



William F. Buckley Jr.

CONSERVATIVE BATTLELINE ONLINE

*The "Bold Colors" Conservative Voice in
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Issue 103 - March 12, 2008

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Buckley's Program

by Donald Devine

Issue 103 - March 12, 2008

William F. Buckley Jr. was the single person most responsible for creating the conservative movement. The modern conservative synthesis was formed under his tutelage during the 1950s and 1960s at the editorial meetings of the magazine he founded, *National Review*, crafted with a diverse and thoughtful crew that included Frank Meyer, Russell Kirk, Whittaker Chambers, James Burnham and many other creative intellectuals. But Buckley was the center.



William F. Buckley, Jr.

His book "Up From Liberalism" was one of his earliest and survived to be the most comprehensive and inspiring statement of his program.

I will not cede more power to the state. I will not willingly cede more power to anyone, not to the state, not to General Motors, not to the CIO. I will hoard my power, as I see fit. I mean to live my life an obedient man, but obedient to God, subservient to the wisdom of my ancestors; never to the authority of political truths arrived at yesterday at the voting booth. That is a program of sorts, is it not? It is certainly program enough to keep conservatives busy and liberals at bay. And the nation free.

Bill Buckley's dual attachment to freedom and traditional moral values—he said the critical battle between individualism and collectivism was merely a "struggle on a different level" of the more fundamental one between Judeo-Christianity and atheism—this was the formula that won the hearts of the movement that developed around his towering personality. His call for the revival of individualism and moral responsibility in the face of the dominant and repressive welfare state bureaucratic paternalism of the modern age was the spark that ignited all that followed.

The enemy of freedom was state power and its bureaucracy, especially when it was corrupted by real evil such as under communism and Nazism. Even in the more benign form of democratic welfare statism it was morally corrupting and produced dependence. As the great 19th Century observer Alexis de Tocqueville predicted long before, once the populace obtains "free" benefits from government, it becomes dependent on them. As Buckley put it, "There is an inverse relationship between reliance on the state and self reliance."

So how has the Buckley program to expand liberty and reduce bureaucracy worked? For many years his conservatism grew quietly in the wilderness but it did finally come to power under Ronald Reagan. The program was successful--for a while. By the end of his term, President Reagan had reduced non-defense federal employment by 75,000 full time equivalent positions (about 100,000 employees). The bad news is that the federal bureaucracy has been increasing ever since. The end of the Cold War did allow the reduction of 330,000 defense civilian employees but non-defense bureaucracy—that which fuels welfare state dependence--increased by 13.6 percent or 145,000 from the time the Gipper left until the current estimate for the last of the Bush years.



The program has retrogressed so far that President George W. Bush could famously demand that "when someone hurts, government must act." Unfortunately, when government acts, it needs bureaucrats and bureaucracy. Consequently, President Bush has increased domestic government employment more than any other post World War II president, although all of the others have tried.

His final (and labeled his most frugal) budget for 2009 seeks an increase of 26,000 additional federal employees. It is true that it is predominantly for homeland security but increases have been across the board, over time in every department except Treasury.

So, has the Buckley program failed? That is not so clear. Polls show that the overwhelming majority of Americans prefers a smaller government that does fewer things to a larger one that does more. Americans once really believed "I'm from the government and I'm here to help." Today, partially under the critique from Buckley's movement, this is a national joke. Most people just do not think big, national government works. They are correct. Since 9/11, as noted, the Department of Homeland Security has been lavished with the most funds and personnel. But the additional employees just cannot seem to make the new bureaucracy work. The official Government Accountability Office audits find that DHS met only half of the performance objectives set by the president, the Department and Congress, only on 78 of 171 tasks. Even moderate progress was made on only eight of fourteen major benchmarks.

More important, it is now clear that DHS procedures actually exacerbated the number one challenge it met, the Katrina hurricane. Before 9/11, Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster relief overwhelmingly relied on volunteers and local government for funds, leadership and personnel. But when it was incorporated into DHS, FEMA not unnaturally adopted the security orientation of its parent. When the hurricane hit, the prime directive of security is always to "secure the area." As a result, the main potential emergency assistance was kept away from the scene. The president's own brother sent a flotilla of boats with medicine and supplies that were kept out because they did not have the proper security clearance. Another was sent from Shreveport and turned away. The same fate was met by thousands of other potential helpers.

It is going to get worse. DHS is preparing a more secure control system that will not allow rescue workers to "swarm"—as a "professional disaster relief expert" put it to a reporter--into disaster areas without a federally-issued secure identification tag proving their disaster expertise. Government officials admit most assistance is provided by volunteers but they claim they are without the "special skills" that are required and will be recorded on the IDs. Perhaps, but what is certain is that no one without a badge will be admitted to the next disaster to help. It will be Katrina squared. Even more, what happens if the scanners do not arrive or break down? When people hurt, no one will be able to help anyone.

All of the federal programs are breaking down. The three biggest, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security are nearing bankruptcy and the new prescription drug benefit just moved up the end. Education spending has increased 99 percent without any discernable improvement. Each year tests of the transportation security system show that it is easily breached at airports and ports. The agriculture support program is mostly spent on mega-farmers who do not need it. Veterans get lost in the gap between military and civilian health and benefits coverage and often receive inferior care. After a great investment in border security, illegal drugs and laborers still slip through with impunity.

So citizens are correct to question whether government officials can really help. But as Buckley recognized, the greater problem is the dependency the programs produce even if they did work. Not only is great wealth squandered on inefficient or even counterproductive programs that could be used effectively elsewhere but people come to believe at the insistence of the politicians and bureaucrats that only more federal "help" will solve the problems that the Feds themselves have often created--so the rot seeps throughout society to the remotest hamlet.

A California school district recently banned tag, cops-and-robbers, touch football and all other "bodily contact" between children to promote "self esteem" and outlaw "violence;" but actually it outlaws independence and creativity. The Cincinnati Little League has banned chatter on the baseball diamond to prevent "frustration" among the players. A Colorado Springs elementary school eliminated tag, although allowed running as long as no one was chased! At Mascoutah middle school in Illinois, a 13 year old was given detention for hugging her friends before the weekend, violating the school policy against "public displays of affection." The result of this bureaucratic nonsense, of

course, is flabby children. But the bureaucracy has an answer. Call it "obesity," label it as another national crisis and create another government program (with more employees) to combat the "crisis" they themselves created.

The dependence Buckley feared has become so profound there is not enough will even to have children and create the next generation. With its welfare state more developed, Europe is leading the way. While it takes 2.1 children per childbearing aged woman, Europe is down to 1.3 and the birthplace of the West will soon be depopulated (or become Muslim). The U.S. is doing better but European-Americans are below replacement at 1.8 and, according to a new major study, 80 percent of future population growth will come from immigrants or their children, primarily Hispanic.

While Bill Buckley's program has not succeeded, his analysis remains even more relevant than when he first wrote because people are more dependent. It is too late to turn to Mr. Buckley, however. He is now gone to his God, obedient to the end, still subservient to the wisdom of his ancestors. He was, in fact, the most generous person I have ever known. But he cannot help us any longer.

It is now up to us to continue his struggle up from liberalism. When the moral and fiscal bankruptcy of the welfare state finally cannot be ignored any longer, people will seek another answer and someone must be there to propose the Buckley program. As he reminded us, no matter how fundamental the challenge, "despair is inappropriate for a culture as buoyant as our own."



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Editor**

Bureaucracy Security Snafu

by Paul Weyrich

Issue 103 - March 12, 2008

As this column has noted repeatedly, much of the Federal bureaucracy continues to march to the beat of its own bloated drum. Wait, make that a union drum. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently lost a struggle to overhaul its bureaucratic personnel system, courtesy of a union lawsuit. DHS announced this past Friday that it will not implement new labor rules it proposed six years ago, and, in the wake of this announcement, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit closed a lawsuit against DHS.



Paul M. Weyrich

The decision ended a lengthy showdown that began in the summer of 2002. President George W. Bush's Administration wanted to form a new employee system for DHS to allow for more managerial discretion in personnel issues. The Administration originally used the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 as an example of why more involvement and oversight by union representatives would be detrimental to national security. In the event of an emergency there may not be sufficient time to allow DHS personnel to notify union representatives of the deployment of union members to new areas. Instead, the Bush Administration proposed the creation of a separate DHS personnel system, which would change everything from employee pay and promotion to disciplinary procedures.

In 2005, DHS and the Office of Personnel Management introduced specific rules for the new personnel system. According to THE WASHINGTON POST, the proposed rules would have allowed DHS to override any provision in a union contract by issuing a Department-wide directive. They also would have made it difficult for unions to negotiate arrangements for staffing, deployments and technology. The National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) promptly sued and successfully blocked implementation of the rules when the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled in June 2006 that the proposed system violated DHS employees' legal rights to collective bargaining. NTEU also lobbied Congress, which provided no funding for the new system in its Fiscal Year 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

In the wake of the announcement that DHS would not overhaul its system, the President of the Union announced that she would continue to oppose any change to the personnel system within DHS. And we wonder why the Federal Government is incapable of either protecting Americans or making appropriate changes to its staid bureaucracy? With friends like these, who needs enemies to do us harm?

More than any other Federal bureaucracy, DHS should have the flexibility to anticipate and respond rapidly to crises. To do so, it should be allowed to promote and deploy those best suited for a situation based upon meritorious performance, skill and knowledge, not pre-arranged union contracts.

The selfishness and lack of foresight displayed in this case is indicative of larger problems conservatives and libertarians face in their pursuit of a smaller, more disciplined and more responsive Federal Government. It is not only politicians and bureaucrats who upon occasion serve as roadblocks to progress; it is some unions and numerous other special-interest groups which place the welfare of the group above that of the larger society. The two drums, it seems, are out of synch and probably impossible to coordinate, leading to a rather haphazard, hesitant and insecure march.

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

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Editor**

There Will Be Blood

by Spencer Warren

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Movie-making obviously is a very demanding business, requiring artistic talent and mastery of a complex craft. With rare exceptions, it requires a lot of experience. In the heyday of Hollywood, when the studios controlled the production and distribution of movies, directors usually lacked the autonomy many have today. The creative ones who had a personal vision nevertheless managed to impart their vision through their mastery of their own personal style. They often complained about the control of producers, but in retrospect, some creative producers, like Darryl F. Zanuck, often worked fruitfully with directors and improved the films. For example, Zanuck made possible two of John Ford's greatest films, *The Grapes of Wrath* (1940) and *How Green Was My Valley* (1941), which have tighter narratives than Ford's later, personally produced post-war films. Zanuck's ending for the great Ford Western *My Darling Clementine* (1946) is better than Ford's – only in the past few years have we seen Ford's original (on DVD) and learned the classic finale is what Zanuck in fact wanted.



Further, the studios, through their “assembly lines” of highly talented and experienced writers, art directors, cinematographers, editors, costume designers, composers and so on, provided priceless support for the directors. *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), for example, directed by Victor Fleming, would be inconceivable outside of the vast resources of the MGM of the time. Fleming directed most of *Gone With the Wind* the same year; it would be inconceivable without the most hands-on of producers, David O. Selznick. The same applies to Warner Brothers' *Casablanca* (1942) and *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938), both directed by Michael Curtiz. Indeed, this team approach helps to explain why so many classics that we love today came out of that period of studio-run film-making. The frequent absence of this team approach in our contemporary world of totally liberated “artists” is a major reason why films tend to be so bad today.

For in our world, directors like Martin Scorsese, Steven Spielberg, Oliver Stone and Quentin Tarantino often can make their own multi-million dollar films with total or almost total personal control. It is doubtful, however, whether this has made their films better. Overlong, self-indulgent displays like Scorsese's *Gangs of New York* (2003) (see my essay at <http://acuf.org/issues/issue83/070504med.asp>), Stone's *Natural Born Killers* (1994), and Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* (1994), *Kill Bill: Vol. 1* (2003) and *Kill Bill: Vol. 2* (2004) are ego-trips of nonsense that dissolve into violent, pointless depravity. Spielberg's *The Color Purple* (1985) and *Saving Private Ryan* (1998), and even his *Schindler's List* (1993), are too long and lose focus; they would have benefited from the guiding hand of a Zanuck (who used to brag he could save any film, however mediocre, in the editing room).

