



**Presidential
Candidates
Respond to ACU
Questionnaire**

**CONSERVATIVE
BATTLELINE
ONLINE**

*The "Bold Colors" Conservative Voice in
Washington*

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Predicting 2008

by Donald Devine

Issue 98 - December 26, 2007

Surprised that former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee now leads the Iowa polls?

It was forecast here last year

(<http://acuf.org/issues/issue73/061210news.asp>).

The bad news for conservatives is that it was also predicted that Baptist minister Huckabee could not thereafter win more libertarian New Hampshire, that a loss in Iowa by front-running former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney would shatter his equally large early lead in the Granite State, and that these developments would open up the possibility of a Rudy Giuliani Republican nomination.



Mike Huckabee

The former New York Mayor has been wisely minimizing his chances for victory in the early contests beginning on January 3, 2008, claiming he does not have to win until the seventh contest in Florida on January 29, where he is running well. Although Giuliani does not poll strongly in either of the two first contests, he has remained in third place in Iowa and sometimes second in New Hampshire. If Romney fares badly in Iowa, he could lose his neighboring-state advantage in a nanosecond. Nearly three-fourths of Romney supporters in New Hampshire already say they could change their mind and vote for someone else. Giuliani still remains the most likely candidate to fill his shoes there.



Mitt Romney

Then it really gets interesting. Once Giuliani becomes the frontrunner, both social and economic conservative leaders could switch to the most viable remaining candidate in an effort to stop the pro-abortion, pro-gay preferences, anti-gun, pro-waterboarding, pro-campaign-finance, and tax-increasing Mayor. If Romney hangs on to a reasonably-strong second in New Hampshire, it might be him. Fred Thompson would do well if he broke out of the pack in Iowa. Ron Paul is less likely but he will exceed expectations. It could even be John McCain, for all of his troubles with the conservative establishment, if his recent endorsement by the influential Manchester Union Leader results in a strong second or even a third place compared to the others.

Michigan comes next and might lift Romney, whose father was a long-time former governor. Conversely, this advantage might lead potential king-makers and media to discount the state. South Carolina looms very large just four days later. This first southern state contest is the last opportunity to displace Giuliani before Florida and Super-Duper Tuesday close the door. It would take a massive and determined movement by a sizeable group of conservative leaders to affect the outcome but it might just happen and could block Giuliani.

Real Clear Politics' average poll numbers in South Carolina show a virtual four-way tie between Huckabee, Romney, Thompson and Giuliani, with McCain just a few points back. Whoever among these four looks the most competitive against Giuliani must be the social conservative choice, and probably of the economic conservatives too. Romney would be an easy pick for he will have the needed funding for the onslaught following but if he is too wounded by then money will not matter. If it is someone else, the choice must be made immediately after New Hampshire or it will be too late.

Even assuming conservatives could unite on a candidate and could deliver for him, Giuliani could easily have half of the delegates needed for victory after Super-Duper-day, February 5. But if he does not do much better than that, he can still be defeated because he will have already won his

most likely delegates. The advantage, although only a slight one, shifts to the conservative alternative, if there is one.



John McCain

If Giuliani is the nominee, he will almost certainly lose the general election. His campaign has been marvelously effective in making the case that he is the only one who can defeat Hillary Clinton. It can do so only by confusing popular votes with Electoral College votes. Giuliani will run better on the two coasts with their large populations but, although he will run closer to her in most of them above the Mason-Dixon Line, he will still lose those states to Mrs. Clinton. As the 2000 election proved, Electoral votes count and Giuliani will lose more of them in the South and Midwest than any other potential GOP nominee.

No party has won a national election whose preceding president had as low ratings as George W. Bush has at the beginning of the campaign year. In addition, Republicans have twice as many seats at risk in the Senate and have a large number of retirees in the House, so control of Congress is just about out of the question. Likewise, any Republican should lose to any Democrat in the presidential election. But Sen. Clinton is not "any

Democrat" and her high unpopularity among the general public gives the GOP a chance to win--but only a chance--if Giuliani is not its nominee. If he is, too many conservatives will just stay home.

Reading the tea leaves, there is only one path to a possible Republican presidential victory in 2008. It requires an early post-New Hampshire conservative consensus on a non-Giuliani nominee, a (more likely)

Democratic nomination of Hillary Clinton, and a general election about the Clintons rather than about the Bushes. It is a long shot but it is not impossible. Otherwise, it is all three--President Hillary, Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid--and Katy bar the door.



Rudy Giuliani

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

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Editor**

Exporting Inflation

by *Thomas E. Brewton*

Issue 98 - December 26, 2007

Ever since World War II, the U.S. dollar has been the de facto world monetary standard. A responsible central bank in that circumstance has a duty to maintain a sound currency to prevent disruptions and dislocations in world commerce. The Federal Reserve has signally failed to fulfill that role. At its most recent meeting, it increased the funds rate again, ignoring the inflation risk.

The fault is not entirely the Fed's. It can be traced to the Employment Act of 1946, which enshrined John Maynard Keynes's socialistic economic doctrines as the official policy of the United States. The Fed was directed, among other missions, to manage the economy via currency manipulation in order to maintain full employment. Keynesian orthodoxy, which is the ideology of the Democratic Party, dictates that every economic glitch can be cured by increased Federal spending.

The Fed's ever-ready response to the spurs of Federal spending has made it a poor steward of a sound currency for the rest of the world.

The steepening downward trajectory of the dollar exchange rate has compelled Middle Eastern oil-producing nations to rethink linkages of their currencies with the dollar. Those nations now are at a decision-making point.

If they diversify their central banks' reserves of foreign exchange out of dollars, that will dump more dollars into the world market, driving the dollar exchange rate down still more. If they don't do so, they will have to raise oil prices or demand payment in currencies other than the dollar.

The latter amounts to a price increase in dollars, because U.S. importers will have to sell larger amounts of dollars to obtain the necessary amount of other currencies to pay for oil imports.

In a page-one article the Wall Street Journal (Wealthy Nations In Gulf Rethink Peg to Dollar) reported:

For many years, oil-rich Persian Gulf states have pegged their currencies to the dollar. Now that link is stoking a bad bout of inflation in their red-hot economies and putting policy makers in a dilemma: Break the dollar peg and risk undermining the U.S. currency, or keep it and face growing local discontent.

The dollar peg has "served the economy...very well in the past," said Sultan Nasser al-Suweidi, the governor of the United Arab Emirates' central bank, last week. "However, we have reached a crossroads."

Because countries such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar sit on large reserves of U.S. dollars, their decisions will have repercussions beyond their borders. If they move away from their strict dollar pegs - perhaps following Kuwait, which earlier this year switched to a basket of currencies - it could undermine demand for dollars and encourage others to diversify their holdings. Many nations have already created sovereign wealth funds to invest their holdings in a broader array of assets...

Normally, when the price of a country's major export rises, that pumps up the local currency, which helps restrain inflation.



Instead, much the opposite has happened. As the price of oil has skyrocketed in recent years, Gulf currencies tied to the dollar have fallen relative to other currencies such as the euro and British pound, making many of their imports more expensive.

The UAE and Qatar have suffered some of the worst inflation, as the oil gusher has triggered a building boom.

Sound familiar?

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

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Editor**

Income Mobility High

by U.S. Treasury

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The Treasury Department released a study on income mobility of U.S. taxpayers from 1996 through 2005.

The study showed that, just as in the previous 10-year period, a majority of American taxpayers move from one income group to another over time. The study also recognizes that the dynamism of the U.S. economy significantly contributes to income mobility.



The key findings of the study included:

- Income mobility of individuals was considerable in the U.S. economy during the 1996 through 2005 period with roughly half of taxpayers who began in the bottom quintile moving up to a higher income group within 10 years.
- About 55 percent of taxpayers moved to a different income quintile within 10 years.
- Among those with the very highest incomes in 1996—the top 1/100 of one percent—only 25 percent remained in the group in 2005. Moreover, the median real income of these taxpayers declined over the study period.
- The degree of mobility among income groups is unchanged from the prior decade (1987 through 1996).
- Economic growth resulted in rising incomes for most taxpayers over the study period:
- Median real incomes of all taxpayers increased by 24 percent after adjusting for inflation;
- Real incomes of two-thirds of all taxpayers increased over this period; and
- Median incomes of those initially in the lower income groups increased more than the median incomes of those initially in the high income groups.

The full Treasury's Income Mobility Study can be read by [clicking here](#).

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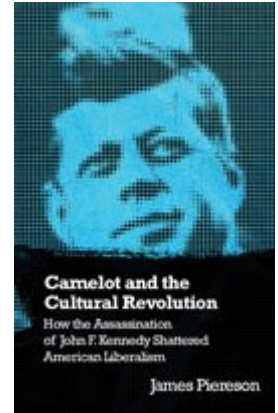
Source of Liberal Rage

by Daniel Pipes

Issue 98 - December 26, 2007

What happened to the self-assured, optimistic, and practical Democratic Party of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and John F. Kennedy? Why has Joe Lieberman, their closest contemporary incarnation, been run out of the party? How did anti-Americanism infect schools, the media, and Hollywood? And whence comes the liberal rage that conservatives like [Ann Coulter](#), [Jeff Jacoby](#), [Michelle Malkin](#), and the [Media Research Center](#) have extensively documented?

