. Many disaffected Democrats and independents who voted for RR walked away as a result.

Truth 5. To win, the GOP has to fashion a winning message with a strong personality to re-attract non-Evangelical Christians, Catholics, and the Warrior Class without walking away from its base.

Truth 6. The Fox network is the mouth piece not of conservatism but for the Rudy Campaign.

Truth 7. Christian political activists have no moral authority outside their own tribal encampment

Truth 8. The veteran groups carry no weight because they can not even send out a questionnaire to candidates let alone endorse one. Having 1,000 vets attend a national meeting to hear a politician is not as effective as putting 100 vets on the streets working door to door for someone.

Truth 9. The people who fear and loathe Hillary Clinton are not as organized as the people who love her.

Truth 10. Politics is a tale told by an idiot full of sound and fury signifying nothing. If there are indeed tides running in the affairs of men and states then someone better get down to the beaches and help catch the one that is now leaving.



Hillary Clinton

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Editor**

Soldiers' Angels

by Bruce Eberle

Issue 95 - November 7, 2007

Soldiers' Angels is a volunteer based, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by Patti Patton-Bader, mother of Sgt. Brandon Varn, who recently returned home from a years deployment to Iraq. Soldiers' Angels is a national organization with members in all fifty states and Puerto Rico, and several friendly countries who support our brave men and women in uniform as they carry out their mission. Soldiers' Angels was incorporated in the state of Nevada in June of 2003. Soldiers' Angels mission is to provide aide and comfort to the men and women of the United States Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and the Coast Guard and their amazing families. The slogan describes the motivation behind Soldiers' Angels. By working together and sharing a common vision of service, the volunteers of Soldiers' Angels send care to deployed soldiers and their loved ones at home.



To date its volunteers have sent tens of thousands of care packages and hundreds of thousands of letters to our deployed heroes; they have helped those who have been wounded with our First Response Packs directly at the Combat and Support Hospitals (CASH) and at the major hospital in Germany, as well as providing care and comfort to those who are now in our military hospitals here at home; they have provided aid to military families in need; they have provided flights to soldiers on leave or in emergency situations and to their families to be with their loved ones upon return from Iraq and Afghanistan; they have provided level III KEVLAR Armor blankets to provide our heroes with some protection in their vehicles when it was needed; they help to honor the families whose loved ones have paid the ultimate price for our freedom and safety. This and much, much more has been accomplished by the many volunteers of this organization with the assistance of our generous supporters on behalf of the grateful citizens of the United States of America.

From its very inception, the focus of Soldiers' Angels has been:

Helping to bring home healthy soldiers.

"May No Soldier Go Unloved"

Its founder, Patti Bader, has been nominated for very special recognition. It is an amazing story of how she founded Soldiers' Angels and now provides incredible support for our troops in the field. Soldiers' Angels has 145,000 volunteers and the work they do is beyond words. Their web site is <http://www.soldiersangels.org/>.

I hope you will consider going to <http://www.microsoft.com/industry/government/federal/aboveandbeyondthankyou.msp> and voting for Patti.

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Editor**

Reader Comments

Issue 95 - November 7, 2007

Editor: Hey; who needs this "Congress' Attorney General" candidate, particularly at this time? How about someone with a little "Brass" in his spine? Where is President Bush on this? Is he not listening???? I'd pull this guy so darned fast his "Skivvies" would still be in the laundry!! Bob Langelius, White Plains, NY

Editor: Your "Congress' Attorney General" mentions at the end that as a weakened president, George W. Bush might be subject to pressure from Michael Mukasey. Weakened president? Before he leaves office, his popularity will soar because he has done great work; yes with a few mistakes but his greatness will be recognized. He is face to face with nuclear war and he will stand fast and show the world. He has the power of truth and that is the best asset. Braincelli

Editor: "Congress' Attorney General" is another excellent, well researched and factual article. It's full of information I've not seen reported anywhere. Makes me wonder who is advising President Bush. Sincerely, Rich Byman

Editor: Regarding Joseph Morris' "Embarrassing Gore News," have Al Gore or any of his fellow liars explained why GLOBAL WARMING has been going on since the last ice age, 10,000 years ago? Was it prehistoric SUV's? Wedgethread

Editor: It's too bad that the correct information in Joseph Morris' "Embarrassing Gore News" does not get through to the major networks who are still promoting Gore's lies. I don't think they (major networks) would tell the truth even if it were to their advantage. Keep up the good work. ME

Editor: Regarding Joseph Morris' "Embarrassing Gore News" do you know that in 1925 there was a terrible 18 month draught in Georgia and South Carolina? The Savannah River almost dried up. In 1930 there was the Dust Bowl. The Missouri River almost dried up and the farmers lost their farms. In 1934 there were terrible floods with 105 degrees in northern cities in July—and no air conditioning. In 1938 there was the worst Hurricane season on record. There were no satellites to see storms at sea that bothered no one. Now where were the greenhouse gasses then? There were none. So how can they claim today's weather is caused by CO2 when it is an identical situation of that time period of 1925 through 1938? This information should be thrown in their face over and over again to SHUT THEM UP. Lowell Jarrett, Hendersonville, NC

Editor: Have you considered sending Joseph Morris' "Embarrassing Gore News" to Bill O'Reilly of FOX NEWS? I think it's something in which he would have great interest. M. A. Hoban

Editor: Dennis Avery's "Chesapeake Sinking?" brings to mind that when I was in high school in New Jersey, I was told there was good news and bad news about New Jersey. The good news was that it was sinking into the Atlantic Ocean. The bad news was that the rate was less than an inch per year. It would appear that the same thing applies to the Chesapeake. M. Ryan