These days one need not even be in the “elite” class of this quartet to have total control of your “creation.” Take Paul Thomas Anderson, the writer as well as director of the Oscar-nominated *There Will Be Blood*. Born in 1970, this supposed wunderkind first made his name in 1997 with *Boogie Nights*, a wild descent of “personal expression” into the world of pornographic film-making, with lots and lots of filthy dialogue. Following a few more films, now he has come up with his first opus, a free adaptation of the novel *Oil*, by the radical author Upton Sinclair.

This film is so bad it is hard to decide where to begin. Basically, it's another venture by left-wing Hollywood into the evil of businessmen and by implication the entire American historical experience. At the beginning we see the budding entrepreneur, Daniel Plainview (Daniel Day-Lewis), struggling in a dark hole with a pickax, trying somewhere to find oil in 1898. He is risking his meager funds, and the work is dirty, very hard and dangerous. After this interesting start, which does show why

businessmen are entitled to their profits, the remaining two and a half hours are devoted to showing Plainview cheating his way to a fortune, all the while abandoning his adopted son (who loses his hearing in an oil well accident), murdering one man for no reason, and generally losing his mind as the psychosis of Anderson's view of free enterprise overtakes him. He flies into a rage and rejects Standard Oil's offer of millions for his Southern California wells just because the latter's representative made a comment that Plainview would then be free to devote his time to his son – unwittingly tapping into the guilt he feels from abandoning the boy in the pursuit of oil.

The other plot-line, if one could call it this, is the Bible-thumping Evangelicals (led by one Eli Sunday) whom Plainview cheats in order to make millions drilling on their parched California land. I doubt that believers have ever been depicted as more stupid, superstitious and worthless than here. Eli is depicted as something of a parallel to Plainview's ruthless hustler, only Eli is after power through the new church he persuades Plainview to finance (modestly). Thus the "artist" Anderson can defame the devout as well as the entrepreneur with his "unfettered personal expression." Plainview is so desperately hungry for success against Standard Oil that, in order to get the rights to build a pipeline to carry his oil to the ocean, he allows one poor landowner blocking his project to blackmail him into becoming baptized. He prostrates himself in the clapboard church, confessing his sins louder and louder at the demand of Eli Sunday, before being received into the church. But Plainview – and Anderson – get their revenge in the film's final, truly ludicrous scene.

This is lifted right out of the classic Orson Welles 1941 expose of the empty world built by newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst, *Citizen Kane*. Where Welles places the elderly Kane all alone amidst his gargantuan – but worthless – material acquisitions in his mammoth castle, Xanadu (an obvious reference to Hearst's San Simeon, outside San Francisco), Anderson plops the older, now deranged Plainview all alone in a mansion, with its mahogany walls for him to stare at. Here, two long scenes of unending talk finally, and mercifully, end the film. In the first, Plainview bitterly rejects his now adult son's confession of his (inexplicable) love, and sends him off never to be seen again. In the second, Plainview, lying drunk on the bowling lane of his private bowling alley, is roused by a visitor from the good-old days – Eli Sunday. This visit degenerates into Plainview turning the tables on his humiliating baptism of decades earlier: Eli wants money from Plainview for his church, so he allows himself to be blackmailed into a confession of his own – that there is no God; it's all superstition. (See, even the pious have their price.) But this does not satisfy the mad Plainview, who proceeds in his rage to murder Eli, smashing his head in with a bowling pin. At this point, I was laughing, just as I was laughing at the comparably ridiculous, very violent end of Scorsese's Oscar-winner of last year, *The Departed*.

And that, dear readers, is the end of a film that the effable New York Times movie critic described as an "epic American nightmare" and "a terrifying prophecy about the coming American century." Unable (like the maker of this film) to restrain herself, the critic compares the picture with others "that have dismantled the mythologies of American success and, in doing so, replaced one utopian ideal for another, namely that of the movies themselves" (whatever that means). The film, she proclaims, "is above all a consummate work of art." The "window it opens is to human consciousness itself."

Not for nothing has the New York Times become, as the communists would say, the leading "organ" of American Cultural Marxism. The film fulfills these Cultural Marxists' need for the only thing that counts, ideological purity – the evil of our free economy (I don't like to use the term capitalism, which I believe Marx devised). This helps to explain a review which has nothing to do with reality, but everything to do with promoting the ideological "cause." It represents the attitude that pervades many parts of the Times: among many examples, note the paper's abandonment of any standard of fairness and objectivity in favor of tendentiousness in its news pages, the hysteria of its editorials and of columnists like Paul Krugman and Frank Rich, the vicious attacks on Mel Gibson's *The Passion* in 2004, the Jayson Blair affirmative action fiasco in 2003 that led to the then editor's resignation, and, most recently, the dishonest article trying to smear Senator McCain. This is the true Culture War raging on many fronts.

It is not likely we will see contemporary Hollywood coming up with films like *Edison, the Man* (1940) or King Vidor's 1944 epic of the American Dream and free enterprise, *An American Romance* (see my essay at <http://acuf.org/issues/issue96/071117med.asp>). The latter is based on the true rags to riches story of a poor Danish immigrant, William Knudsen, who rose to become the president of General Motors and then directed the mobilization of the industrial might of our free people that destroyed Hitler and Imperial Japan.

But, if any film-maker is interested, he might look into the life of Charles Martin Hall who, just out of Oberlin College, in 1888 discovered the electrical method of extracting aluminum from aluminum ore, or bauxite. Until then, aluminum had been as rare, and as valuable, as gold. Hall and financier Alfred E. Hunt then founded what we now know as the Aluminum Company of America – ALCOA. Without his discovery and the entrepreneurship of a great corporation, people like Anderson would not be flying around the world promoting their films, because without the lightness and strength of aluminum there would be no modern airplanes, not to mention countless other essentials of modern life. Indeed, without the inventive and business genius of George Eastman, whose celluloid film in the 1890s replaced paper in his new easy-to-use camera, the Kodak, Anderson would not even be making films. Eastman set up the first profit-sharing program for corporate employees and later gave away his immense personal fortune, to the University of Rochester, M.I.T., the Tuskegee Institute and various medical and dental clinics.

Alternatively, some Hollywood wunderkind might look into the life of a poor Serbian immigrant named Nikola Tesla, who between 1887 and 1890 created and patented the basis of modern alternating current electricity generation, transmission and distribution. Backed by George Westinghouse (the inventor of the modern railroad air brake, a foundation of the railroad industry during America's post-Civil War industrialization), Tesla's invention proved far superior to Edison's direct current method for long-distance electricity transmission. Tesla and Westinghouse first demonstrated their genius by providing all the lighting for the tri-centenary Columbian Exposition World's Fair in Chicago in 1893. Three years later, they harnessed Niagara Falls to light Buffalo, definitively demonstrating the practical superiority of alternating current. The cinematic possibilities are obvious. (Note that without such abundant electricity, we would not have the washing machines and refrigerators which came into abundance after World War II; in replacing the labor intensive washing boards and iceboxes, whose primitiveness required shopping many days of each week, they later made possible the liberation of women so acclaimed by the left today. No free enterprise, No Women's Lib.)

An enterprising film-maker also could acquire the rights to Robert Hessen's biography of Charles M. Schwab, *Steel Titan*. Beginning as an unskilled laborer, in twenty years he rose to the presidency of Carnegie Steel, then became first president of U.S. Steel and then founder of Bethlehem Steel, where early in the twentieth century he revolutionized the building of the budding skyscrapers by the highly risky development of a certain kind of new steel beam. Schwab played a key role as manager of Carnegie's Homestead steel mill following the deadly, infamous strike in 1892, when Carnegie destroyed unionization in the industry until the 1930s. Later in life, Schwab descended into a life of hedonism. All these subjects offer rich dramatic possibilities, at the same time giving a complex, balanced view of our country's epic industrial development -- unlike the ignorant, crude, fanatical hatred exemplified by *There Will Be Blood*.

Spencer Warren is www.ConservativeBattleline.com's media critic.

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Editor**

Real "Old Men" Message

by S.T. Karnick

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No Country for Old Men, screenwritten and directed by Joel and Ethan Coen (from a Cormac McCarthy book), has garnered a multitude of honors since its release last fall, and has won the Motion Picture Academy Award for Best Picture. It is a highly deserving film, although difficult for many audience members to watch because of its powerful violence and overall downbeat tone.

In this regard ***No Country for Old Men*** certainly fits the current mood of Hollywood, and of modern liberals in general today.

AP [summarized the situation well in a story aptly headlined "Dark films and politics loom over Academy Awards"](#):



S.T. Karnick

Oscar watchers say this year's best film nominees reflect the mood of the 5,800 voting members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The two front running movies for the best film honor are violent, a third nominee tells of corporate and legal greed, a fourth of family betrayal and the fifth teen pregnancy—that's the funny one.

The story noted that contemporary Hollywood's mindset is greatly at odds with that of its audience, the American people:

Optimistic "Juno" has been the biggest box office hit among the best picture nominees with more than \$125 million in U.S. and Canadian ticket sales. "No Country" has topped \$60 million and "There will be Blood" more than \$30 million. "Atonement" and "Michael Clayton" took in about \$46 million each.

The unanimous opinion *on No Country for Old Men* has been that it fits perfectly with the current Hollywood mindset—and as regards the surface impressions of the film, that is an entirely accurate assessment.

But the meaning of the film actually entirely contradicts the basic philosophy behind not only contemporary Hollywood but in fact modern liberalism as a whole.

The central events of ***No Country for Old Men*** all involve characters making the choice to move outside of society and indeed out of civilization altogether.

The initial scene that sets off all the action takes place in a remote desert in Texas, as a solitary hunter, Llewelyn Moss (Josh Brolin), comes across a violent scene that emblemizes the lawlessness that drives the film: a drug deal evidently gone very bad, with the place littered with corpses recently killed—and one still dying.

Moss finds a case full of money, and he takes it—and as soon becomes clear, he intends to keep it for himself.

In doing so, he sets himself outside of society, for of course society cannot protect him from the consequences of his bad act, but in fact is set up to do precisely the opposite.

Moss has thus put himself in an environment that exists outside the boundaries of society, and indeed of civilization itself. Normal rules do not apply, and different characters make up differing moral codes on their own. Most of these codes, as is to be expected, are entirely self-serving and

center on the assertion of raw power. It is the world of [Friedrich Nietzsche's philosophy](#) made manifest.

Continual disasters and horrors ensue as Moss is swept up into events he cannot hope to control, when a hitman is put on his trail.

Formerly fully attached to civilization, as his name suggests, Moss is now bereft of the rock and the security it once afforded him. The rock—which in the Bible is Petra, the profession of faith in Christ—is now rolling, and it will not gather Moss.

The central dramatic motif of the film is the absence, in this particular world, of the ordering and pacifying forces of civilization, represented by the aged, disillusioned, and ultimately ineffectual Sheriff Bell (Tommy Lee Jones).

The hitman's habitual way of deciding whether those who inadvertently get in his way shall live or die—the flip of a coin—encapsulates the way characters outside of civilization are at the mercy of fate, of events they cannot hope to control. It is only within society, within civilization, and specifically in this case a Christian civilization, that people can hope to thrive and make the world a better place.

Where this differs from the prevailing attitude in Hollywood is this: one of the main foundations of modern liberalism is the thinking of [the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau](#). The central assumption behind all of Rousseau's thought is that human beings are born basically good and are corrupted only by society. In addition, the idea of self-love as being an entirely good thing is a strong part of Rousseau's philosophy. (The modern passion for self-esteem is but one contemporary manifestation of this idea.)

All of this, of course, is the opposite of the Christian claim that human beings are born sinful and require redemption.

What the Coen brothers' film shows so vividly is that outside of civilization is chaos, destruction, and horror.

It is civilization, the film makes abundantly clear, that allows human beings to survive with at least a small slice of dignity, peace, and comfort, and with their humanity at least somewhat intact.

This is the exact opposite of Rousseau's claim, and it brilliantly validates the Christian view of humanity.