In a tour de force, James Piereson of the Manhattan Institute offers an historical explanation both novel and convincing. His book, [Camelot and the Cultural Revolution: How the Assassination of John F. Kennedy Shattered American Liberalism](#) (Encounter), traces liberalism's slide into anti-Americanism back to the seemingly minor fact that Lee Harvey Oswald was neither a segregationist nor a cold warrior but a communist.



Here's what Piereson argues:

During the roughly forty years preceding the Kennedy assassination on November 22, 1963, progressivism/liberalism was the reigning and nearly only public philosophy; Kennedy, a tough and realistic centrist, came out of an effective tradition that aimed, and succeeded, in expanding democracy and the welfare state.

In contrast, Republicans like Dwight Eisenhower lacked an intellectual alternative to liberalism and so merely slowed it down. The conservative "Remnant" led by William F. Buckley, Jr. had virtually no impact on policy. The radical right, embodied by the John Birch Society, spewed illogical and ineffectual fanaticism.

Kennedy's assassination profoundly affected liberalism, Piereson explains, because Oswald, a New Left-style communist, murdered Kennedy to protect Fidel Castro's rule in Cuba from the president who, during the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, brandished America's military card. Kennedy, in brief, died because he was so *tough* in the cold war. Liberals resisted this fact because it contradicted their belief system and, instead, presented Kennedy as a victim of the radical right and a martyr for liberal causes.

This political phantasm required two audacious steps. The first applied to Oswald:

1. Ignoring his communist outlook by characterizing him as an extreme rightist. Thus, New Orleans district attorney [Jim Garrison](#) asserted that "Oswald would have been more at home with *Mein Kampf* than *Das Kapital*."
2. Reducing his role to insignificance by (1) theorizing about some sixteen other assassins or (2) spinning a giant conspiracy in which Oswald was a dupe of the mafia, the Ku Klux Klan, anti-Castro Cubans, White Russians, Texas oil millionaires, international bankers, the CIA, the FBI, the military-industrial complex, the generals, or Kennedy's successor, Lyndon Johnson.

With Oswald nearly deleted from the narrative, or even turned into a scapegoat, the ruling establishment – Johnson, Jacqueline Kennedy, J. Edgar Hoover, and many others – proceeded to take a second, astonishing step. They blamed the assassination not on Oswald the communist but on the American people, and the radical right in particular, accusing them of killing Kennedy for his being too soft in the cold war or too accommodating to civil rights for American blacks. Here are just four of the examples Piereson cites documenting that wild distortion:

- Chief Justice [Earl Warren](#) decried the supposed "hatred and bitterness that has been injected into the life of our nation by bigots."
- Senate majority leader [Mike Mansfield](#) raged against "the bigotry, the hatred, prejudice and the arrogance which converged in that moment of horror to strike him down."
- Congressman Adam Clayton Powell advised, "Weep not for Jack Kennedy, but weep for America."
- A [New York Times editorial](#) lamented "The shame all America must bear for the spirit of madness and hate that struck down President John F. Kennedy."

In this "denial or disregard" of Oswald's motives and guilt, Piereson locates the rank origins of American liberalism's turn toward anti-American pessimism. "The reformist emphasis of American liberalism, which had been pragmatic and forward-looking, was overtaken by a spirit of national self-condemnation."

Viewing the United States as crass, violent, racist, and militarist shifted liberalism's focus from economics to cultural issues (racism, feminism, sexual freedom, gay rights). This change helped spawn the countercultural movement of the late 1960s; more lastingly, it fed a "residue of ambivalence" about the worth of traditional American institutions and the validity of deploying U.S. military power that 44 years later remains liberalism's general outlook.

Thus does Oswald's malign legacy live on in 2007, yet harming and perverting liberalism, still polluting the national debate.

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Editor**

Soldiers Indeed

by Paul Cella

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At the Battle of Gaines' Mill, in late June of 1862, John B. Hood's Texas Brigade delivered a ferocious blow against a strong Federal line that provoked from Stonewall Jackson this elegiac tribute, when he came to behold the carnage it required of the victors: "The men who carried this position were soldiers indeed."

They were soldiers indeed because these men marched across a treacherous swamp under savage fire with their weapons unreadied. Their casualties were staggering, yet they never staggered; and the force of their boldness, when finally combined with a great volley of musketry at short range, broke the Union line. It was General Lee's first victory. They were to distinguish themselves again in battle, many times, not the least of which was the charge they made on the second day at Gettysburg against the Federal far left, down in the Round Tops and the aptly-named Devil's Den — a charge that, in the end, could not hold the ground gained, but earned its way into memory by way of the courage it demanded of these men.



General John B. Hood

What is it in men that gives them the power to accomplish such deeds? What is it that grants them the capacity to march calmly across a field of hot flying lead, while their comrades fall with shrieks of agony on either side?

It is one of the things that, despite all the terrors of war, forbids us to condemn it utterly. It is the high noble virtue called in the older parlance *fortitude*. It is courage.

Among recent films — and I daresay film is the best medium for depicting raw fortitude — the final episode of *The Lord of the Rings* delivers an unforgettable portrayal. Arriving near the gates of the White City, and in rear of the great host of Mordor's Orc army, the Riders of Rohan, the Rohirrim, make their Ride. Horns sound to announce their arrival, the enemy turns in some disarray to receive their charge, and streaks of sunshine gleam over their shoulders. The king's words are minimal: he does not really need to inspire this cavalry; the men know what awaits them.

"Arise! Arise! Riders of Théoden! Spears shall be shaken, shields shall be splintered! A sword-day! A red day, ere the sun rises!"

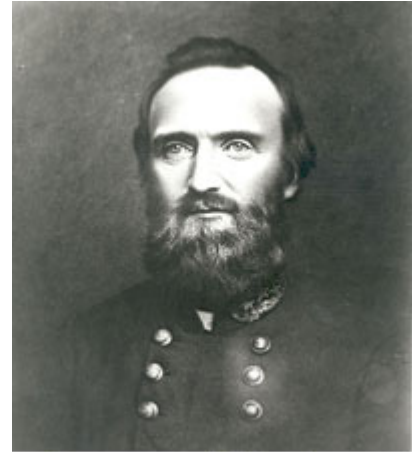
As the charge begins, the men chant *Death!* They do not fear it, and many of them will meet it here today. This gallantry is felt — profoundly felt, I thought, for the scene is masterfully rendered — and the viewer is again taught that valuable lesson, which if he was lucky he learned long ago, that not everything in war need be black and wicked.

We do not, as a rule, teach military history in this country. We teach that wars happened, that they were terrible, what they accomplished, or failed to accomplish, or inflicted; but we really do not teach how they were fought, or who fought them and why. This fact probably goes a long way to explaining why our young men are so historically ignorant. The one sort of history that will reliably move boys to that excitement with learning which is alone capable of inspiring them, has been removed from our curricula.

Meanwhile, in the public media, our soldiers in the field have become mere types in the Liberal caricature of Victimization. They are characters in a hackneyed drama. The stories we tell of them all, or at any rate most of the stories, ring with despondency and helplessness; or with mere stale partisanship. In film the trend is even worse: American soldiers are regularly portrayed as madmen,

dupes, degenerates, or heartless criminals; with the occasional noble philosopher and budding hippie thrown in. And alongside this spiritual degradation, we strive ever more eagerly to turn our military institutions into playgrounds for social experiments. The educational neglect makes the fighting man incomprehensible; the rendering of him through the ideological lens of Victim makes him contemptible; and the social innovation imposed on his tradition undermines his virtue.

There are, in every society, men who actually *like* the task of fighting, and will excel at no other. War must be recognized as their vocation. This is a fact. Judge it how you like, it must be acknowledged. It is one of those most ancient of political problems that such men cannot be destroyed, transformed, or ignored for long; but they may be disciplined into useful and honorable service; and it is a measure of the character of that society how well this is done. For the pitfalls are countless, usually reducing to an alternative of either (a) effective military power and systematic cruelty, or (b) feebleness and foreign subjugation. Fortitude is exalted, and the other virtues are abolished; or fortitude is abolished, and the others rendered impossible. But fortitude can be harnessed. We might almost say it can be baptized. There have been soldier-saints.



Stonewall Jackson

It is a thrill to learn how successfully Americans have avoided the many pitfalls of the martial instinct in men. We have not come close to perfection — nay, far from it — but we have for the most part avoided calamity; and we are excelled by almost no other society. What a glory of our tradition that our fighting men have been so honorable in victory and defeat! The tragedy of the Civil War, for example, was in the wickedness that made it unavoidable, not in the wickedness with which it was conducted; for by and large it was conducted justly and even magnanimously. There was honor in abundance, on both sides. Of how many other civil wars can the same be said?

This noble American achievement is being steadily undermined. The sappers have been at their grim work for some time now. That our military has endured as long as it has, is a testament to the tradition upon which it stands, and to the men it has trained up to continue that tradition. But it is the meanest of follies to assume that what is precious is also indestructible.

It is tempting to argue, at this point in a sketch like this, that the problem is the Feminization of the military. But this is too facile. The failure here lies primarily with men: men who allow their sons to be treated like girls; men who fail to honor women, and thereby teach no honor in their descendants; men who will send their wives and sisters to war to satisfy their itch for abstract equality. I would like to ask those who have made their peace with women in combat (which is our *de facto* policy today, considering the absence of any true "front line") if they really think the history of warfare is conspicuous for its respect for women. Think hard on that. That it is conspicuous for rather the opposite should give some indication of how profound our achievement is: the fruit of the long, painstaking, patient, to be sure imperfect, but noble work of our ancestors stretching back over centuries upon centuries. The honor code that made the American fighting man one of the few exceptions from the rule of pillage and rapine as a concomitant of war, is the same code that stands in opposition to abstract gender equality. Erode it with incessant innovations and you may unshackle a monster.