Editor: SHALOM. I was shocked by S.T. Karnick's "Boys Will Be Girls" article on the extensive feminization of men that we have reached today. What an atrocity to boys and all folks in our and the following generations. I pray the USA turns around and prevents the next ' Sodom and Gomorrah ' judgment by our Creator on this sinful rebellious nation. It seems like most TV and movies, and music should be boycotted as well as those companies and individuals who promote them. Kay Levitan , MN

Editor: I agree with S.T. Karnick in "Boys Will Be Girls" that the war against males has already resulted in disaster and will lead to more in the future. All of this results from an ideological commitment to sexual equality in every way. Thanks for your observation and article. Blessings, Jakob Heckert

Editor: I just finished reading your "Biased Hollywood Ten Tales" by Spencer Warren. I found the article to be a terrific review of just how insidious bias can be smoothed over and fed to unsuspecting viewers. I felt this was an outstanding article exposing the obvious bias of America's leftists. I am an avid old movie watcher. I am by no means a buff or capable of spewing out facts. I just love old movies. Ever since TCM came on the air, I have watched many, many movies. When it was announced Ted Turner had acquired the library of films, there were articles about fears he would ruin the library or colorize films the Directors intended to be shown only in black & white. That issue simply does not bother me. However, over the years I have listened to the babble of Robert Osborne and selected to flip channels until the movie I want to watch has already started. I feel no need to listen to Osborne pontificate "his" feelings and interpretations. And, by his comments, I highly suspected he was communicating an agenda and not facts related to the movies. Thanks for this article and its observations. Bias in America will cause us untold harm as those seeking to end this constitutional democracy use all sorts of ploys to undermine our system and nation. Steve Ralston, Columbia, PA

Editor: Regarding David Keene in "Split If Giuliani?" I wish the conservative press (what little there is of it) would stop following the Liberal Media who want either one of the four top candidates to be the Republican nominee. Why do you think these polls are so skewed to Giuliani--- BECAUSE THEY KNOW HE WOULD NEVER GET THE SUPPORT OF THE BASE. I do not want to go to the polls in 2008 and hold my nose to vote. I WILL NOT VOTE FOR GIULIANI AND I AM NOT ALONE. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I SIMPLY WILL NOT VOTE. Many women will not vote for Thompson because his wife is so much younger than him. Call it superficial if you would like, but the reality is women resent men who (whether true or not) "dump the old wife for a younger one". Romney is too slick and has changed so often he is not trustworthy and McCain is all for McCain and he hardly is conservative. When Huckabee gets a chance to speak he is on fire and the polls show that. The Conservative press has to start playing him up so that the Liberal media is NOT SHOVING THE LOSERS DOWN OUR THROAT. You have the power to get a good candidate the spotlight he needs, use it. Corinn Dahm, Ph.D.

Editor: I agree with David Keene in "Split If Giuliani?" that if religious/values conservatives split from the Republicans, they are conceding the 2008 contest to Hillary (likely with Obama) for 8 years, with a likely Democratic Congress ready to skewer the American taxpayer. As a recent visitor to in-laws in DC who style themselves "progressives," I learned not only do they oppose any and all Republicans/conservatives, whom they consider religious extremists no better than the Taliban, but also any concept of national defense or traditional identity. They are awaiting Hillary with baited breath, as they expect she'll immediately hire them and together, they'll start turning the US into Sweden/Finland, much "better" and "compassionate" nations than today's America. If the break-aways think their so-called principles are worth abandoning the US to virulent socialists, I have no respect for them. Giuliani is a proven fiscal conservative. He is a proven elected leader and traditional American. He returned \$10,000,000 to a Saudi Prince after 911 without any scandal, such as Hillary needed to give back Hsu's contributions--and they came from a man of no visible income. He lowered taxes in NYC 23 times for 20%. He halved welfare from 14% to 7% and put 640,000 onto workfare. He says he'll seal the southern border, and he has proven a man of his word politically. You can always find something wrong with any candidate. A president cannot of his own overturn Roe or change local and state gun laws or reverse the supreme court of Massachusetts and its gay marriage ruling. Giuliani will not allow military humiliation in the Middle East or the kind of Carter economy our Vietnam debacle brought. He may not have a wonderful marital history or always attend church, but these are not reasons to yield the 2008 election to people who want to change the US into a 3rd-rate European socialist dream. Renny Hartmann, Toms River, NJ

Editor: It may be true--as Scott Rasmussen says in "Who Is Conservative?--that the polls show that Fred Thompson "seems" to be conservative to many. However it does not change the fact that Mitt Romney is the most conservative in every aspect of his life. The mainstream media seem to try to find anything they can to say the opposite. But the facts are the facts and Romney is the best thing this country has seen in decades. I and my full extended family and all of my friends see this too be the case. I think there are a lot of politicians who seem to be very scared of a man like Romney, who; throughout his career has a record of taking the time to go through the books and identify everything that is in excess and not in the true interest of the whole. Those individuals who are connected to "earmarking" and "pork barrel spending" have much to fear from a Romney Presidency. They also have to fear the fact that he has always accomplished what ever he has put his efforts towards. I am confident that as time goes on, the masses shall see all of this evidence also, and he will come off triumphant! Timothy Goins and family!

Editor: I'm greatly enjoying ConservativeBattleline Online, which is a very energetic but thoughtful publication, which I know from experience is very hard to accomplish. SK

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