It's a good thing that Hollywood and America's film critics have failed to realize this about ***No Country for Old Men***. Its message can reach people intact, thanks in great part to the honors heaped upon the film by its unsuspecting enemies.

S.T. Karnick is the editor of American Culture, where this first appeared. <http://stkarnick.com>

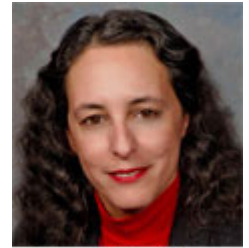
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Foreign Oscars?

by Lisa Fabrizio

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Watching the Oscars--an indignity I endure solely for the opportunity to engage in conversation with a few friends concerning our nation's 'culture'--only reaffirmed that Hollywood remains primarily engaged in selling a bill of goods that America is a dark and dreary place, worthy mostly of derision and disdain; even if not everyone is buying it.



Lisa Fabrizio

Despite the film industry's lavishing its highest honors on films they consider "art," none of vehicles of the winners of the best-acting awards--all four of whom are foreign-born--or even the best picture, finished any higher than 40th where it counts, at the [box office](#). Worse for the glitter-crowd is the report that this year's telecast was also a [ratings flop](#). That's the good news.

As the tedious four-hour celebration of all that the left loves dragged on, one gentleman, who literally plays Devil's Advocate at our weekly gatherings, reproached me for criticizing the Oscar lineup without having seen any of the movies nominated for critical acclaim by the Academy. I tried to explain that I refuse to support an industry whose priorities and politics repulse me and whose product consists mostly of violent, badly-written and uninspiring tripe.

Not surprisingly, one of the many misguided attempts at what passes for humor in Hollywood launched by uber-liberal Jon Stewart, turned out to be the highlight of the show. A video clip of old movie scenes--including the sublime "Rear Window"--called "Oscar's salute to binoculars and telescopes" was supposed to be a poke at the writers strike, but only served to point out the wide gap between movie-making then and now.

As the old images, mostly scenes of World War II naval battles through periscopes, flickered past, they recalled the clear way in which Hollywood once presented wartime movies. Were they a little gung-ho and over-endowed with a flag-waving, 'yes-we-can' spirit? Surely; but wasn't the country invested with those same sentiments after Pearl Harbor?

One has only to look back to the months immediately following 9/11 to recapture the feeling that Hollywood helped sustain in order to see the nation through the dark days of World War II. Studio executives merely did what they clearly saw as 'their part' for the good of the country.

But of course, their modern counterparts' reaction was just the opposite; after the attack, the brave liberals in Hollywood made no movies about the War on Terror for fear of alienating our enemies, while ensuing years saw the release of films concerning our efforts in Iraq, which were stamped with their formulaic views of war, gleaned through their Viet Nam binoculars. Happily though, thanks to the remaining vestiges of patriotism and devotion to our troops in the field, the American people saw to it that these movies bombed.

In today's Hollywood, as in liberal minds everywhere, our enemies' causes--even as insanely twisted and barbaric as those of the Islamofascists--must be given equal, if not more consideration than America's. Indeed, the leftists who seek to drive popular opinion in our country may soon manage to convince our young citizens that even World War II was unjust, and that Hollywood's output of movies during that conflict was, of course, nothing more than 'propaganda'.

As if making movies supporting American war efforts is wrong while making movies degrading America and the American soldier is in some way an artistic 'truth'. After all, in today's world, except for the GOP and its allies in corporate America, there are no aggressors, only victims. But you needn't visit your nearest movie theater to discover this, just open your local paper or turn on the TV.

During Sunday's broadcast, another fellow in our group who just retired from the military after a distinguished 40-year career, summed it up best; saying that Hollywood is in the business of trying to turn Americans against America. And although the Academy has tried to ratchet down the left-wing political speeches of years past in order to boost ticket sales, they just can't hide their agenda. Mere minutes after an embarrassing bit in which some of our deployed troops presented an award, we were treated to [this](#) from the maker of a winning documentary on U.S. military torture:

And, truth is, I think my dear wife Anne was kind of hoping I'd make a romantic comedy, but honestly, after Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib and extraordinary rendition that simply wasn't possible...Let's hope we can turn this country around, move away from the dark side and back to the light.

The real truth is, that our tinseltown socialists never see the liberation of over 50 million people through the fog of war they help to perpetuate, or the fact that there have been no attacks on our shores since President Bush made the painful decision to take military action against those who seek to do us harm. Nor can these people muster a word of cinematic thanks for our troops who defend them against those who would gladly demonstrate what real torture is all about, should we ever lack the brave men to prevent it.

If, in the days following Pearl Harbor, or especially 9/11, you could bring yourself to imagine that the lion's share of cinematic acclaim and the focus of untold pages of newsprint and miles of videotape would be the alleged mistreatment of our enemies at the hands of the U.S. military, and not on their intrepid efforts at winning the war, you might have thought that you were in some kind of fantasy land: hooray for Hollywood.

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

**E-mail the
Editor**

Saving Poor From Barbara

by John Goodman

Issue 103 - March 12, 2008

My definition of a Hollywood liberal is someone who believes you can solve all the world's problems without knowing anything about economics. (After all, who needs graphs and mathematical symbols, when all you really need is love?) Unfortunately, there are way too many people in health policy who think exactly the same way. They not only resist the economic way of thinking, they are actually resentful if anyone injects it into the discussion.



John Goodman

Barbara Streisand is always trying to help the poor in Africa with good intentions and bad policies. A little economics could actually help save the poor from her goodwill.

Consider health care spending in Africa and suppose we had only \$1,500 to spend. How should we spend it? Health economist estimate \$1,500 would:

- Treat 1 HIV positive person for one year.
- Prevent 75 people from contracting polio, diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus.
- Treat 150 people with tuberculosis for one year.
- Prevent 500 people from contracting tuberculosis each year.
- Treat 1,500 people with intestinal worms for one year.
- Treat 1,500 people with malaria for one year.

How can we choose among these alternatives? A common technique employed by health researchers is to measure the payoff from health care spending in terms of "years of life saved," which is the number of extra years of life the health intervention produces. Sometimes the measurement is expressed as "quality adjusted life years" or "disability adjusted life years" (DALY) in recognition of the fact that the goal is not simply to keep people alive, but to keep them alive and functioning as healthy human beings.

If we want to maximize health and well-being in Africa, we certainly would not start out focusing on AIDS treatment. Consider the anti-retroviral (ARV) drug treatment for AIDS - currently so popular among rock stars and politicians. According to the World Health Organization (WHO):

- The cost of ARV drug treatment for AIDS is \$1,500 per DALY.
- Yet if this same amount of money were reallocated to immunizations we could save 214 years of life instead of one year for an AIDS patient.

Two and one-half times as many Africans die from other preventable diseases as die from AIDS, including measles, respiratory infections, malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhea and others. Yet AIDS treatment competes against these other health care needs. And in drawing health resources away from areas where they are more productive, AIDS treatment programs can cost more lives than they save.

If you're disappointed on the health front, this is only the tip of the iceberg. In <http://www.john-goodman-blog.com/africaaids/>, I noted that over the past five decades, the developed countries of the world have given less-developed countries \$2.3 trillion in foreign aid. What difference has all this spending made? International Monetary Fund chief economist Raghuram G. Rajan and Arvind Subramanian have done comprehensive testing of a broad array of theories and found that there are no significant effects (either positive or negative) of foreign aid on economic growth. Specifically:

- It apparently does not matter what aid is used for (health, social sector, technical assistance, etc.).
- It apparently does not matter who gives the aid (multilateral donors, bilateral donors, good donors, bad donors, etc.).
- It apparently does not matter to which countries the aid is given (those with good policies and institutions, those with bad ones, etc.).
- It apparently does not matter when the hoped for impact is supposed to take place (short term, long term, etc.).

So given this incredibly sad and depressing record of massive failure on the part of government bureaucrats, what's the next step for Hollywood?

Give the bureaucrats complete control over the US health care system, of course. How could you possibly doubt? John Goodman is president of the National Center for Policy Analysis

John Goodman is President of the National Center for Policy Analysis

PS. Here are four must-read books on aid to Africa:

William Easterly, [The White Man's Burden](#)

Gregory Clark, [A Farewell to Alms](#)

Paul Collier, [The Bottom Billion](#)

Jeffery Sachs, [The End of Poverty](#)

The Sachs book represents conventional - and almost certainly wrong - thinking. I include it only for balance. These books are summarized along with other material in John Goodman, "[Message to Debaters](#)" and Christa Bieker, "[Topic Overview](#)" at the NCPA's high school debate site.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Interglacial Time

by Alan Caruba

Issue 103 - March 12, 2008

I can understand why people believe that global warming is real and that all the things Greens say are true. One cannot read a newspaper or magazine, turn on the television or radio, without getting the Green message.

Since switching their message in the 1970s that an Ice Age was coming to the complete fiction of a massive, dramatic global warming due to greenhouse gases, the Greens have been able to influence policy at the international and national level. They have been utterly relentless, a modern version of the Mongols on horseback who swept out of the East to conquer everything before them until they reached the gates of Europe. These days the Greens have long since conquered Europe.



Alan Caruba

One thing alone stands against the Greens. The SCIENCE does not support them. Their sense of moral superiority, their contempt for all things modern, their resistance to all forms of energy except the weakest—wind and solar, and at the very heart of the Greens' message is a contempt and hatred for the human race.

Humans have come to dominate life on Earth because we know how to adapt to the planet. We know how to use its minerals, the riches of its plant life, the domestication of its animals, and its reserves of energy in the form of coal, oil, natural gas, and nuclear fission, to fuel the creation of great cities, farms and ranches, and everything that passes for modern civilization.

Long ago humans conquered the continents of the Earth and its great oceans to spread everywhere. Humans now fly between continents in hours. Everywhere on the face of the Earth humans now communicate with one another via the Internet.

For billions of years the Earth existed without humans and it will do so again when we cease to inhabit it. As a species, we are newcomers, but like every other species that lived on planet Earth—95% of which are extinct—we are subject to forces far greater than anything we possess.

To suggest that humans actually *cause* climate change is such idiocy that the Earth itself reminds us daily of our vulnerabilities. The news is full of tornadoes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, blizzards, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, and wildfires.

On February 7, Investors Business Daily had an editorial titled "The Sun Also Sets" in which it cited the views of Kenneth Tapping, a solar researcher and project director for Canada's National Research Council. In essence, Tapping wants people to know that solar activity such as sunspots, i.e., magnetic storms, "has been disturbingly quiet."

It's useful to know that global temperatures and events closely reflect solar cycles.

The lack of activity "could signal the beginning of what is known as the Maunder Minimum." While solar cycles tend to last about 11 years, the lack of normal or increased activity can trigger the Maunder Minimum, an event that occurs every few centuries, can last a century or more, and causes a colder earth.

The most recent such event was the mini-Ice Age that climatologists date from around 1300 to 1850. In the midst of this there was a distinct solar hibernation from around 1650 to 1715.

"Tapping reports no change in the sun's magnetic field so far this cycle and if the sun remains quiet for another year or two, it may indicate a repeat of that period of drastic cooling of the Earth, bringing massive snowfall and severe weather to the Northern Hemisphere."

If these events continue and become a cycle of cooling, it represents a major threat to the Earth's population because it means that food crops will fail and, with them, the means to feed livestock, and the rest of us.

If you have been paying attention to global weather reports, you know that China has had the heaviest snowfall in at least three decades. David Deming, a geophysicist, in a December 19, 2007 article in *The Washington Times*, noted that, "South America this year experienced one of its coldest winters in decades. In Buenos Aires, snow fell for the first time since the year 1918." This occurred across the entire Southern Hemisphere. "Johannesburg, South Africa, had the first significant snowfall in 26 years. Australia experienced the coldest June ever."

It must be said that one big blizzard does not an Ice Age make, but a whole series of events that suggest a cooling cycle may well be the warning that is being ignored in the midst of the vast global warming hoax.