In the event of such a catastrophe as the final loss of the Western code of *jus in bello*, will there be any accounting for the innovators whose ministrations robbed our fighting men of their virtue? Doubtful — for there is none for the innovators who, for instance, robbed our inner cities of the precarious but real order once achieved and enforced, now lost, perhaps forever; or for those who emancipated pornography and now wail and gnash their teeth at its rotten fruit at, i. e., Abu Ghraib.

Our armed forces still produce Stonewall's "soldiers indeed." My friend Jeff Emanuel has [documented some](#), and there are many, many more. But it is to be doubted how long this will remain true if we cannot muster a fortitude of our own sufficient to stop and reverse the depredations inflicted on our martial tradition.

Paul J. Cella III is a Contributor to [Redstate.com](#) and Editor of the weblog [What's Wrong with the World](#).

**E-mail the
Editor**

Inflated Veteran Suicides

by Warner Todd Huston

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On the CBS "Early Show" on Nov. 13th, co-host Julie Chen claimed that there was "an alarming suicide rate among veterans" of the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts. CBS then aired a report that went on to claim that the suicide rate for our troops had wildly climbed. Our own Newsbuster Kyle Drennen had his doubts about the report when the show originally aired and now comes an editorial by oftentime military reporter Michael Fumento further casting large amounts of skepticism on the CBS report.



The CBS show specifically wanted to make it seem like Iraq war vets are the ones that have seen these outrageously rising suicide rates. Reporter Armen Keteyian included in his report this opener:

"Staff Sergeant Justin Reyes spent a violent year serving in Iraq...Medical records show Justin suffered severe psychological trauma after witnessing "multiple dead" and having to "sort through badly mutilated bodies." Earlier this year, one month after separating from the Army, Justin hanged himself with a cord in his apartment, at just 26...families recently sat down to talk about losing loved ones, all veterans of Iraq, to suicide...Mia Sagahon's boyfriend, Walter, shot himself at age 27 about a year and a half after he came back from Iraq."

Clearly CBS is pinning these so-called high numbers on the war on terror.

But, Fumento comes out now to throw some cold water on CBS's inflamed claims and give us some much needed facts to ponder. Initially remarking that the statistics that CBS arrived at were had by their own reckoning, not that of any third party agency that might be less biased than CBS, Fumento wonders how those numbers were arrived at?

"Problem is, we have absolutely no way of verifying the CBS data nor how the network claims it collected the info. CBS News admits to collecting the data itself, rather than relying on an independent outside party. It also concedes its rate is 'much higher' than that in an uncompleted Department of Veterans Affairs study."

Like CBS, Fumento focused on the age group of the 20 through 24 Vets that CBS claimed were most vulnerable and found a conflict between CBS's claims and that of other sources.

"For example, CBS put special emphasis on vets of the current wars. "One age group stood out," it said: "veterans age 20 through 24, those who have served during the War on Terror. They had the highest suicide rate among all veterans, estimated between two and four times higher than civilians the same age.

CBS said the suicide rate of these young vets was 22.9 to 31.9 per 100,000 people.

Which looks very strange next to the data on active duty soldiers in the War on Terror.

Last month, the Army released a report finding that the suicide rate among these GIs in 2006 was 17.3 per 100,000 troops - rather lower than CBS's rate for veterans. Why would soldiers who were recently on active duty be killing themselves at a much higher rate than those still serving?"

Fumento also found that the CBS claim that the suicide rate was "two to four times higher" than corresponding civilian rates is untrue.

"More important still, the Army study corrected for some key demographic facts - notably, that the military is largely male and that men are much likelier to commit suicide than women are. Among civilians who match the overall age, gender and race profile of the U.S. Army, the suicide rate was 19 per 100,000 - higher than for the troops.

So, even if CBS's numbers for younger vets' suicides hold up, the rate isn't twice the relevant civilian one - let alone the 'two to four times higher' that CBS claimed."

Fumento goes into more depth and you really should check out the link to read the whole thing.

What we have, though, is a TV station presenting wildly inflated numbers, uncorrected by demographic factors, all presented in order to sensationalize the important work of assuring the mental health of our vets in an obvious effort to discredit both the government and the war on terror.

No agenda there, eh?

Warner Todd Huston 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**

Are Thoughts a Crime?

by Bill Sizemore

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Oregon's junior U.S. Senator, Gordon Smith, has expressed support for maintaining Thomas Jefferson's wall of separation between church and state. But has he read Jefferson's famous Danbury Baptist letter, which is the source of Jefferson's "separation of church and state" doctrine, a doctrine that has been enthusiastically opined into law by activist federal judges over the last half century or so?



Bill Sizemore

Whatever one thinks of how the judges have interpreted it, Jefferson prefaced his famous quotation about the wall of separation with three sound reasons for wanting to maintain that separation. One of those reasons was Jefferson's belief that legislation should only reach as far as a man's actions and not to his thoughts.

Here are Jefferson's exact words to the Danbury Baptists: "Believing with you that religion is a matter that lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, **that the legislative powers of government reach actions only, and not opinions,** I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," **thus building a wall of separation between church and state.** (emphasis added)

Americans will continue to debate whether Jefferson's wall was actually intended by the founders, and if so, whether the wall was meant to keep government out of religion or religion out of government. In any event, the three reasons Jefferson offered for his wall are probably worthy of universal acceptance.

First, a man's religion is between him and God. Second, a man does not have to answer for his religious beliefs to anyone else, and finally, the legislative power of government must be limited to a man's actions, not reaching as far as his opinions. This final reason is so fundamental to Americanism that Smith's violation of its principle is inexcusable.

For Senator Smith is pressing hard for adoption of federal hate crimes legislation that would make Thomas Jefferson roll over in his grave. Among other things, Smith's bill would increase criminal penalties for a crime when it is determined that the person committing the crime was thinking bad thoughts about the sexual orientation of the person he or she harmed.

Perhaps Gordon Smith is merely trying to win reelection in Oregon, a moderate to liberal state with an organized and militant gay rights movement. Perhaps persecution of gays bothers Senator Smith more than most because he is a Mormon and Mormons themselves suffered major persecution in the early decades of their existence. Perhaps Gordon Smith simply disagrees with Jefferson and thinks government should punish us for what we think.

Whatever his reason, it is hard to believe that Gordon Smith really believes that an American should be punished more severely for assaulting a gay man than for assaulting a little old lady. That notion is simply too far-fetched to be seriously embraced, but is nonetheless the practical effect of Smith's bill.

Regardless of his motivation for sponsoring it, Gordon's Smith's hate crimes legislation is about as un-American as any bill I have seen work its way through Congress. You might even say that Smith's hate crimes bill is a kind of hate crime itself, a crime against the God-given freedom to think and believe as you wish. Yes, even the freedom to hate. After all, whom or what you hate and

whom or what you love is between you and God. It is not Smith's business and certainly not the business of the federal government.

If a man hits you with a club because you are gay or because he wants your money, it makes no difference. The crime is that he assaulted you, not that he hated you. The damage the club did is the business of government, not the opinions of the one who struck you.

The bottom line is simple: Assault is already a crime. Therefore, there is no reason to make the victim's sexual orientation an issue.

Consider the absurdity of Senator Smith's stated reason for this legislation. He said in his press release: "Congress needs to approve Matthew's bill so there is protection in the law for every American in every community." What is the senator saying? Is there some place in this country where it is legal to do what was done to Mathew Shepard? Of course not.

Without going into the much debated details of the Shepard case, assault is a crime in every state. Interjecting the opinions and motivations of the attackers into the Shepard case or any other involving a gay or lesbian adds no further protections to gays, except to make assaulting a homosexual more heinous under the law than assaulting a straight person. Certainly there is no rational basis for doing that unless your goal is not equal rights for gays, but special rights.

Finally, Oregonians represented by Gordon Smith ought to know that their senator has been so enthusiastic in pushing hate crimes legislation in the United States Senate that several gay rights groups in Washington D.C. have endorsed him for reelection. Smith has become to the national gay rights movement what another senator from Oregon was to the national abortion rights movement a couple of decades ago. He is a champion for their cause.

The more I have pondered this matter, the more troubled I have become by Smith's actions. A person who does not understand the fundamental truth that someone's thoughts and beliefs are none of the government's business ought not to be in a position of authority in this nation.

This is not one of those things on which conservatives may disagree. This is a betrayal of one of the foundational pillars of Americanism.

Bill Sizemore is president of the Oregon taxpayers Union

**E-mail the
Editor**

Loony Polar Excess

by Alan Caruba

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"A petition seeking Endangered Species Act protection for a rare loon that breeds in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve has been accepted for review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service" noted a recent Associated Press article.

"Conservationists hope an eventual listing of the yellow-billed loon will curb petroleum development in the 23-million acre reserve that covers much of Alaska's North Slope."

So, at a time when a \$100 barrel of oil makes economies around the world quiver, the "conservationists" are more interested in a yellow-billed loon than in your ability to drive to work, pick up the kids at school, or just go anywhere in your car. Thank you, environmentalists everywhere, thank you for being so obscenely oblivious to reality.



Alan Caruba

However, yellow-billed loons are not sufficiently illustrative of alleged dangers to species in the frozen North. Polar bears, however, are. Polar bears are the poster children of global warming and we all "know" that all the ice is melting in the Arctic, the bears are drowning or just damn well running out of food because "human activity" is affecting an environment in which they have lived and thrived for millennia.

If you believe such nonsense, let me first remind you that the scientific name for polar bears is "Ursus maritimus", bespeaking their distinctive ability to swim anywhere they want. Typically, among the lies Al Gore tells in his fib-o-mentary, "An Inconvenient Truth", is the claim that polar bears "have been drowning in significant numbers", but the truth is this claim is based on a *single* report that four polar bears drowned as the result of a storm.

Based on a total lie called "global warming", the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is trying to rush through a ruling that polar bears are an "endangered species" and that a vast swath of Alaska has to be protected against the possibility that one of them might die for any reason.

Alaska's Governor, Sarah Palin, is not a happy camper these days. In a letter to Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne she said, "The listing of a currently healthy species based entirely on highly speculative and uncertain climate and ice modeling, and equally uncertain and speculative modeling of possible impacts on a species would be unprecedented."

Need it be said that the locals, otherwise known as Inupiat or Eskimos, regard this as a very real threat to their interests? Representing them is the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) and, on October 22, 2007, they wrote a letter protesting that the "listing of the polar bear under the ESA should not be used as a land management tool or to drive climate change policy."

Noting a U.S. Geological Survey report focuses "intensely on statistical analysis and modeling approaches to make key determinations regarding polar bear mortality", the ASRC identifies the core of all climate change claims, the flawed and deliberately manipulated computer models that have little relationship to real polar bears in their natural habitat.

The environmentalists seeking to put the polar bears on the Endangered Species list conveniently overlook a report by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) noting there are some 22,000 polar bears in 20 distinct populations worldwide. H. Sterling Burnett, a senior fellow with the National Center for Policy Analysis, noted in a 2006 commentary published by The Washington Times that, "Only two bear populations—accounting for about 16.4 percent of the total—are decreasing, and they are in areas where air temperatures have actually fallen, such as the Baffin Bay region.

"By contrast, another two populations—about 13.6 percent of the total number—are growing and they are living in areas where air temperatures have risen, near the Bering Strait and Chukchi Sea", i.e., just off the coast of Alaska!

The World Wildlife Fund study found the ten populations—comprising about 45.4 percent of the total—are stable, and the status of the remaining six is unknown. As Burnett points out, "These bears have survived for thousands of years, during both colder and warmer periods, and their populations are by and large in good shape. Polar bears may face many threats, but global warming is not primary among them. Global warming alarmists are like the wizard of Oz, asking the public fear the spectacle, but not to pull back the curtain and unmask them for the charlatans they are."

Meanwhile, ASRC informed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that "local and state activities, and oil and gas activity in the Arctic has not been linked to a decrease in the polar bear population."

This is, however, all about oil exploration and extraction. It is not about the loons or the bears. It is just one more example of the way environmentalists seek to cripple the nation's economy and security by finding bogus reasons to restrict access to known reserves of these energy sources.

And let's add one more black mark to the Bush Administration's failures. The proposal to list polar bears was announced by the Secretary Kempthorne on December 27, 2006, just about a year ago. The final determination is scheduled for January 9, 2008. That leaves precious little time to let the Secretary know just how wrong he is and to stop yet another disastrous ESA listing.

Alan Caruba writes a weekly column, "Warning Signs", posted on the Internet site of The National Anxiety Center, www.anxietycenter.com. He also maintains a blog at <http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com>.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Canada Health Better?

by John Goodman

Issue 98 - December 26, 2007

David Himmelstein and his wife Steffie Woolhandler are associate professors at Harvard Medical School. Together they are a one-couple team, promoting Canadian national health insurance in the United States. They provide the intellectual leadership for the Physicians for a National Health Program. They are about the only academics around whose scholarship routinely gives aid and comfort to the advocates of socialized medicine, unless you count the Commonwealth Fund. They are pleasant (at least to me); they are dedicated; and they are wrong.



John Goodman

I first debated David on a college campus about 15 years ago. My most recent debate with them is reprinted in *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*. In between the two debates I had an epiphany. I discovered that the worst features of the Canadian system are not the differences with our own system, but the similarities. But first things first. Since our last debate, new information has become available that helps debunk three widely touted myths.

The Myth of Low Administrative Costs. In a series of articles, all published in medical journals, Himmelstein and Woolhandler (H&W) claim that the administrative costs of the Canadian system are much lower than our own - so much so that we could insure the uninsured through administrative savings alone. However, H&W are not economists. They count the cost of private insurance premium collection (e.g. advertising, agents' fees, etc.) but they ignore the cost of tax collection to pay for public insurance.

Economic studies show the social cost of collecting taxes is very high. Using the most conservative of these estimates, Ben Zycher has shown that the excess burden of a universal Medicare program would be twice as high as the administrative costs of universal private coverage.

The Myth of High Quality. H&W say that Canadian life expectancy is two years longer than ours, implying that the health care systems of the two countries have something to do with that result. Yet doctors don't control our overeating, overdrinking, etc. Where doctors do make a difference, the comparison does not favor Canada. In an NBER study, David and June O'Neill draw on a large US/Canadian patient survey to show that:

- The percent of middle-aged Canadian women who have never had a mammogram is double the US rate.
- The percent of Canadian women who have never had a pap smear is triple the US rate.
- More than 8 in 10 Canadian males have never had a PSA test, compared with less than half of US males.
- More than 9 in 10 Canadians have never had a colonoscopy, compared with 7 in 10 in the US.

These differences in screening may explain why US cancer patients do better than their Canadian counterparts. For example:

- The mortality rate for breast cancer is 25% higher in Canada.
- The mortality rate for prostate cancer is 18% higher in Canada.
- The mortality rate for colorectal cancer among Canadian men and women is about 13% higher than in the US.

Amazingly, there are quite a few people in both countries who are not being treated for conditions that clearly require a doctor's attention. However:

- Among senior citizens, the fraction of Canadians with asthma, hypertension, and diabetes who are not getting care is twice the rate in the US.
- The fraction of Canadian seniors with coronary heart disease who are not being treated is nearly three times the US rate.

Apparently, putting everyone in (Canadian) Medicare leads to worse results than having only some people in (US) Medicare - ensconced in an otherwise private system.

The Myth of Equal Access. The most common argument for national health insurance is that it will give rich and poor alike the same access to health care. Surprisingly, there is no evidence of that outcome. Indeed, national health insurance in Canada may have created more inequality than otherwise would have existed. (Similar results have been reported for Britain.) The O'Neill's study shows that:

- Both in Canada and in the US health outcomes correlate with income; low-income people are more likely to be in poor health and less likely to be in good health than those with higher incomes.
- However, there is apparently more inequality in Canada; among the nonelderly white population of both countries, low-income Canadians are 22% more likely to be in poor health than their American counterparts.

References are listed below. Read them and weep.

John Goodman is President of the National Center for Policy Analysis

For my debate with David Himmelstein and Steffie Woolhandler, go to http://cdhc.ncpa.org/file_download/7

For Ben Zycher's study of administrative costs, go to http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/mpr_05.pdf

For June and David O'Neill's study, go to <http://nber15.nber.org/papers/w13429.pdf>

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Editor**

Jeanne's Gun Stops Shooter

by Ted Nugent

Issue 98 - December 26, 2007

Jeanne Assam was one of approximately 7000 worshippers at the New Hope Church in Colorado Springs. A gathering of Christians praising God and dedicating themselves to a spiritual upgrade to be better Americans and human beings. It is the basic premise of churchgoers everywhere in this unique land where freedom of religion is considered a "self-evident truth," an individual right bestowed upon us by our Creator. A weekly thank you to Him seems to be in order by those good souls who still think clearly and pursue a good, positive way of life. It is all good.



Ted Nugent

But Jeanne, Godbless her righteous soul, was packing two handguns this fine church day. She had never had the need to draw either one of her guns in the past, but as a thinking, caring American, she knew that rugged individualism and real world independency means being prepared. And prepared she was when the loud, shocking concussions of rifle shots rang out in the entranceway of the church. Her natural instincts of good over evil kicked into gear, and like millions of concealed weapons carriers across America, the pistols in her belt gave her pragmatic confidence that she could neutralize an apparent evil force in the House of God.

Jeanne didn't run scared, scream, cower, or flee for her life. She knew that to do so was to give signals of helplessness and in fact, be helpless. Instead, she drew a gun and raced toward the approaching gunshots, just like I have written in so many of my writings over the years. When a human being gives serious, genuine thought to the incremental programming of sheepishness so thoroughly crammed down America's throats by a media infested with cowardly liberals, condemning individual rights and thinking, natural instincts dictate just the opposite response, and Jeanne was living proof.

And this dainty, svelte young woman couldn't possibly fit the profile so desperately attempted by the anti-gun nuts, for she has no macho baggage and no intentionally misrepresented NRA imagery to overcome. She is a woman, a human being, with the natural right to defend herself and innocents from evil, and she did what her heart told her to do.

Further irritating the mainstream media's hatred of Christianity, she credits God as her guiding light, protecting her from the hi-powered rifle, two handguns and more than 1000 rounds of ammo in the possession of the maniacal madman attacking her congregation. She courageously ran toward the danger and shot the bum dead. Next.