Dr. Oleg Sorokhtin, Merited Scientist of Russia and fellow of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, is staff researcher of the Oceanology Institute. He recently published a commentary asserting that a global cold spell could replace global warming. Note that the Earth has been warming—about one degree Fahrenheit—since the last mini-Ice Age ended around 1850. "The real reasons for climate change are uneven solar radiation", said Dr. Sorokhtin, while citing others that include the Earth's axis gyration and instability of oceanic currents.

"Astrophysics knows two solar activity cycles, of 11 and 200 years. Both are caused by changes in the radius and area of the irradiating solar surface." Yes, the Sun itself goes through periods of change. Dr. Sorokhtin believes that "Earth has passed the peak of its warmer period and a fairly cold spell will set in quite soon, by 2012. Real cold will come when solar activity reaches its minimum, by 2041, and will last for 50-60 years or even longer."

There is a reason scientists refer to our current era as an "interglacial period", i.e., a time *between* Ice Ages.

Up to now, the mainstream media has ignored the cold reality of the Earth's known cooling cycles. They have been in complete thrall to the howling of Al Gore with his endless lies about an imminent warming. Given the accolade of a Nobel Prize and even a Hollywood Oscar, why should people unschooled in science believe otherwise?

The United Nations International Panel on Climate Change whose reports have been based, not on hard science such as observations of solar activity, but on flawed, often deliberately false computer models, has been the driving factor behind the global warming hoax. What better way to assert political and economic control over the Earth than to create a global crisis? To their credit, many participants in the IPCC have protested these reports.

Large numbers of scientists have sold their soul to the global warming lies in order to receive millions in research grants, but increasingly other scientists have been coming forth to tell the truth. On March 2-4, several hundred will convene in New York for the 2008 International Conference on Climate Change to offer papers and serve on panels disputing and debunking the global warming hoax.

Beyond the climatic threat of a cooling planet is the one posed by U.S. politicians and their counterparts in Europe who are seeking to impose all manner of regulation and limits on energy use based on the false assertion that greenhouse gas emissions are causing global warming.

They want to mandate a "cap-and-trade" scheme that will make some people and industries wealthy selling credits that will permit greenhouse gas emissions. But it is not greenhouse gases we need to fear, it is the action or, in this case, the *inaction* of the Sun.

At the very moment the Earth is on the cusp of what is likely to be a very long cooling and possibly a full scale repeat of the last Ice Age, all the engines of government, nationally and internationally, are trying to inhibit the discovery, extraction, and use of energy reserves that will be needed to cope with climate changes that will impact millions and, ultimately, billions of people.

All the wind turbines and solar panels in the world will not keep you warm in your home or apartment when a short or long term cooling of the Earth occurs. Ironically, as the Greens rant about so-called endangered polar bears in the Arctic, the bears are far more likely to survive than humans.

What controls the Earth's climate? The Sun!

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

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Editor**

Trade Make or Take Jobs?

by Francis Smith

Issue 103 - March 12, 2008

Trade has surfaced over the past decade as one of the most contentious political issues—both internationally and domestically. The increased divisiveness of trade policy was evident at the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Seattle meeting in December of 1999, where anti-globalization took over the streets and helped cause a breakdown of those negotiations.

Since then, trade debates have only grown more contentious. Most intellectuals, economists, and journalists continue to support open trade as advancing the best interests of the public in both rich and poor countries. However, their well-reasoned arguments are losing out to populist slogans claiming that trade harms the economy and destroys jobs.



A recent NBC News/ *Wall Street Journal* poll asked members of the public whether they believed foreign trade had been good or bad for the U.S. economy. Sixty percent said that trade has had a negative effect, with only 30 percent saying trade's effects have been positive.

And this picture might get worse, as presidential aspirants, Members of Congress, and attention-seeking pundits increasingly propagate the myth that trade is responsible for just about every job lost over the past decade.

Increased trade does affect employment—by destroying some jobs *and creating others*. There is constant churning in the labor market, but the jobs created by trade are more likely to demand higher skills and provide higher pay.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke eloquently made these and other points last May. He noted that over the past decade 16 million jobs have been lost annually, mostly due to factors other than trade. But those have been more than offset by the creation of about 17 million jobs per year. He also pointed out that imports' share of GDP quadrupled between 1965 and 2006. Yet employment more than doubled during that period.

Two recent studies on the relationship of trade to jobs—from very different points of view on the political spectrum—came to similar conclusions.

The first study, recently published by the Progressive Policy Institute, is by prominent labor economist Stephen J. Rose, who points out that trade growth has not reduced middle-class jobs

It is very common to think that trade—particularly a high level of imports—leads to middle-class job loss. However, over the last 60 plus years middle-class jobs have generally become more plentiful...Simply put, the alarmists across the political spectrum are wrong when it comes to the theory that trade leads to a loss of middleclass jobs.

Dan Griswold of the libertarian Cato Institute recently published a study showing that increased trade has not lowered American living standards. He explains that the economy has 16.5 million more people working today than 10 years ago.

Although there has been about a 3.3 million job loss in manufacturing over the past decade, Griswold notes that there has been a net gain of 11.6 million jobs in sectors with higher average

wages than in manufacturing. And many of those manufacturing jobs have disappeared not because of trade, but because of technological advances and productivity improvements.

Obviously, job losses and job insecurity in some areas have contributed to stronger protectionist sentiments. Indeed, it is devastating to lose one's job, whatever the cause. Yet the better response is to focus on ways to soften such economic blows— through greater portability of health insurance and pensions, for example—or an increased emphasis on private job training and education.

Other issues have fueled the anti-trade flames. For instance, free trade advocates seem to have lost their footing with the breakdown of the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Round negotiations.

Most trade supporters view the multilateral WTO system as superior to bilateral and regional trade pacts, since it allows the 151 member countries—rich and poor—to negotiate more equally. Developing countries can band together to curb rich countries from imposing non-trade related protectionist rules. Through moral suasion—and sometimes the threat of a WTO challenge— they also can push developed countries to provide greater market access.

Moreover, the recent U.S. focus on bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) has both strengthened the anti-trade, antiglobalization forces and weakened the involvement of many groups that would support more open trade. The renowned economist Jagdish Bhagwati has pointed out that bilaterals use up limited political capital for trade liberalization.

Moreover, when a trade agreement is fairly narrow in its focus and impact—when broad-based gains are not apparent—special interests that feel threatened by specific provisions come to the forefront to oppose those agreements. Those interests' members or constituents can rally behind the cause, contributing money, coordinating media campaigns, and lobbying policymakers in a field largely vacated by free trade champions.

The Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), for example, galvanized not only labor unions and environmental groups, but also powerful sugar producers, who claimed that the minuscule increase in sugar imports allowed under CAFTA-DR would destroy their industry. Labor unions called for stringent labor standards to be included in the pacts. Environmental groups pressed for expanded environmental provisions. The House vote on CAFTA was 217-215, in sharp contrast to the 1993 NAFTA vote of 234-200, which came under a Democratic president who was a strong proponent of trade.

Such lopsided debates on recent FTAs have amplified the anti-trade voices and discouraged supporters of more open trade.

The pending agreements are a case in point. The Peru FTA passed the House last year by a vote of 285-132. That may seem like strong support, but this treaty was the first trade pact to include enforceable labor and environmental provisions as demanded by the Democratic leadership in Congress. In May, the Bush administration agreed to the Bipartisan Trade Deal, which requires that such standards be included in all pending and future trade agreements.

The Colombia , Panama , and South Korea FTAs all face serious challenges for various reasons. All three countries are strategically important American allies. They negotiated in good faith and then agreed to renegotiate the FTAs following the Bipartisan Trade Deal.

Under time-limited preferential agreements previously approved by Congress , Peru , Panama , and Colombia enjoyed duty-free access for most of their exports to the U.S. The FTAs will provide them more certain access to the U.S. market, while opening up their markets to U.S. products and services.

The pending Korea FTA is a landmark economic agreement with one of America 's most important trading partners and geopolitical allies. As stated by President Bush, the Korea FTA will “further

enhance the strong United States-Korea partnership, which has served as a force for stability and prosperity in Asia .”

If the U.S. turns its back on these friends and trading partners by voting down the trade pacts, it is likely to trigger a backlash in those countries and a loss of U.S. credibility in those regions and elsewhere.

With 2008 a presidential election year, populist, protectionist sentiments are likely to increase. Supporters of open trade must market the benefits of trade more creatively. If free trade proponents fail to communicate these benefits to the American public, more members of the intellectual community and the media are likely to abandon their support for open markets in favor of the populist sentiments expressed in the NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll noted earlier. Isolationist trade policies—destructive to geopolitical stability as well as to economic prosperity, and job growth—would be the result.

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**E-mail the
Editor**

Accommodating Sharia

by Daniel Pipes

Issue 103 - March 12, 2008

Westerners opposed to the application of the Islamic law (the Shari'a) watch with dismay as it goes from [strength to strength](#) in their countries – harems increasingly accepted, a church leader endorsing Islamic law, a judge referring to the Koran, clandestine Muslim courts meting out justice. What can be done to stop the progress of this medieval legal system so deeply at odds with modern life, one that oppresses women and turns non-Muslims into second-class citizens?



Daniel Pipes

A first step is for Westerners to mount a united front against the Shari'a. Facing near-unanimous hostility, Islamists back down. For one example, note the retreat by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) in a dispute concerning guide dogs used by the blind.

Muslims traditionally consider dogs impure animals to be avoided, creating an aversion that becomes problematic when Muslim store-owners or taxi drivers deny service to blind Westerners relying on service dogs. I have collected fifteen such cases on my weblog, at "[Muslim Taxi Drivers vs. Seeing-Eye Dogs](#)": five from the United States (New Orleans, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Brooksville, FL.; Everett, Wash.); four from Canada (Vancouver, twice in Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Alberta); three from the United Kingdom (Cambridge, twice in London); two from Australia (Melbourne, Sydney); and one from Norway (Oslo).

News accounts quote Muslim cabbies rudely rejecting blind would-be passengers, yelling at them, "No dog, No dog, Get out, get out"; "Get that dog out of here"; and "No dogs, no dogs." The blind find themselves rejected, humiliated, abandoned, insulted, or even injured, left in the rain, dropped in the middle of nowhere, made late for an appointment, or caused to miss a flight.

Islamist organizations initially responded to this problem by supporting anti-canine cabbies. The Muslim Association of Canada pointed out how Muslims generally regard dog saliva as unclean. CAIR on one occasion echoed this assertion, claiming that "the saliva of dogs invalidates the ritual purity needed for prayer." On another, the head of CAIR, [Nihad Awad](#), declared that "People from the Middle East especially ... have been indoctrinated with a kind of fear of dogs" and justified a driver rejecting a guide dog on the grounds that he "has a genuine fear and he acted in good faith. He acted in accordance with his religious beliefs."

However, when the police and the courts are called in, the legal rights of the blind to their basic needs and their dignity almost always trump the Muslim dislike for dogs. The Muslim proprietor or driver invariably finds himself admonished, fined, re-educated, warned, or even jailed. The judge who found a cabby's behavior to be "a total disgrace" spoke for many.

CAIR, realizing that its approach had failed in the courts of both law and of public opinion, suddenly and nimbly switched sides. In a cynical maneuver, for example, it organized 300 cabbies in [Minneapolis](#) to provide free rides for participants at a National Federation of the Blind conference. (Unconvinced by this obvious ploy, a federation official responded: "We really are uncomfortable ... with the offer of getting free rides. We don't think that solves anything. We believe the cabdrivers need to realize that the law says they will not turn down a blind person.") And, finally, last week, the [Canadian office of CAIR](#) issued a statement urging Muslims to accommodate blind taxi passengers, quoting a board member that "Islam allows for dogs to be used by the visually impaired."

CAIR's capitulation contains an important lesson: When Westerners broadly agree on rejecting a specific Islamic law or tradition and unite against it, Western Islamists must adjust to the majority's

will. Guide dogs for the blind represent just one of many such consensus issues; others tend to involve women, such as [husbands beating wives](#), the [burqa](#) head coverings, [female genital mutilation](#), and "honor" killings. Western unity can also compel Islamists to denounce their preferred positions in areas such as [slavery](#) and Shar'i-compliant finances.