We like it when maniacal madman hellbent on slaughtering innocents are shot dead instead. And we like brave people who know that innocent lives need to be protected from madmen by shooting them dead with a gun on our person. We know that gunfree zones are irresponsible, dangerous, anti-human, anti-security and anti-American. We don't like politicians or people who pretend otherwise. We don't think a madman who opens fire in malls, cafeterias, churches, schools or our neighborhoods have any rights whatsoever. We believe good should live, evil should be gotten rid of. And we know the difference between good and evil without some newspaper editor or bureaucrat telling us if we got it right or not. I wish there would always be a Jeanne Assam every 100 feet in America so the bad guys would get the real message from America "Don't tread on me!" Threaten innocent lives and we will shoot you dead.

I'm sending Jeanne Assam an expensive Christmas present and a life membership in the NRA.

Ted Nugent is an accomplished musician, an avid hunter and a lifetime member of The National Rifle Association (NRA),

**E-mail the
Editor**

E-Coli is Organic

by Dennis Avery

Issue 98 - December 26, 2007

Buying “organic” or “natural” or “local” meats won’t protect us from the deadly food-borne bacteria E. coli O157. The life-threatening bacterium sickens thousands of people every year, and kills hundreds—too many of them children.

A restaurant owner recently wrote the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* claiming that if we raised our cattle on pasture instead of in feedlots, and bought them from local producers, the E. coli problem in red meat would disappear.

“Not true,” says a University of Minnesota physician. Dr. Michael Osterholm says the restaurant owner “would understand this issue in an entirely different light if he had been with me when I had to explain to distraught parents that their young daughter’s death was due to eating an undercooked hamburger, prepared by them, and the E. coli that caused her illness came from meat from a cow raised only on pasture grass and processed by the local meat packer. The cow also came from Grandpa’s farm down the road.”

Dr. Osterholm says the life-threatening O157 bacteria are found among all cattle, grass-fed or feedlot. He points to a recent Minnesota Department of Health study which found that eating red meat from local farms was a significant risk factor for E. coli infection.

“In the sterile surgical suites of our ultra-modern hospitals, almost 3 percent of all ‘clean surgeries’ still result in a post-surgical site infection. This means bacterial contamination from the patient’s skin or from someone else on the surgical team infected that incision. If surgeons can’t do any better under ideal sterile conditions, how can we expect a meat processing plant to guarantee that the carcass coming off the line doesn’t have some hidden microscopic E. coli? . . . we can only hope that the consumer also will take responsibility for never serving undercooked ground beef or any inadequately cooked meat or poultry product.”

The restaurateur quoted a 1998 paper from Cornell University, which studied only three cows—and never checked any of them for the O157 bacteria! Too much of our public food policy is being built on such “smoke and mirrors,” as some farmers and food marketers try to justify higher price premiums.

“In the end,” says Dr. Osterholm, “there is only one absolute measure to address this issue: food irradiation. This process, which primarily uses an electron gun—just like the one in your TV, except at higher power—that turns electricity into an energy that safely and cost-effectively kills bacteria like E. coli. It does so without significantly changing the flavor, color or nutrient content of the food. Routine irradiation of meat and poultry would do for those food commodities what pasteurization did for milk: make them safe.”

Thank you, Dr. Osterholm.

Food irradiation is the most widely studied food safety measure in history, and has been for 30 years. It’s been approved and recommended by U.S. physicians, the World Health Organization, and virtually every significant group of health professionals across the planet. The Food and Drug Administration has known since 1982 that O157 was a threat to American lives, but it didn’t approve irradiation for meat until 1997. Even now, FDA requires that irradiated foods carry a warning label, and the “radura” symbol. So far, both stores and consumers have shied away from the irradiated products—even though the irradiation helps keep the products fresher, longer.



Dennis T. Avery

Don't let the people who market those high-priced organic and natural food products pretend they can protect us from deadly bacteria. The longer we support the illusion that we can protect our families by paying more at the checkout counter, the more victims E. coli 0157 will claim.

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

**E-mail the
Editor**

Mediocrity Bowls

by Bob Barr

Issue 98 - December 26, 2007

Life used to be so simple; so un-complicated; so straightforward. You had four bowl games — the Rose, the Cotton, the Sugar and the Orange. And you had eight teams — generally the best in the country — playing in those four post-season bowl games. They were all held on the same day — New Year's Day, unless Jan. 1 fell on a Sunday, in which case the games would be held the next day. The final poll of the top 10 teams would then be released; not 20 or 25 "top" teams, just 10. Back in those days, everybody was not a winner.

Now, we have not four, but 32 post-season bowl games. That's 64 teams, including many you've probably never heard of, playing in cities you'd never want to visit by choice, in bowls with names that read like chambers of commerce membership drive lists.

There's the "Meineke Car Care" Bowl on Dec. 29 in Charlotte. And who wouldn't give their right arm for the chance to watch two teams with four-loss records battle it out in the "GMAC Bowl" on Jan. 6 in beautiful Mobile, Ala.? For the internationally minded, there's the "International Bowl" on Jan. 5 in warm, sunny Toronto, where you can watch two teams with 7-5 records slog through four quarters of world-class football.

Mediocrity reigns. There are, for example, more than half a dozen teams on the bowl roster that sport non-winning, regular-season records. UCLA boasts a 6-6 record and will be in the Las Vegas Bowl. Oklahoma State (also 6-6) "won" the right to meet Indiana in the mis-named "Insight Bowl." The list goes on and on.

Nearly lost amongst all the mediocre teams playing in mediocre cities in mediocre bowl games, are some truly excellent teams fully deserving of playing in what used to be considered exclusive bowl games. But, with the exception of the BCS National Championship game, few of these nearly three dozen football games stretching over nearly three weeks, from Dec. 20 to Jan. 7, will result in any lasting glory. Even the BCS championship game — which chooses its participants based on an algorithm apparently developed by Rube Goldberg — has seen its technologically crafted reputation tarnished considerably this year.

The solution? Take a cue from Paris Hilton and return to the "Simple Life." Limit the football polls to the top 10 teams only. Schedule only four bowl games. Allow only the best teams with the best records to play in them; and hold all four games on the same day.

Some may fret this will result in unfairly casting into the unemployment lines those Brainiacs who have given us the current BCS mess, along with all those officials who will not be making bad calls in the other bowl games. However, there is a solution: put the BCS folks in charge of the presidential primaries.

Taking the BCS bureaucrats and making them responsible for the PCS — the Presidential Championship Series — will be a match made in heaven. After all, modern college football and contemporary presidential politics have much in common. Both are so complex the average fan has great difficulty following the players and the scores. In both "professions" true substance rarely outweighs showmanship and bluster. And, of course, both NCAA football and presidential politics now revolve around money. Lots and lots of money.

Therein lies the secret to understanding why we have so many bowl games in so many cities with so many teams over so many days. All total, the 64 college football teams that will be playing in the post-regular season, will take back to their campuses the astonishing sum of \$245 million. (If expanding the field to 128 from 64 would increase that take, you can bet the NCAA wouldn't waste a



Bob Barr

single time out before finding 32 more cities and 64 more teams anxious to prove they are not as mediocre as their records suggest.)

The transition from BCS to PCS would be seamless. All the candidates in both major parties understand already the importance of raising the Big Bucks; more than \$375 million has been raised by the lot of them thus far. The time-frame for the presidential primaries is already hopelessly complex and accelerated, just as the bowl schedule has moved earlier and earlier into December; so the BCS folks would have an easy transition there, too.

And who knows, just like LSU vaulted over Georgia and four other teams to reach the BCS championship game, in our new PCS system, we just might get to see a Ron Paul-Dennis Kucinich matchup next fall.

Former congressman and U.S. Attorney Bob Barr practices law in Atlanta. Web site: www.bobbarr.org.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Party of the Rich

by Paul Weyrich

Issue 98 - December 26, 2007

Since I was a young boy I have heard that "Republicans are the party of the rich." My parents were among the few Republicans in a precinct dominated by Democrats and this allegation made my father angry. He fired a boiler at a Catholic hospital and was lower middle class. A German immigrant, he came to the United States because of the kindness of the chaplain at the Catholic hospital and a foreman at the J.I. Case Tractor plant who sponsored him and agreed to care for him for five years if needed. My father had never met the man until he arrived in America.



Paul M. Weyrich

We were anything but rich. We did not have a car for eleven years. We never took a vacation. We didn't have many things which ordinary households had. My father was just happy to be in America. He felt he was far better off here than if he had stayed in depression-torn Germany. He became a Republican because he believed President Franklin D. Roosevelt broke his promises. Whenever my father heard Roosevelt insist that the Republican Party consisted only of rich people he became so upset that my mother had to calm him down.

God rest his soul, my father has been gone for twenty years now. There are so many things I wish he had seen. He was a fierce opponent of the Soviet Union. Its dissolution would have brought great joy to his heart. Another is a study by my friend and colleague Mike Franc, Vice President for Congressional Relations at the Heritage Foundation. Using data provided by the Internal Revenue Service, Franc looked at single-filer taxpayers earning more than \$100,000 per year and married joint-filers earning more than \$200,000 per year. Franc discovered that the Democratic Party is the "party of the rich." Franc said, "Electing Democrats is very closely correlated with how many wealthy households are in a district."