Other Islam-derived practices do not (yet) exist in the West but do prevail in the Muslim world. These include punishing a woman for being [raped](#), exploiting [children as suicide bombers](#), and executing offenders for such crimes as [converting out of Islam](#), [adultery](#), having a [child out of wedlock](#), or [witchcraft](#). Western solidarity can win concessions in these areas too.

If Westerners stick together, the Shari'a is doomed. If we do not, we are doomed.

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

**E-mail the
Editor**

Changing Europe Into Cuba?

by Dennis Avery

Issue 103 - March 12, 2008

The EU steel industry is terrified that Europe's new cap-and-trade system of penalizing steel-plant emissions will cost 50,000 of its 300,000 steel-industry jobs. But don't worry, if the EU gets serious about cap-and-trade, it will simply violate the rules of the World Trade Organization and start taxing imported steel for the CO² emissions from Indian and Chinese steel plants.

The problem won't be lost jobs in Europe's steel or plastics industries. The problem will be that virtually nothing new will be manufactured for Europe.



Dennis T. Avery

- No new appliances or autos. They take too much steel.
- No new concrete roads or brick buildings. Cement-making produces about 7 percent of the human-emitted CO² emissions. Bricks must be fired in CO²-producing kilns.
- No nitrogen fertilizer. Nitrogen fertilizer currently uses 5 percent of the world's fossil fuels. If Farmers are forced to go all-organic, their yields will fall by half. There will either be widespread hunger and/or Europe's remaining wildlife will be crowded off the continent by the need to plant more low-yield crops.
- Factories will turn back to water wheels to save electricity.

In fact, the model for Europe low-emission future is— Cuba! Under Castro, especially since the Soviets stopped gifting the Cubans with free oil and fertilizer, Cuba has developed the closest thing on the planet to a "modern low-energy society."

Instead of making new cars in emission-prone factories, Cuba's workers spend their time machining new parts for the island's few 1950s relics on elderly lathes left over from its sugar-exporting days. Castro originally sold clothing through the food rationing system, but now most of the clothing comes from antique sewing machines run by Cuba's women.

The women also produce much of their families' food in urban gardens, since the ration system doesn't deliver much. Cuba's ration cards are good for 6 pounds of rice per capita per month, 20 ounces of beans, six pounds of sugar, and 15 pounds of potatoes or bananas. Cubans get less than one quart of milk for each kid under 7 per month, but cool, rainy Europe may offer its consumers a bit more milk and cheese and a lot fewer bananas.

Cubans get a pound of beef per month, and two pounds of chicken—though often the "meat" is hamburger mixed with soy flour, or "chicken tenders" made partly with chicken and mostly with "other." Europe's per capita food supply will plummet to similar levels when fertilizer plants consume too many "energy points." The official Cuban transport system is energy-efficient hitch-hiking. With so few vehicles, and little gasoline, cars and trucks that refuse to pick up hitch-hikers on the highway are fined for a "crime against society."

Tourism is Cuba's biggest industry now, but that won't work for a Kyoto-driven Europe. The EU won't have any fuel for airplanes, and precious little for buses. Nor is Cuba building big rental houses on the beaches any more to attract their tourists. In fact, one of Cuba's big problems is that Hurricane Michelle in 2001 destroyed or damaged 100,000 homes, which the Castro economy has been largely unable to rebuild. There isn't much heavy equipment for such projects. As a Kyoto bonus, Michelle's damage to Cuba's electric grid was severe.

Best of all, 90 percent of the jobs are with the Cuban government. No complaints allowed, even if your wife has to sew your shirts and hoe the garden in the hot sun. Kids over 11 owe 45 days per summer working on the farms, which teaches them how to control weeds and bugs without any nasty pesticides.

What a perfect post-fossil Green society!

Dennis Avery is a senior fellow for the Hudson Institute in Washington, DC and is the Director for the Center for Global Food Issues. (www.cgfi.org) He was formerly a senior analyst for the Department of State. He is co-author, with S. Fred Singer, of Unstoppable Global Warming Every 1500 Hundred Years

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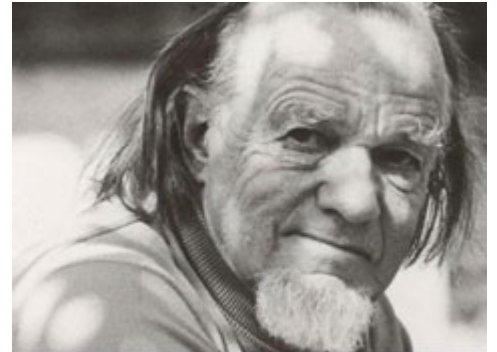
Culture of Statism

by Robert E. Meyer

Issue 103 - March 12, 2008

The late Christian philosopher and apologist Francis Schaeffer was once asked by a colleague which cultural trend he feared most looking toward the future. Without hesitation, Schaeffer replied "statism."

Our presidential campaign thus far has shown us that Schaeffer's concerns from yesteryear were anything but indulgence in paranoia.



Francis Schaeffer

The democratic front runner, Barack Obama, has garnered much political capital on a vague platform template of "change." His swooning crowds of admirers reflexively applauding, or even fainting, at his every statement and gesture. Obama's campaign has been so emotionally hypnotic, that Schaeffer's son Frank is gushing giddily about supporting Barack with his heart. What candidate of the opposition party has ever offered anything unique to the theme of change?

What this "change" really connotes, amounts to more government programs, and increased dependence on government, resulting in greater learned helplessness by individual citizens.

People are now asking government to meet the needs that were once obligations of individuals themselves, family and neighbors, the public charity, church organizations, and Almighty God. A clear recipe for tyranny.

The Democratic platform, and to a lesser degree some Republican politicians, have forsaken individual accountability and initiative, while moving in a direction contrary to the roles of limited government delineated by our Founders. The best government is one that governs least.

Far too many people have stopped asking the question about what limited role in society our government should fulfill, but have hopped aboard the gravy train to paradise, never suspecting it to be the graveyard express to the ideological gulag.

In 1971, the English rock band, The Who, released an album that featured their anthem "Won't Get Fooled Again."

The refrain from the song is totally appropriate, and further reminds me of the populist reaction to this overworked theme that change of any sort is virtue...

I'll tip my hat to the new constitution

Take a bow for the new revolution

Smile and grin at the change all around me

Pick up my guitar and play

Just like yesterday

Then I'll get on my knees and pray

We don't get fooled again

Since the time of the New Deal, we have increasingly become a wayward people that asks government to solve all of our problems, rather than one that provides a clear pathway for individual initiative and virtue. The Great Society lies in smoldering ruins, but some Pollyanna hope for government-made utopia soars like a Phoenix above the ashes.

The contemporary view is that everything from health care to education is a "right." That sort of mentality is the kerosene fueling the engines of enthusiasm for the democratic political tent revivals.

True charity is an obligation of mercy and grace placed on those able to provide sustenance and aid to those truly in need. Nobody has a right to benefits funded by wealth taken involuntarily from others. Such mandates are not compassion, but extortion that will ultimately lead to worse disparity than it remedies.

We are seeing the emergence of a false messianic state. In order to incorporate an essential religious theme into their campaign message, liberal candidates and political commentators have presented a socialist reinterpretation of The Sermon on the Mount as the true biblical paradigm.

Our problem is not whether we are ready for the first minority president, or the first women president. The question is whether America's good is best served, in either case, by a potential leader that will lurch us further toward socialism than George McGovern would have in 1972.

That sort of change is anathema!

Robert E. Meyer is a Staff Writer for the New Media Alliance, Inc.

**E-mail the
Editor**

McCain Win Conservatives?

by David Keene

Issue 102 - February 27, 2008

Since The New York Times printed unsubstantiated rumors hinting that GOP presidential candidate John McCain may have had some sort of "relationship" with a blond lobbyist, pundits have been suggesting that this attack solved McCain's problems on the right.

The theory seems to be that conservatives will rally to McCain simply because they don't like the "liberal mainstream media" as personified by the Times and that, therefore, he will henceforth be able to count on enthusiastic conservative support regardless of past differences on issues. Indeed, his campaign advisers have been arguing that as the "enemy of my enemy," McCain must be accepted as a friend.



David Keene

Many conservatives did indeed leap to McCain's defense as he faced the first onslaught from the Times. Some couldn't resist an "I told you so," as the candidate who has counted a friendly media as part of his base took a sucker punch from the leader of the pack. Although most conservatives upbraided the Times for the obviously contrived attack on a man who, for all his many faults, deserved better, it doesn't follow that they are ready to forget their past differences with the putative GOP candidate. I was appalled by the attack and joined in the reaction to it, but like many of my fellow conservatives, I think I can speak up for a man who is being treated unfairly without making him a hero. The Times's own ombudsman gagged on the story for many of the same reasons that conservatives did, but something tells me he won't run around the newsroom demanding that his colleagues vote for the Arizonan as a result.

The fact that the Times had its now-infamous hit piece "in the can" while endorsing McCain over his Republican primary competitors underscores what many conservatives have believed all along: The senator may be the major media's favorite Republican, but he won't be able to count on his friends in the press when he's facing a Democrat. If McCain faces up to this fact, he will have learned much. Many of us believe that in recent years McCain has taken too many positions not out of principle but to cozy up to his buddies who ride with him on the "Straight Talk Express."

If McCain learns the right lesson from this episode, he will come to the realization that the solid support of those who make up the base of his party is far more valuable than the ephemeral friendship of reporters and media stars with an agenda hostile to his own. And that could make it far easier for him to deal with the continuing queasiness on the right.

The belief that the hostility of liberals within the media will be enough to energize conservatives behind a candidate about whom most have serious misgivings is naive and based on the implicit assumption that we're a pretty simple-minded bunch. The Chicago Tribune's Steve Chapman, who is usually more discerning, suggested last week that while McCain "was straining to ingratiate himself with the activists gathered at the Conservative Political Action Conference" a few weeks ago out of a fear that he might not be able to unite his party's base, he "shouldn't have worried."

The fact is that conservatives have substantive disagreements with McCain that are deep and real. Their feelings about McCain-Feingold and the First Amendment implications of stifling advocacy advertising are real, as are their questions about his penchant for government regulation and interference and his current position on the Bush tax cuts in light of the fact that he claims to get much of his economic advice from the "Concord Coalition," an organization that has never seen a tax increase it couldn't support. These issues and questions about his support of Second Amendment issues and concerns about many of the people around him won't go away because The New York Times doesn't like him.

Chapman, like many of his colleagues, however, seems actually to believe that all it took was one attack from the Times to turn things around, make McCain a hero of the right and solve the problems he and his advisers had found so vexing. Conservatives are not quite that easily flummoxed; they may want to be able to support McCain and most may end up working for him as well as voting for him, but it won't be because of an idiotic editorial decision at The New York Times.

David Keene is the chairman of the [American Conservative Union](#).

**E-mail the
Editor**

Save Electoral College

by Charlie Johnston

Issue 103 - March 12, 2008

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich has the chance to do something right. Last month Illinois became the third state to pass the National Popular Vote Bill, which would direct a state's presidential electors to cast their votes for whoever wins the national popular vote. But in Illinois, unlike Maryland and New Jersey, the bill has not yet become law. In this state the governor has not yet signed the legislation – and has told reporters he is not sure if he will.



Rod Blagojevich

On most matters we show a certain reverence for the Founders. Well we should. They created the first democratic republic in history that did not rapidly degenerate into chaos and end in dictatorship. Their achievement is profound: while the United States is one of the youngest nations on the planet we have the oldest continuous form of government. That achievement is doubly impressive if one is aware that, historically, democracy has been one of the most volatile, unstable forms of government known to man. The Founders somehow managed to separate the nitro and the glycerin of freedom and create something that would last rather than blow up every time it is jarred.

When in high school I, too, thought the Electoral College a strange, antiquated institution. While in college I came to recognize some of the magnitude of the Founders' achievement. Rather than assuming they had tossed it into the Constitution as some sort of bizarre joke I thought it more useful to do some investigation on what, exactly, was on their minds. (Incidentally, when he was a senator, the late Pres. John Kennedy wrote a very lucid explanation of the Electoral College and why it has served the nation well). The group behind this push, National Popular Vote, Inc. (NPVI), helpfully explains that among the main reasons the Electoral College was originally needed was because of the lack of cell phones, computers, calculators, the internet and other modern inventions. Can they possibly be that stupid?

A presidential election, though held on a single day, is not a single election. It encompasses 50 discrete elections, one in each state. To give an example, suppose the Cubs and the White Sox were in the World Series (you Southern Illinois Cardinal fans can substitute the Cards and the Royals – or better yet, an NLCS between the Cards and the Mets). The White Sox win three games by a score of 10-0. The Cubs win four games by a score of 1-0. The White Sox, in essence, win the popular vote 30-4. But the Cubs win the series because it was not one seven-day long contest to see who could score the most runs. It was seven individual games. Perhaps you think a presidential election should not be the collective decision of the states, but a single expression of the national popular will. Consider some of the real reasons the Founders adopted the Electoral College and how these reasons relate to modern circumstances.

First, the states are different sizes. In order to prevent small states from losing all influence and just being swept along by big-state interests in national affairs, the small states' weight in the electoral college is slightly larger than the big states in comparison to their population, because of the uniform rule of two senators per state, regardless of size (the total number of electors each state gets is equal to the sum of its members of the U.S. House and Senate). Abolish the Electoral System and every presidential election hence would be contested – and decided – in five to eight major urban areas. Small, and even medium size states, might never again even see a presidential candidate. Rural influence on presidential elections would evaporate entirely. After a few elections voters in small states and rural areas would figure out their vote was utterly meaningless. Participation in elections would likely drop because of the futility of it. Tensions between rural and urban interests would become dreadful, perhaps intractable. Even the invention of cell phones hasn't changed that.

Second, there was the fear of regionalism, that some areas of the country with common interests might band together to hijack national presidential elections by the intensity of their votes. Were it not for the Electoral College this would have actually happened in 1860. There were several southern states in which Abraham Lincoln did not get a single popular vote. Despite having a minority population, the south, by the intensity of its commitment to the slave culture, could have hijacked that election from the rest of the country. The Electoral College prevented that. The Civil War was a great battle both over slavery and national union. The crisis would not have been averted without an Electoral College, only postponed and intensified. The likely end result would have been the Balkanization of what is now America. One of those little filigrees the founders added, to give stability to this great democracy, worked to save the nation and put an end to the sort of regionalism that had, in earlier times, been catalyst for destruction of democracies. Abolishing the Electoral College would likely resurrect the spectre of regionalism. Take a look at the map. West of the Mississippi River every state except California and Texas would become powerless in national elections unless some of them banded together and, as the old south did in 1860, voted monolithically. In the southeast, which states other than Florida and, perhaps, Georgia, would have any influence? Look carefully at the map before glibly injecting this old element of instability back into the prospect of national union that the founders most painstakingly and brilliantly worked to eliminate. The invention of calculators doesn't change this a whit.

Third, there is the matter of vote fraud. It truly puzzles me that proponents of this plan seem to honestly believe it would make fraud more, rather than less, difficult. The Founders created the Electoral College, in part, to make it more difficult for unseemly combinations to conspire to hijack an election. Read that as vote fraud and special interests. It is rare that a conspiracy of fraud in only one state could hijack an election (Evidence of massive fraud in Illinois and Texas, either of which could have changed the election, exists from the 1960 election, but it is the exception, rather than the rule. Even had Nixon chosen to contest the result, he would almost certainly have combined himself to one or both of these states, rather than the even more nightmarish scenario of a national recount). Imagine that polls show an election to be a dead heat in the late going. Conspirators do not have to come up with multiple conspiracies in several states to cheat the electorate: they need only confine themselves to electoral corruption mainstays such as Chicago, Texas, Louisiana, Los Angeles and such. Massive vote fraud in any one would be sufficient to gain a tainted victory where only the national popular vote counts in a dead heat. One need only look at the experience of western democracies where a single, national vote does determine the outcome of the chief executive to see that fraud changing the outcome is easier, not harder than under our "archaic, antiquated system." The invention of the computer makes such "unseemly combinations" much easier.

Fourth, the legislation is unenforceable. Under the Constitution once electors are chosen, they have the absolute right to vote for whomever they choose. Long-term practice has led to a gentleman's agreement in which each elector votes for the candidate who won their state's popular vote. Once a state has chosen its electors, it cannot bind them to vote for anyone in particular. It would require a Constitutional Amendment to change this. In 2000, the Gore campaign actively tried to persuade electors from states that voted for Bush to be 'faithless' and vote for Al Gore anyway. In each of the elections of 2000, 1988, 1976 and 1972 a 'faithless elector' did vote against who they were pledged to. Any serious enforcement clause injected into NPV legislation might well make it unconstitutional.

Imagine, now, a scenario in which Barack Obama and Rudy Giuliani were their respective party's nominees (I choose them for this example because of the big states they come from). The election is close as can be. Without Illinois, Giuliani is the victor. Former Chicago City Clerk Jim Laski has been doing interviews of late explaining the "Chicago Way;" how they would accomplish vote fraud not just by forgery and voting the dead, but actually cutting and pasting the chad on absentee ballots if they were cast for the 'wrong' candidate. You're from New York and you have read about all of this. Do you ask your delegation to vote for Obama? And what about the rest of the country? If the legitimacy of a presidential election came down to believing in the electoral integrity of the Chicago precinct captain, what kind of chaos would ensue? Once this boundary was breached it would be far more likely to destroy the gentleman's agreement among electors than to enhance national unity. The internet could communicate the news, but not stop the chaos.

Over the last century we have abolished many of the elements of stability the Founders injected into our unique system of government. A serious student of the history of democracies would be alarmed at the number of symptoms our culture has developed that have previously been precursors to a democracy's descent into chaos. The elimination of yet another is not a good idea. Contrary to popular (and uninformed) opinion, the Electoral College was not invented by a mad founder as a practical joke.

The head of NPVI, John Koza, is a computer scientist who teaches at Stanford University. I will defer to his judgment on computer, cell phone, and internet technology, regardless of any commentary by Founders I might run across. I would ask that, in return, he show a little more respect for the Founder's achievement and expertise.

As for Gov. Blagojevich, he can do both this state and the nation a signal service by following advice once given by Nancy Reagan: Just Say No.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Police Gun Searches?

by Bob Barr

Issue 103 - March 12, 2008

Most police officers with whom I have worked over the years — whether as a United States attorney, a lawyer in private practice, or a member of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee — are men and women of integrity and commitment to the communities they serve. The vast majority of those officers have a sincere respect for the constitutional rights of the citizenry. But then again, I've not worked with the Boston Police Department.

The police department in that Massachusetts city has just launched an initiative that exhibits a cynical disregard for the rights of the citizenry, even as it cleverly cloaks the program in language pretending to protect the people toward whom it is directed. I refer to the "Safe Homes Initiative," with its slick brochures and smooth rhetoric.

On the surface — as with virtually all government actions diminishing liberty — the initiative appears benign. The program is "designed" to help parents who have so little control over their children that they cannot — or do not want to — search their rooms to discover if their young charges are hiding firearms in their homes. Boston's police chief, Edward Davis, graciously has agreed to fill this parental void by sending teams of officers to the homes of parents with children the police or other "community members" believe might be harboring hidden firearms. The "search teams" would then ask the parent or "other responsible adult" (whomever that might be) at the home for consent to search for guns.

The program is problematic on several levels. First, of course, is the fact that three police officers showing up on your doorstep makes it very difficult for a parent or "other responsible adult" to say no when asked to consent to a search. This works a serious injustice to the notion that a person's home is and should remain free from government searches absent a warrant based on probable cause that a crime has been committed. While true, voluntary "consent" can validate an otherwise unlawful, warrantless search, consent born of the sort of police presence contemplated in this Boston initiative would not appear to constitute such grounds.

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Bob Barr

**E-mail the
Editor**

William F. Buckley Jr. 1925 – 2008, Rest In Peace

Bill Buckley was there at the beginning. In fact in many ways he *was* the beginning of the modern conservative movement. His *God and Man at Yale* was the first real assault on the liberal secularist domination of American Academe and the founding of *National Review* in 1955 is the event from which all else flows.

In those days there was, as Lionel Trilling and other liberals almost exuberantly observed, no respectable conservative tradition or movement in the United States, but in a few short years Bill Buckley changed that by bringing together anti-Communists like Whittaker Chambers, iconoclastic libertarians like Frank Meyer and traditionalist followers of Russell Kirk, creating an incubator in which they could argue, mix and bond and created the movement that would in short order lead to the nomination of Barry Goldwater in 1964 and the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980.



William F. Buckley Jr.

Bill not only provided an incubator to the young movement, but took it upon himself to travel the country popularizing its core ideas with wit, humor and a willingness to take on all comers. He was an inspiration to the young conservatives of my generation and he will be missed by those who knew him personally as well as by all who value freedom, tradition and the dry good humor he displayed in battle after battle.

Bill was not himself a politician, though his willingness to enter New York City's mayoral contest in the very belly of the liberal beast at a time when few conservatives anywhere were taken very seriously helped encourage others begin the process not just of popularizing the ideas underpinning the new movement, but forging those ideas into a political movement that would change history.

Those of us who knew him were constantly impressed not simply by his brilliance, but by the breadth of his thinking and interests, his humanity and perhaps most of all by the energy that propelled him to deliver at least a speech a week, produce a column that ran for decades while editing a profoundly influential journal of opinion and hosting the longest running public affairs program in the history of broadcast television.

To think that he did all this in between transatlantic sailing expeditions, long and not to be interrupted skiing adventures in the Swiss Alps and while writing best selling novels on the side made those of us possessed of less energy—which is to say all of us—look on in wonder.

To say that Bill Buckley was important is an understatement. His life reminds us of what one man can accomplish, but few even attempt. He will be mourned and he will be missed and, most of all, he will be remembered.

David Keene

What did I think on meeting Bill Buckley? My first impression, to be candid, was that he must be the guy standing next to Patsy Buckley, the luminiferous Mrs. Buckley, six feet of young womanhood so astonishing as to make your lungs walk off the job. For the balance of that first evening and for some decades thereafter I fixed her with what your tabloid press might call a stalker's stare. My second impression was that Bill Buckley was speaking a language with which I was familiar but somewhat insecurely so. Things seemed to approach other things only *asymptotically*. Grammatical barbarians, loosed on

the streets, were apparently committing a wave of *litotes*. Certain things could be properly compared to other things only after checking with someone named *Mutatis Mutandis*.

My further impression was that Willmoore had been right. (Willmoore Kendall had pounded me into ideological shape at Yale a generation after he had done the same favor for Buckley.) It was Willmoore's opinion, rendered with the finality of Mosaic proscription, that among Buckley's many talents one was pre-eminent. He was the world's finest conversationalist. That's a heavy reputation to lug to any dinner table but Buckley flipped it around like a poker chip. He knew about art and boats and cities and history and Scripture and music. I was then working at Doubleday and he seemed to know more about the books I was working on than I did. He was plainly supercallifragilistic (okay, not a Buckley word but a gratifying eight syllables, nonetheless) and I soon slipped into full-engagement mode. I don't know how late I stayed but it quickly became NR lore that Bill had offered the kid a job as the only way to get him out of the house.

I consulted two people on Bill's offer. The first was Jim MacFadden, who had become NR's indispensable business-side executive after leaving a job in mainstream publishing. Mac's words stick with me: "Bill says he's going to change the world. I think he might do it and I'd like to help." I know, that sounds like rhetorical bump-and-tickle, just a wee bit of four-beer talk. All I can tell you is that the young Buckley was capable of making words like those sound plausible, almost modulated. The second consultant was my father. He had invested heavily in my white-shoe education and had been left unmoved by the ecumenical spirit of the day. He summed up the career move with a question: "You're going to leave one of the world's great publishing houses for an Irish Catholic rag?" Yes, sir!