Franc said that the number of Democrats representing wealthy districts significantly increased after the 2006 elections. These Democrats have pushed for passage of H.R. 3970, the Tax Reduction and Reform Act of 2007. The bill, proposed by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), would eliminate the middle class from the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), a tax originally intended for the very wealthy but which more and more Americans must pay each year because its income requirement was not indexed to inflation. To make up for the shortfall that would result in this loss of revenue, the bill also proposes an enormous increase in taxes for Americans whose adjusted gross incomes are in excess of \$250,000. The bill probably will be dead upon arrival in the Senate. Franc said the Democrats can't go too far in levying huge tax increases on the rich because they would be doing it to themselves.

As with the surge in Iraq, the success of which key Democrats refuse to acknowledge, it is unlikely Democrats will admit they are now the party of the rich. They need to appear as the party of the poor to maintain specific voting blocs. Still, if mainstream media would acknowledge the new party of the rich just as it now acknowledges the success of the surge in Iraq, things may change. Want to guess which Republican will brand the Democrats the party of the rich?

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

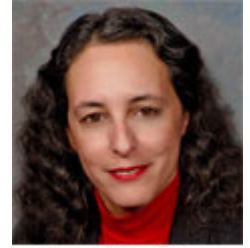
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Editor**

Abortion To the States?

by Lisa Fabrizio

Issue 98 - December 26, 2007

Short weeks after receiving the endorsement of the National Right to Life Committee, Republican presidential candidate Fred Thompson apparently ran afoul of some in the pro-life movement, when, in an interview on Fox News Sunday, he revealed that he does not support a Human Life Amendment (HLA) to the U.S. Constitution.



Lisa Fabrizio

Can one be pro-life and not in favor of a Constitutional Amendment which seeks a federal ban on abortion? The easy answer is that one can and probably should be both. But at this time in our history, the amendment process is, sadly, a pipe dream. Imagine trying to get two thirds of both houses of our Democratic Congress to even propose such an amendment. Then further fantasize that three fourths of the states would ratify it in the present political climate. This is an all-or-nothing approach that in all probability would save no lives.

Thompson correctly points out that working for the repeal of *Roe v. Wade*, then making the fight a state-by-state process is a much more realistic and feasible goal. A states-rights argument should not only appeal to federalists, but ought to be seen as the best current solution by all who cherish life. I'm with the folks who say that abortion is murder, and in this country, murder and its consequences have always been defined by each individual state. And this is where the battle lines must be drawn.

One reason is that dealing with state legislators would be easier than battling their federal counterparts who are in the grips of lobbyists and other special interest groups; the locals are closer to the people they represent and therefore more accountable to them. Another, and probably more important, is the fact that the pro-death faction fears this route the most.

They know that, should the question of abortion descend from the dark tower of judicial tyranny and land where it belongs; in the hands of the people, their 'cause' is in trouble. Most believe that we are only one pro-life presidential Supreme Court nominee away from this. Planned Parenthood's Laura Lambert [called](#) the Court's recent decision to uphold the Partial Birth Abortion Act (PBA):

[A] clear signal to those who seek to dismantle the 34-year-old decision that the court will be receptive to ever more intrusive efforts to limit access to abortion... This expansive approach to a state's right to restrict and limit abortion is one of the most disturbing parts of the opinion.

The next logical step is to roll back decades of indoctrination and convince people that abortion is indeed the murder of a human person. Why? The answer lies in the majority opinion in *Roe v. Wade*. Justice Blackmun [wrote](#), "If this suggestion of personhood is established, the appellant's case, of course, collapses, for the fetus' right to life is then guaranteed specifically by the (Fourteenth) Amendment."

After the heinous murder of Laci Peterson and her unborn son, Conner, the U.S. Congress finally passed the Unborn Victims of Violence Act in 2004 which states, "the term 'unborn child'...means a member of the species homo sapiens, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb." Though this act only covers federal crimes, the wording is crucial as it is now codified in the U.S. Code.

Half of the states in America already recognize unborn children as victims of crime *at any stage of pre-natal development*, while another ten do so with limitations. And while it's true that these laws have provisions excepting cases of abortion, the good news is that all legal challenges to the definition of unborn children as 'persons' have thus far been [defeated](#).

Someone wise once said that science is God's way of explaining himself to us. If that is true, then the development of 4D ultrasound [technology](#) is a highly instructive and heaven-sent tool for protecting life. So much so, that there are presently ten states with "witness to womb" [laws](#) which require doctors to offer ultrasounds to women considering abortions, and another five states are considering similar measures.

Whether we fight to pass the HLA or localize the battle for the hearts and minds of the American people, one of the most important steps is to elect a president dedicated to the protection of innocent human life. For those who say that a president can have no impact on pro-life issues, remember who vetoed the PBA twice before it was signed by George W. Bush. It was President Bush who, in May of this year, sent a [letter](#) to the Congressional Democratic leadership:

I am writing to make sure that there is no misunderstanding of my views on these important issues...I believe it is the most basic duty of Government to guard the innocent. With that in mind, **I will veto any legislation that weakens current Federal policies and laws on abortion, or that encourages the destruction of human life at any stage.**

[Lisa Fabrizio](#) is a columnist who hails from Connecticut. You may write her at mailbox@lisafab.com.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Jewish Case for Christmas

by Don Feder

Issue 98 - December 26, 2007

You may find the title confusing. After all, religious Jews don't celebrate Christmas. So why should a Jew care if a store clerk says "Merry Christmas?" Why should the public disappearance of Christmas matter to the Jewish people?

Patience. All will be explained in due course.

In the meantime, 'tis the season to be politically correct – a coast-to-coast harkening-free zone and the tyranny of hyper-sensitivity.

The increasingly successful effort to purge Christmas from our culture (correctly called the War on Christmas) proceeds apace – municipal Christmas trees are re-christened (no pun intended) "holiday trees," schools ban Christmas decorations and the singing of Christmas carols during holiday programs. Christmas – excuse me -- holiday parades are excluding Santa Claus, and, everywhere, stores (which derive 20% of their annual revenue from Christmas sales) are in Grinch overdrive.

This year, Lowe's employees are permitted to say "Merry Christmas," but only in response to a customer initiating the greeting. On its website, Barnes & Noble offers a "Gift Guide" which includes "Holiday gift baskets," "holiday sleds" and "holiday delivery." FYI, the "holiday" celebrated by 95% of the American people at this time of the year is called Christmas.

The Best Buy website offers "unique gifts for the season." According to Liberty Counsel (a Christian legal action group), a company spokesman claims the use of the word "Christmas" is disrespectful. Disrespectful to who? The 5% of the American people who don't celebrate Christmas? But how many of them actually care? (For years, people said "Merry Christmas" to me, without inflicting severe emotional harm.) Would it be disrespectful for a clerk in Tel Aviv to wish someone a "Happy Hanukkah"?

Eddie Bauer's customer service department doesn't acknowledge Christmas because, says a spokesman, the retailer doesn't "want to offend Jews, those who celebrate Kwanza, and those who have no religious preference." And what about the Christians whose holiday is intentionally ignored? The retail giant isn't concerned about offending them.

The no-religious-preference crowd, who nonetheless are into decking the halls, will be relieved to learn that, once again this year, K-Mart is selling "Holiday trees" – under which "holiday presents" may be placed and around which the family can gather on holiday eve to sing "um-um-um, um-um, um-um-um um" – until that too is banned as somehow disrespectful.

The refusal of retailers to wish 95% of the American people a "Merry Christmas," is but a seasonal manifestation of the secularist jihad.

But the unholy war is most apparent at this time of the year:

- The City of Chicago pressured organizers of the annual Cristkindlmarket (literally: Christ candle market) to drop New Line Cinema as a co-sponsor. The studio was going to show clips from its just-released film "The Nativity Story," at its booth. A city official determined it would be terribly "insensitive to the many people of the many faiths who come to enjoy the market for its good and unique gifts" to encounter a booth showing clips from a movie about Jesus – at a Christmas fair. Might spoil their shopping experience, don't you know. (And if someone went to a Hanukkah party they might – oh no! – see a menorah. And wouldn't that be just too



awful for words.) By the by, Chicago always gives a warm municipal welcome to the annual Gay Pride Week (including "Mr. Leather"). Again, religious people apparently have no sensibilities.

- The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to review a lower court ruling that New York public schools can refuse to display crèches at Christmas, while putting up menorahs at Hanukah and crescents at Ramadan. Celebrating minority religions is cool, multicultural and sensitive. Acknowledging the religion of the overwhelming majority is callous, not inclusive – hence, un-cool.
- There's an ongoing game of pc one-upsmanship. Employee "holiday parties" are no longer permitted at the University of Colorado. (Christmas parties were ditched last year.) Obsessive administrators decided that during a holiday party someone might be thinking about that holiday which is the focus of the season. Henceforth, the school will have "staff appreciation parties" or "good-will functions" -- as long as the good will referenced in no way relates to (you, know) peace on earth, good will toward men.

The War on Christmas is one front in the War on Christianity -- which itself is part of the War on Religion and religious-based values.

The same ideologues who want to take Christmas out of Christmas, also want to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance, "In God We Trust" off our currency and bibles out of presidential inaugurations. They want to pretend that the Ten Commandments had no more to do with the founding of this country than the Koran, The Humanist Manifesto II or "The Earth In Balance."

The foregoing should matter to Jews principally for two reasons:

The Jewish mission is to spread God-based morality.

This has been true since the time of Abraham. God expects Jews to spread knowledge of Him and his commandments. We are told to stand against a morality of convenience. (We are expected not to change with the times, but to change the times – as we did in the ancient Near East.) Judaism was the first religion to embrace a universal moral code – one for all people, at all times, in all places.

Just as in the 19th century most American Jews opposed slavery and in the early 20th century, Jewish reformers supported child-labor laws, today, morality-from-Sinai requires us to support the family and oppose sexual license and the destruction of innocent human life (including abortion-on-demand, cloning to kill and euthanasia).

Serious Christians – whose morality comes from our Bible – recognize the same ethical injunctions. That's why they're under relentless attack by the cultural elite. The secular left wants to extinguish God-based morality. The only way to do that is to drive Christianity underground. Hence, the War on Christianity. Hence, the War on Christmas.

How well the left has done its work of deconstructing marriage, the American family and traditional morality may be seen in three statistics. In the 1930s, married couples comprised 84% all households. Today, the figure is just under 50%. Since 2000, the number of cohabitating couples increased by 14%.

That's why, Jews -- as Jews -- must oppose revisionist efforts to deny our nation's Christian heritage, must stand against the drive to decouple our laws from Judeo-Christian ethics and must counter attacks on public expressions of the religion of most Americans – Christianity.

Jews are safer in a Christian America than in a secular America.

Look at the fate of Jews in post-Christian Europe.

Stephen Steinlight, former director of the U.S. Holocaust Museum, says there are an average of 12 assaults a day on Parisian Jews – comparable to Nazi attacks on Jews in the dying days of the Weimar Republic. In recent years, synagogues, Jewish day schools and kosher restaurants have been targeted by Europeans of the jihad persuasion.

In a commentary in the October 17th Jerusalem Post, David Meyer (a French-born rabbi serving a synagogue in Brussels) writes: "I am frightened not just by the anti-Semitism (resurgent in Europe) but by the collective European response of indifference and appeasement. Today, Europe worships compromise. It is 'fanatical' in its non-violence. It is a Europe that, in the face of Islamist fanaticism, is ready to stay silent."

Nature abhors a spiritual vacuum. In a Europe where churches are empty, mosques are filling and new ones are being built every day.

Muslims are having children, while child-like Europeans embrace childless lifestyles. If Christianity fails on the Continent, it won't be replaced by secular nothingness, but by a creed that both Jews and Christians should fear.

It's no surprise that the nation with the highest church attendance in the industrialized world (30% to 40%) is the strongest in its support for Israel. In general, support for Israel in the U.S. population can be predicted by frequency of church attendance, with Evangelicals, -- whose faith is deep-rooted -- most devoted to the Jewish state.

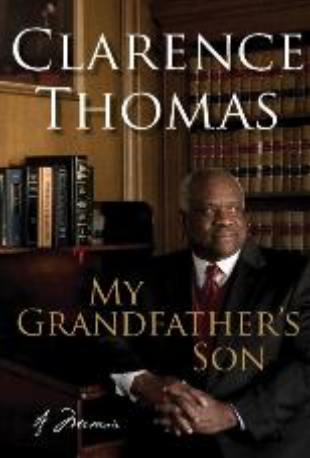
And, please don't tell me about the Spanish Inquisition and the expulsions of 1492. That was half a millennium ago. The principal threats to Jews in the mid-20th century were creeds which sought to replace God with secular ideologies, based on evolutionary race theory or a maniacal class consciousness.

While Christmas isn't part of my religion, I'm all for public acknowledgements of a religious holiday celebrated by 95% of the American people.

What's the alternative -- an America dominated by the twisted theories of Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, Michael Moore and George Clooney? Instead of the red and green of Christmas, how about an America where burka black is the dominant color?

So, what do you prefer to saying "Merry Christmas"? "Workers of the world unite?" Or "Allah Akbar"?

**E-mail the
Editor**



My Grandfather's Son

by Dan Calabria

Issue 98 - December 26, 2007

"This is a circus. It is a national disgrace. And from my standpoint, as a black American, as far as I am concerned, it is a high-tech lynching for uppity blacks who in any way deign to think for themselves, to do for themselves, to have different ideas, and it is a message that, unless you kowtow to an old order, this is what will happen to you, you will be lynched, destroyed, caricatured by a committee of the U. S. Senate rather than being hung from a tree."
("My Grandfather's Son, A Memoir" by Justice Clarence Thomas)

It was in 1991 when Justice of the Supreme Clarence Thomas spoke those words at the conclusion of his confirmation hearings before a committee of that august body, the U. S. Senate. Wait, for those of us who paid attention, it was more like a trial, a witch hunt, and one of the most embarrassing spectacles the country ever witnessed. And it took place in the United States Congress. However, Justice Thomas proved he was better than the group of undistinguished Senators who thought they could destroy a principled man. They were almost successful.

Just prior to his statement Justice Thomas exposed several reprehensible members of that Senate committee with this statement:

"I think that this today is a travesty. I think it is disgusting. I think that this hearing should never occur in America. This is a case in which this sleaze, this dirt, was searched for by staffers of members of this committee, was then leaked to the media, and this committee and this body validated it and displayed it in prime time across our entire nation."

In fact it was the most egregious attempt at character assassination that had ever taken place in the Senate. Had any Senator engaged in these activities concerning another member of the Senate, he would have been censured and ostracized by his colleagues. But this clearly did not happen to the gang of Senators who set out to destroy a fine human being. We've had to wait about 16 years to hear the details of his ordeal directly from Justice Thomas. His early childhood, which was steeped in poverty, served as the basis for what he would face before a rabid press in a televised hearing designed to embarrass and demean someone far superior to his inquisitors.

It's all revealed in the book "My Grandfather's Son" in which Justice Thomas describes the influence of his proud Grandfather, Meyers Anderson, who raised him and his brother. Both men were indeed fortunate to have the kind of guidance best expressed by a Grandfather who constantly reminded them: "Old Man Can't is dead - I helped bury him". There's no doubt that this kind of upbringing was crucial in contending with the national spectacle of a U. S. Senate confirmation hearing, the likes of which we had never seen. That hearing was an example of petty politicians attempting to destroy a good man with falsehoods and innuendo that are always difficult to overcome. Thankfully this effort by small minded politicians failed and the country is better for that failure.

As always the usual suspects were involved, including Senator Teddy Kennedy, current presidential candidate Joe Biden and Howard Metzenbaum (since retired), all of whom engaged in a despicable attempt to prevent Justice Thomas from being voted upon by the full Senate. And these guys are still at it with the exception of Metzenbaum, but now replaced by Senators Pat Leahy, Chuckie Schumer, Harry Reid, Dick Durbin and others of their ilk. You know what it's like whenever you are subjected to their posturing - you feel the need for a hot shower. And yet it goes on. Good men are shot down by common politicians who engage in the use of false information and misrepresentations of facts. When will we finally object to and demand an end to this kind of poison that strikes at the very heart of our political system? It's up to us because Kennedy, Biden, Schumer, Leahy, Reid and Durbin sure won't do it voluntarily.

In Justice Thomas's case we were lucky. But we shouldn't have to depend on luck and the remarkable resolve of men like Thomas.

If you're looking for a gift that will have a lasting impact on relatives and friends, give them a copy of "My Grandfather's Son".

Dan Calabria is at www.realitychecktimes.com

**E-mail the
Editor**

What Kind of Change?

by Lee Ellis

Issue 98 - December 26, 2007

All Americans can agree: change in Washington is needed. But what needs to be changed and who created the problem?

Let's look at gasoline costs as just one example. Yes, gasoline prices have escalated. Do we want gas to cost less? It can be done---and we voters have control.

With oil jumping to 98 dollars a barrel and no new refineries being built, we are still relying on oil from foreign countries. Why? Because too many of our liberal congressional members keep voting against drilling in Alaska, in the Gulf and at other American sites. They ignore that new industrial nations like China and India are now competing for energy and thus bidding up oil prices as their citizens switch from bicycles to automobiles. They also ignore that much of our current oil is coming from OPEC nations that want to destroy the American economy.

Columnist Morris Beschloss, international economist and financial writer, reported recently:

"What was to have been a uniform final summation agreement by the OPEC leaders degenerated into arguments over the effect of fossil fuels on the world's climate; and the need to set up a two-tier standard for the world's rich and poor nations, as proposed by wacky President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela. Chavez wants the world's poverty-stricken nations to buy at a discount, while charging the global economic barons a premium."

As long as politicians put special interest groups with their accompanying larger campaign contributions above the needs of the general public (in this case, the so-called "environmentalists") such financial folly will continue.

In addition, these same liberal Congressional members are more interested in labeling gasoline profits as "windfall" and are trying to figure out ways to tax these profits to get more money for their own pork barrel projects. Instead, Congress should encourage these companies to invest these profits into more drilling and building new refineries which would lower the costs and reduce our dependency on foreign governments.

Profits are often interpreted by media and politicians as riches for greedy corporations. Liberal candidates tend to pander to the people who believe this. The following is an actual letter in one of the Gannett newspapers:

"Stop the stealing: Gas and oil prices - what a rip off. Our great oil companies have never made such high profits. Election year is out in full swing. The big question? Not one of our presidential hopefuls, Democrat or Republican, have [sic] said a word about what they would do to put a stop to this license to steal from our American people. "

It is so easy to forget how our system works. People forget that all money for future research, retooling, and improvements come from the true profits gained in the past. Also people invest only in companies that create profits. Would you buy shares in a company that lost money each year or just broke even? Would you continue your investment in any business if it never made improvements or never did research for the future? Where do people, such as the letter writer above, think that new energy, products or new medical discoveries come from?