What did the job entail, being Bill Buckley's right-hand man? Some of this, some of that, all of it in the Buckley style aimed at high purpose and pursued in high spirit. I was the political reporter and the Washington correspondent. (Now that Mark Felt has talked it can be revealed that, yes, I was Cato). I ran the mayoralty campaign office and started his TV show. (It's true. Bill never forgave me for calling it Firing Line.) The most fun was selling his newspaper column city to city: for several seasons he was the hot cross bun of the syndicate business. But it was years before I realized that the most important part of the job may have been what I then regarded as a tiresome chore: handling Bill's correspondence. In those early days, at the dawn of the conservative era, he emboldened and guided and connected them all – from Ronnie and Barry to Phyllis and Brent to Clare and Roger to Dan and Kieran to almost three hundred others. The first generation of the conservative movement can be identified neatly. They were the people who corresponded with Bill Buckley, a committee of correspondence that he built into a national political force. And along the way – it must have been either *inter alia* or *pari passu* or *in medias res* -- he changed the world. Nice going, boss.

Neal B. Freeman (This piece is from National Review's 50 th)

I first met Bill Buckley during the 1958-59 school year when he spoke at Yale. He frequently came back to Yale and was most gracious to the students. More so than anyone else. Frank Meyer would be happy to talk to us until 5:00 AM and Strom Thurmond would sit around a table with us while we bought him drinks, but Bill could outdo them all. The night Krushev broke up the Paris summit, Bill had made a speech at Yale. Afterwards he took about twenty of us as his guests to The Fence Club (in those days still a more or less fraternity) where we sat together in the bar, watched Krushev on television, exchanged comments on it and drank beer on Bill's tab.

Charles Mills

In 1959-60 I lived in Rasdorf /Hünfeld within sight of the "Iron Curtain," the ten meters of plowed earth separating East Germany from West Germany (East from West) in the Fulda Gap. When I returned from my year abroad as an International Christian Youth Exchange student to start college, a wise friend handed me Barry Goldwater's "Conscience of a Conservative," which immediately gave focus and substance to my experiences and convictions that America was built on worthy and honorable principles worth defending and that the Soviet Union and communism were both enemies. Defending those views first at Bakersfield College then the University of California at Berkeley in the mid sixties was not easy. I did not accept that I was the Luddite my classmates and professors accused me of being, but it was often a lonely time. Before leaving for Berkeley, another wise friend gave me an issue of *The National Review* and I instantly become an avid reader and fan. Buckley and his *National Review* did far more than sharpen my understanding of America's founding principles and the values and institutions I wanted to defend. He provided an intelligent, witty, and insightful persona I could proudly identify myself with. He, through his magazine, not only kept me informed and deepened my understanding of my own views, but he made it respectable to be "conservative." He instantly became my HERO. May his honorable soul rest in peace.

Warren Coats

We were saddened to hear the news that our good friend, William F. Buckley, Jr. has passed. He was truly the father of modern conservatism, and an inspiration to all of us who had the pleasure of working with him and learning from him. NCPA Chairman Pete du Pont and I joined Bill in numerous two-hour Firing Line Debate specials, taking on the leaders of liberal thought on such issues as Social Security privatization, school vouchers and the flat tax. His quick wit and keen insight were consistently on display. He left an indelible mark on our nation's political discourse, and proved that ideas truly can change the world. He will be missed.

John Goodman

How should we who felt and benefited from his influence measure the importance of this great man, intellectual giant and skilled combatant in just causes? Bill Buckley was not only a pioneer of the Modern Mainstream Conservative Movement, but became a household word without ever trying, or for a moment basking in the light he helped create. To time-tested values and ideas, he gave renewed credibility and new life. A splendid speaker, he was also a careful listener, and helped all who asked. Send him a message, get one swiftly in return. Bill earned the respect and admiration that are properly his. What a tremendous loss!

Dick Allen

I would not know where to begin about Bill, so I will not, for now, except simply to say that he was a friend and mentor who always had time to stay in touch. He would always respond promptly to email -- and in the most personal way. Many do not realize just how gracious he was, how he would stay in touch, and what a kind and good-natured man. He was very giving of his time, his spirit, his wisdom. He was a very warm person.

Arnold Steinberg

Like so many of us, Bill Buckley inspired us in our late teens and early 20's to seek the truth. He motivated us to commit our lives to helping our nation make the right decisions based upon sound market economics and the highest of ethical standards. He helped us understand the international challenges facing our nation and the need for a strong national defense. I remember meeting Bill for the first time at the 1962 National YAF Convention at the old Commodore Hotel in New York City when he took the time sit down with "us kids." Many of us will remember the 10 year YAF Anniversary when he welcomed

us to his family compound in Sharon Connecticut even pouring us a cool beer out on the back porch. Such a great time that none of us will forget. Most of us had moved on from our college years at that time but I am sure Bill was happy to see his impact on our lives. He leaves a legacy that few will ever achieve. He changed our world. His ideas influenced this nation but also other leaders around the world. We know that this great Man of Yale is now with his GOD and our creator. God Bless Bill Buckley.

Jack Cox, Los Angeles, California

In my sophomore year, I became aware of "that William Buckley crowd" as a professor dismissed my assertion of individual right over well-intentioned state action. Thankfully this critique sent me to the library where I discovered National Review, and who this Buckley guy was. This led to being more receptive to reading the Goldwater "Conscience of a Conservative" for a debating team project. By Nov. 22, 1963, a classmate would turn to me (after the announcement of the President being shot) with: "Your Goldwater people did this".

Later still, following a Buckley for Mayor rally, Bill allowed me to photograph him with that triumphant smile that George Will characterizes ("A Life Athwart History" Washington Post, 2/29/08) as able to "light up an auditorium". Promptly, and really unexpectedly, he sent a thank you note for the photographs that included a candid profile of Pat, and one of Christopher scrambling into the back of a station wagon after the rally. There was even with this gracious note an example of his self-deprecating humor when he referred to his "horse teeth" smile.

Just thinking back to that particular "mayoralty" part of the Buckley life tapestry recalls many memories. Like when Bill, on the phone with brother James, was so exercised about some campaign information that he emphasized his comment with a "Goddam!" On hanging up the phone, noticing he was observed by a now agape collegiate campaign worker, Bill quipped: "I say f___ too!" Knowing his charm and wit, it was not shocking when he penned that playful title: "Cancel Your Own Goddam Subscription: Notes & Asides from National Review".

Today, there's comfort in taking Bill's "Right Reason" down from the bookshelf, and reading some favorite pieces. Perhaps I may adapt his remarks [p.402] at a 1981 testimonial dinner for Russell Kirk to redound to Bill.

"Except that we are here to honor [William Buckley], by this time in the proceedings it would have been, however inappropriate to say, nevertheless true to say---that, really, there is nothing left to say. But a dozen tributes, in the case of [William Buckley], do not even skirt redundancy, let alone comprehensiveness. ...achievements will several times have been mentioned, the evening having ignored, entirely, many others."

John Sainsbury

The life of William F. Buckley was full of joy. Permit me to remember him with something that may amuse you. Bill's death was front-page news yesterday in the Chicago Tribune.

Early yesterday morning I retrieved thepaper on my doorstep and saw, above the fold, a huge photograph of WFB taken in Chicago backin 1971. He had come to this city under the auspices of Students for Capitalism and Freedom (which held the campus charters of, among other groups, Young Americans for Freedom and the Intercollegiate Studies Institute at The University of Chicago) to tape an episode of "Firing Line" with Jesse Jackson, Jr.

You can imagine my shock when I saw the picture. Looming Zelig-like above Mr. Buckley is the then-19-year-old Chairman of Students for Capitalism and Freedom. (I was still

occasionally wearing neckties; it would be five years before I became exclusively a bowtie man.)

Joseph Morris

Like Marty McFly, William F. Buckley Jr. was an unwilling but resourceful time traveler. Buckley belonged in Cardinal Wolsey's London, dining, drinking and discoursing with Thomas More and Erasmus of Rotterdam. But Buckley merrily endured his dizzy DeLorean ride through Cardinal Spellman's city and century, and he made the best of the events and companions of his circumstances.

He launched and nurtured a host of writers in their careers, and he offered kind gestures of encouragement to countless others. He was unfailingly generous in his patronage for R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr., when Tyrrell sought to make his Buckley-inspired student publication at Indiana University a national magazine, *The American Spectator*. Tyrrell for his part gave me my first job on graduation from college. For an aspiring writer it was like walking on clouds to find myself, barely 21 years old, in tow with Tyrrell as a luncheon guest at Buckley's Manhattan town house. One of my memories of the occasion is that Buckley informed us that Lauren Bacall had been his dinner guest the evening before. For the longest time afterwards, I had trouble deciding whether to take the trousers I had worn on the same seat as la Bacall to the cleaners or to shrink-wrap them for posterity.

My parents introduced me to Buckley's *National Review* when I was nine years old - the year that Goldwater shattered his lance against LBJ's stout Potomac windmill. I could not understand Buckley's writing but I loved the music of it. I resolved to try to crack the code. Twelve years later, and with a college degree in Latin and Greek, I had roared around a few laps but was nowhere near the checkered flag.

If Buckley had any 20th century counterpart it would be G.K. Chesterton - genially tolerant of his own time and place but madly in love with the bygone unity of Catholic Europe, master of English prose, controversialist, composer of detective stories and spy novels, merry lover of wine and song.

Much more than a conservative, Buckley was in his marrow a Catholic. He climbed and stayed aboard the Church as a chariot, as Chesterton described it, "thundering through the ages, the dull heresies sprawling and prostrate, the wild truth reeling but erect." Now at last he sits elbow to elbow with Erasmus and Sir Thomas, at the festive table with Aquinas and Chrysostom and Chaucer and Cervantes and Chesterton and other worthy companions, at the endless sacrum convivium, where mens impletur gratia et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur.

Joseph Duggan

Bill Buckley was my hero long before I met him. I had been converted to the cause of individual freedom and anti-communism, quite literally overnight, when I read John T. Flynn's *The Road Ahead* while in junior high school. In high school I survived attempted brainwashing by devouring the pamphlets of the Intercollegiate Society of Individualists (ISI) and the two publications they sent me as student gift subscriptions—*Human Events*, at that time an eight-page Washington newsletter, and a fortnightly magazine, *The Freeman*. Those two publications exposed me to a wide variety of exciting right-wing dissidents—including Bill Buckley in *The Freeman*.

I was circulating petitions, writing letters-to-the-editor of the *Houston Chronicle* (and having them published—quite exciting for a high school student!), and communicating by snail mail (no email back then) with a vast nationwide network of fellow McCarthyites—Joe, not Gene, of course. Somehow one of my student petitions got published in *The Freeman*, and in the mail soon afterwards came a letter postmarked Sharon, Connecticut, with my name and address typed out in red ink.

I asked myself, who do I know in Sharon, Connecticut? Well, the masthead of the letter inside read "Libertarians for..." something or another, or perhaps it was "The Libertarian International." Whatever, this "organization" apparently was run by two brothers, Reid and William F. Buckley. They exhorted me, in red ink again, to keep up the fight, while warning me, "You will be called a fascist, a hate mongerer," etc. etc. with lots of exclamation points.

(I really do have to find that letter somewhere in my boxes of "files," frame it, and place it above my desk.)

I went off to a college by the beach in South Texas as a music major. But then, in my freshman year, Bill Buckley launches National Review. I had an ISI gift subscription and was so excited I changed my line of studies to history and political science, and became editor of my campus newspaper in my sophomore year. So Bill Buckley, long before I met him personally, was largely responsible for my becoming a professional writer rather than a professional musician.

Under my editorship, The Foghorn of Del Mar College may have been the second conservative campus publication in America, though I have to admit that the Yale Daily News under Bill Buckley's tutelage had more cachet (this is called understatement). We didn't use the word "networking" back then, but that's what I was doing, sending my editorials to Bill and the folks at Human Events and anyone else who wouldn't send me a bomb in return.

A year later, Human Events offered me a work-scholarship, and I became the first student in the very first Human Events journalism class led by M. Stanton Evans (Doug Caddy and Bill Schulz were the other students). It was during these years in Washington (1957-1960) that we first began hearing and sometimes using the term "conservative." And this was when roommate Doug Caddy and I started the first nationwide conservative activist organization, the National Student Committee for the Loyalty Oath. Thanks to publicity in Human Events and National Review, we were amazed to hear from hundreds of conservative students across the country when we thought we were pretty much alone in the liberal wilderness. The National Student Committee begat Students for Goldwater for Vice President which begat Young Americans for Freedom...but I digress.