All companies must use current profits for future investment. Of course, if there have been losses in past years, loans have to also be paid off from future gains. Failing to have the capital to cover past losses or to plan for a more competitive future, they face bankruptcy, a merger or a hostile

takeover. American automobile companies come to mind. Just look at what has happened to these once prominent and leading corporations when they did not plan for their own futures.

Also, consider the ethanol scam now perpetuated right under the nation's nose. It does not lower gasoline costs, but raises the costs of food as agricultural companies or farms sell much of their corn to oil companies instead of to bakeries, dairies and food manufacturers. Many former wheat farmers have switched to corn, causing higher wheat prices. Milk and bread prices have soared. So now we get hit by both higher gasoline prices and higher food bills! If a politician has had no economic business experience, why vote for him or her? If you would not hire a candidate to run your own shop or home budget, don't vote for him or her to run your country either.

Polls and the media keep telling us that the liberal majority finds the current economy is frightening and that they need a political change. The left-leaning candidates hail this news as positive for them in 2008. But wait a minute folks, they have had control this entire past year and blocked most conservative plans for years before that. It is their control of power that has kept oil from being taken by America from the gulf, while Venezuela drills there instead. It is their control that keeps gas and food high and their control that threatens our nation's defense.

We have stressed just one example of how congressional liberals are costing you money. Remember too, that almost every congressional member who has voted to keep our gasoline and food costs high has also bashed our winning strategy against terrorism while trying to get America to cut and run from Iraq at the height of our winning. Such actions keep our terrorist defense costs high and also cause more of our troops to be killed.

Yes, we do need a political change ---but from a liberal control of Congress to a conservative control. Add a conservative presidency, too, and we shall see many good changes for America and its citizens. Whether it is illegal immigration, national defense, a good economy with more available jobs and lower taxes, maintaining America as a Republic, stopping local government and our schools from continued takeovers by Socialist or atheist forces and keeping our country as a nation under God, we voters will decide all of this in 2008. The political pendulum continues its swing.

Will it continue to swing to the economy-killing Socialism of the Left or back to the true American promise of the Right? It is your decision, Mr. and Mrs. America!

FamilySecurityMatters.org Contributing Editor Lee Ellis is a retired journalist and radio narrator, formerly a Vice President with both CBS and Gannett (USA Weekend). He is also a combat veteran of WWII, having fought in the South Pacific invasions. He can be contacted at indiolee@dc.rr.com.

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Editor**

Reader Comments

Issue 98 - December 26, 2007

Editor: Your "Religion at Christmas 2007" is right and Michael Gerson is wrong. "Compassionate conservatism" is a socialistic buzzword, with all of the ills that attend socialism. Gerson mistakenly believes that it is government's obligation to correct the ills in society. Apparently, his ideas parallel those of Karl Marx in his Communist Manifesto. There is one immutable rule both overlooked: any government with enough power to change society for the good, also has the power to change society for the ill. Human nature dictates that the latter will always occur. Samuel A. Hill

Editor: Great stuff in your "Religion at Christmas 2007," as always. I'm going to blog your story on religion today, as I think your critique of big government conservatism as the problem is spot-on. S.T Karnick, The American Culture

Editor: Regarding your "A Civil Debate on Torture," you mention that Bret Stephens, columnist and editorial writer for the Wall Street Journal, maintains that a needle under fingernails is obviously torture but "hours held naked in a frigid [50 degrees Fahrenheit] cell; days and nights without sleep while battered by thunderous rock music; long periods manacled in stress positions; or the ultimate waterboarding" only come "progressively closer to the line." I would like to subject Bret Stephens to the practices which he says "only come progressive closer to the line." What has Stephens ever done in life except sit at a typewriter or keyboard and pound out such dribble as the above lines? I am a conservative, served 22 years in the military and recognize that all the above are torture. If this is what conservatism has come to, I believe it's time for me to drop out. John S. Perilloux

Editor: I read your article "A Civil Debate on Torture" with great amazement. Michael Mulcasey should have to respond to questions of torture? The very people who pursued this issue support the torture of pre-born human beings. The submersion in saline solutions, the crushing of skulls, the ripping and tearing of limbs, of innocent victims they don't have a problem with. There is a name for these people and they will eventually destroy this country if we don't start electing statesman instead of politicians. Stanley Sekunda, Middletown, RI

Editor: Merciful heavens! Spencer Warren hit the nail on the head over and over in his article "Lions For Lambs." I don't think that Redford has ever gotten off that motorcycle of his or his property to check out the "real world" around him. I am disappointed in Meryl for accepting a role such as this and Tom Cruise, well, he just thinks anything he plays in will be a hit. He acts so full of himself, it has really turned me away from his films. KUDOS TO YOU.....GREAT WRITING! Roxanna Miller

Editor: Dennis Avery's "Artic Warming, Antarctic Cooling?" is a very good article, written in a manner most people can readily understand. Too many journalists who attempt to define "global warming" write in a style that is confusing due to their lack of expertise on the subject. As a matter of fact, too

many scientists remain silent on the subject. Many thanks for the easily understandable way you have presented this subject. John J. Connors, Jr.

Editor: Dennis Avery needs to tell the public that they need to follow the money. Carbon offsets are a strange concept. Let me show you in layman terms how it works: Al Gore goes to an Italian restaurant and eats a loaf of garlic bread, a plate of lasagna, a bowl of spaghetti and meatballs, an extra large pizza with seven toppings, a couple bottles of expensive wine and a large assortment of pastries. As a result, he puts on 10 pounds. But he is deeply concerned that mankind is getting too fat. So he pays 10 peasants in Asia \$10 each to eat nothing for a week. Although they are already skinny, by starving themselves for a week, they each lose a pound. As a result, after a week, mankind is weight neutral. Al Gore weighs 10 pounds more, 10 Asians weigh 10 pounds less -- and Al Gore is given another Nobel Propaganda Prize for his leadership in keeping mankind's obesity in check. Of course, this example is not quite fair to Gore because that imagined humanitarianism actually costs him cash money. In the real carbon offset business, he looks forward to being paid for directing other carbon consumers to invest in carbon neutral projects through Generation Investment Management which Gore is the founder and chairman. So Gore will profit from mankind's misery. I'm glad to see he finally has developed the capitalist instinct (like his daddy did with Occidental Petroleum and Armand Hammer). When Gore personally is using carbon, as when he flies in a carbon belching Gulfstream jet, one of his companies would pay some other guy not to fly or plant a tree or do something to offset Gore's carbon belching so that Gore can feel elated about himself and live as he wants. Under the TRILLION DOLLAR Kyoto Protocol's trading scheme to determine the offset of emissions and the amount of CO 2 that needs to be paid for will be controlled by the same organization that controlled the pittance BILLION DOLLAR Iraqi Food for Oil program with Saddam, the anti-America corrupt United Nations!!! Socialist French President Jacques Chirac said in 2000 the UN's Kyoto Protocol represented "the first component of an authentic global governance." Benton Bain, Frederick, SD

Editor: Why is Al Gore getting away with this global warming hoax explained by Lisa Fabrizio in her "Draft Gore Movie"? How can we stop the economic damage? Suzanne Stallings, Charlotte, NC

Editor: All that Alan Caruba says in "Eliminate Gas Tax" is more than likely true. However what can be done about it? Our elected officials don't listen to the people anymore. They vote for the most part on behalf of big business, the people who actually put them in office. Both parties are owned by corporate America. I wrote to my elected officials several years ago and told them that Big Oil was going to bring this country to its knees. I have one Republican Senator and the other one is a Democrat. I didn't hear from either one of them on this issue. I received a canned message that I am not sure even came close to any issue I had. There are no middle class any longer--we are the new poor along with the old poor. Of course there are the rich and they are becoming richer over tax deductions that the poor do not receive. What type of tax does the distributor pay? Why is it the final consumer is the one to pay the taxes and everyone in between is let off the hook. Bob Kennard

Editor: Regarding Dennis and Alex Avery's "Anti-Technology Kills," how it is that Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund are able to block distribution of these goods? What do they do to get information about such advances as the "Golden Rice" you mentioned and then prevent its distribution? I'm just curious about how the "environmentalist whackos" have become so influential. They seem to do good on some things, but overall appear to do great harm. It seems they are of the opinion that it is OK for children and people in general to die from otherwise preventable situations as long as some

kind of sparrow, lizard or toad is saved in the process. Thank you for your insight. Sincerely, Mark Veen

Editor: Regarding Rich Noyes' "Media Out-biases Blogs," it did not take a study for me to be absolutely sure the entire media is biased. I thought that the FCC rules for broadcasters required them to service the community. Each year they must ask for license renewal, and are required to report the fact that they are asking for renewal on their stations. How can we find out when each station is due? If we knew, we could setup mass mailings of failure to work in the best interest of the community to the FCC right at the perfect time to cause great grief and possible license revocation of liberal bias stations. Randy Chopp

Editor: On Neil Bradley's "Big Government Book," what is being done to reduce the number of Government employees sucking our tax dollars away in senseless jobs in many departments? Greg Vacek

Editor: John Goodman needs to give information for more candidates in his "Candidates on Health." I am sure Fred Thompson has something to say.....and he is still gaining momentum even though he came into the race later than anyone else! R in Indiana [*Editor replies: Sen. Thompson only lists general principles (as opposed to a specific proposal) on health care on his website, where his health views may be found at* <http://www.fred08.com/Principles/PrinciplesSummary.aspx?View=OnTheIssues>]

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