Also during these years, Bill Buckley was launching his public persona as the scourge of the Liberal Establishment. The prototype conservative movement had plenty of good people doing good work, but none caught the public's eye like Bill Buckley, with his wit and charm and eloquence. In him we finally had someone who could stand up at the lecture podium to the likes of John Kenneth Galbraith and make him look like the intellectual inferior he was! So I was elated beyond words when I was offered the position of Editorial Assistant to THE Man.

You can imagine—no, you cannot imagine—how nervous I was to enter the inner sanctum of National Review and work directly for the Most Important Man in the Conservative Universe. Remember, I was only 21 and just a few years out of the sagebrush, plopped into the very heart of Gotham. But if anyone could put you at ease, it was Bill and his sister Priscilla, the managing editor of National Review.

I was surprised when they introduced me to my work quarters. It would be an exaggeration to call it an office—more a cubbyhole, barely big enough for a small desk table with typewriter and some shelves. Any apprehension evaporated when I learned that my predecessor occupying these quarters was Whittaker Chambers. And I was a poster boy at that time for the World Hunger Campaign, so if rotund Chambers could work in there I should have no problem. As they soon told me, both Whittaker Chambers and I

had an ability to pack more newspapers and assorted “files” into that cubbyhole than anyone thought possible.

When a groundbreaking magazine makes history, as National Review in retrospect did, it’s a natural tendency to think you worked there during its Golden Age. And I do. Certainly it would have been exciting to work there at launch, but the early 60s were the buildup to the Goldwater campaign, when the new conservative movement was first beginning to think big and dream big. Bill Buckley’s National Review was the epicenter for both the intellectual side of the movement and the political strategy side of the movement.

An editorial table in Bill’s office suite served as our gathering spot for handing out the next issue’s assignments, evaluating them before deadline, and engaging in general discussion during our weekly editorial luncheons. We were all equal in having our say, but naturally some were more equal than others in having their ideas accepted, and Bill was The Decider at that table.

The intellectual giant at the table was James Burnham, really one of the three great political philosophers of that era, the others being Sidney Hook and George Orwell. (Frank Meyer’s editorial power was diminished by his being a nonresident, ensconced in the Catskills.) If there was divided opinion on an editorial matter, Bill would usually—but not always—side with Burnham. If you’re a fan of “The McLaughlin Group,” you know the routine. John McLoughlin will make the rounds of his TV panel, seeking their responses, and then pronounce, “The answer is...”

And you never knew who might join us for lunch. One week I’d sit down and the person to my right, passing the sandwich platter, would be the comedian and TV host Steve Allen, making his case for disarmament. (Not accepted.) Another time it would be a couple of scientists employed by the tobacco industry, trying to convince us that our editorial position was wrong and there was no scientific evidence that nicotine was harmful. (This was a time when cigarette ads featured M.D.’s assuring you that one brand was better than the others.) Burnham carried the ball on that one, since he was the only one of us with a good scientific understanding, while Bill just sat at the head of the table, twirling his pencil, grinning his Cheshire cat grin, and enjoying the spectacle of the cancer-shrills being intellectually dismembered.

The fun together didn’t always stop when the work was finished. We would often repair to The Brasserie or some other eatery after an issue was put to bed. At some point toward the end of my formal employment at National Review, Nicola Paone on 34th Street became “the National Review restaurant.” I last ate there two years ago with Priscilla Buckley and my dear friend Tim Wheeler, another one-time editorial assistant at National Review, while Bill Buckley was celebrating his 80th birthday at the next table with friends. Now both Tim and Bill are gone, and I’m thinking I may want that to be my last memory of Paone’s.

All in all, Bill was one of the most easygoing bosses I’ve ever had. But that made it all the more crushing when you weren’t doing your job and were reminded of that in his sonorous tones. He was also a demanding editor. In this pre-computer age, you could readily see all the changes he had made in your copy by the markings of his red pen. Sometimes there seemed to be more red ink than black typewriter copy on the pages I had submitted, but eventually that decreased some. Either I was becoming a better writer or he was giving up.

Of course, when you work for someone as famous as Buckley, what you cherish most are the personal moments together, away from the crowd. I always thought he felt guilty about the peon’s pay I got from National Review, because so often he would go out of his way to augment my pay—but there probably was no guilt involved, just generous Bill. One

time he asked me to walk with him to the small apartment he rented a couple of blocks away from the office. He opened the door to the foyer closet and asked me to try on one of his suits. Perfect fit—yes, I was that skinny back then. Bill had developed a wool allergy, and soon I was the new owner of five or six handsome Savile Row suits.

Best of all were the times spent on his boat. Mind you, he was a world-class sailor and I only learned which side was which, starboard and port, by remembering that both “port” and “left” have four characters. So taking me aboard, instead of picking someone who could help him battle the elements in a raging sea, was an act of pure generosity on his part.

Bill’s nautical generosity knew its sensible bounds, though, and I was never invited to join one of his cross-Atlantic sails. Instead, I would be invited on board to ply the calm waters of Long Island Sound.

At night we’d anchor and, with the lights of some Long Island harbor village turning on, Bill would cook dinner and the two of us would consume several bottles of wine, of which he was most fond for as far back as I can remember. We’d have hours of lively talk before the wine took its toll—talk about politics and the conservative movement, to be sure, but mostly about everything else that interested us, which is to say, a lot.

One time we were bringing his boat back from Stamford, Connecticut, where he had his home, to Manhattan. We pulled up at the East River pier on the East River where he normally docked, noticing some strange, rather large ship on the opposite side of the pier. No sooner had we hurled out our ropes than we were overtaken by Secret Service agents. We had forgotten that some Evil Empire potentate was in town, probably Khrushchev if I remember correctly, and no way were they going to allow America’s Mr. Anti-Communist to share that pier.

That had a happy ending for me, though. Bill’s backup was a pier on the Hudson near the George Washington Bridge. He graciously let me take the helm as we sailed under the Brooklyn Bridge, then quickly took it back before I could capsize us. What a memory for a landlubber!

You will notice a recurrent theme in the eulogies coming forth: his personal generosity. It really was his most prominent trait.

When I get to know a man of power and influence, I judge his personal character by the way he treats those with less power, or no power, who depend on him for their well-being in some way. And I know that those people in Bill’s life worshipped him.

I also look at how he handles a crisis in a friend’s life, a crisis of that friend’s making. Does he cut and run to avoid embarrassment by association, or does he stand with his friend even as he tries to set him on the right path? There never was any question which path Bill would take.

He was generous of himself, of his time, and, yes, of his money. And all of this was with no publicity, no accolades, no expected payback. No wonder he died with thousands mourning him.

Bill Buckley was no saint, and he made mistakes, but above all he was a man of character and endless energy and generosity. He taught me that you can have a goal-filled life full of accomplishment while enjoying the journey to the fullest.

David Franke

**E-mail the
Editor**

Culture of Death

by Michael Thompson

Issue 103 - March 12, 2008

In "What Kind of U.S. Culture", S.T. Karnick writes: "We certainly know what is wrong with our contemporary culture: the ever-greater promotion of narcissism, antinomianism, questioning of all conventions and authority, identity politics, and the devaluation of all values, as noted earlier. And all these things that seem so liberating actually tend to enslave people to their baser appetites."

This comment seemed apt amidst Valentine's Day news reports of another school shooting followed by newscasters' detailed accounts of the grisly murder of a New York City psychiatrist by a man with a meat cleaver.



As Kurtz said before his death in Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and later in *Apocalypse Now*: "The horror! The horror!" How desensitized will our culture be in 20 years time? Will people believe evil really exists?

It's easy to fall into the gutter while searching the most popular (and coarsening) videos on YouTube. YouTube director, Athenewins (who ranks "#64 -- Most Subscribed (All Time) Directors"), not only features his latest video of Tania posing in lingerie, but directs his audience to a second page where Tania reveals: "I will kill myself in 90 days. This is my online diary of my final days." In the spirit of democracy, Athenewins permits his 16,000 plus YouTube subscribers to suggest what lingerie outfit Tania should wear on the day she kills herself. "Don't wear anything," argues one 31-year-old fan from the United States.

Tania acknowledges but accepts no blame for other individuals who might have launched copycat sites. Instead she contends: "I have gotten mails from angry parents about their children visiting my blog; and as I mentioned before, I honestly do not care. I won't be around anymore to see the damage I caused anyway, so as far as I'm concerned it won't mean anything." She adds that she might decide to set her little sister up to discover the suicide first: "She may be 10 but she's tough as they come)."

The warnings of Pope John Paul II about the culture of death ring increasingly true today.

Michael Thompson, Arlington, VA

**E-mail the
Editor**

Reader Comments

Issue 103 - March 12, 2008

Editor: I just finished reading your latest column asking whether conservatives should support McCain. You are right. His speech at the CPAC was a good one but it does not line up against the mission statement of his Reform Institute. I remember telling folks back in '99 that George Bush would be the GOP nominee but the country would be getting someone more like Richard Nixon than Ronald Reagan. They did not believe me then and now we are dealing with the aftermath. Once again I fear our prospects for retaining the White House rests more on the high negatives of the opposition than on what we will have to offer. Dennis Whitfield

Editor: Based on your "Support McCain" article, I don't see how any professed conservative could support Senator McCain. While you delineate some of his questionable actions via the Reform Institute his constant 'marriage' with a plethora of ultra liberal Democrats (Feingold, Kennedy, Lieberman, etc.) is sufficient for me to eliminate him from any consideration. Today, because his handlers tell him he can't win without the conservative vote, he has had an epiphany. Now he sees the logic and correctness to conservative positions. Just vote for me and trust me to do the 'right' thing once I am in the White House. Sure, and that response belongs with all the other great lies mouthed by politicians through the years. I think we all remember "read my lips" and what came of that oath. From a conservative position, the White House is already lost. We have 3 shades of the same political stripe and it matters not who is elected in November. They will all stay in Iraq, nominate socialist/globalist judges, raises taxes, and grant amnesty to the illegals. America will continue to slide left and in 20 or 30 years it will become a shadow of what it once was, modeled on the EU. Regards, Robert Zanetti, College Point, NY

Editor: "Support McCain?" is wrong. To suggest loosing is better than winning is lunacy. For those who can't see the difference perhaps you will take the time to explain to me how Justice Ginsburg is no different than Justice Roberts? Good luck. Robert E. Solum

Editor: Good points in your "Support McCain?" that many fail to remember as far as McCain's voting record is concerned. As a Reagan Conservative who has met John McCain (in Las Vegas), along with my late husband, who even had dinner alone with just John McCain and his wife Cindy (The Prime Restaurant, Bellagio Hotel), I am very concerned that he apparently is going to be our Candidate for President! My husband, who never would talk politics with McCain, would roll over in his grave! However, I shall vote for him! We have no other choice! Cobina Cooley Bastone (Cobey Lou Bastone)

Editor: Regarding your "Support McCain?" the Republican conservatives better support McCain or they will find out what a real liberal is with Obama or Hillary. McCain is a fine man who can run the country. If Limbaugh is what a conservative is, I don't want the same label. I don't agree with the gripes. No one is 100 percent. Judy M. Bowers-longtime Republican activist

Editor: "Support McCain?" No. Gary Grover

Editor: McCain isn't perfect like some conservatives I can name. Actually, I can't name one--who is the perfect conservative?--but McCain:

- 1) has never had an earmark
- 2) used to publish his own Senate porker of the month
- 3) is totally prepared to be commander in chief
- 4) will not allow military humiliation in the Middle East or anywhere else
- 5) has said, "No new taxes"
- 6) has said he will close the southern border
- 7) has an 83% ACU rating, not an A but a B
- 8) is a stark contrast to Obama/Clinton's 19th C. socialism and post WW I pacifism and totalitarian dictatorial promises

The alternative is 8 years of Democrats. I'll take McCain over the above any day. The right has to fight with what it has. If McCain is it, then McCain is the deal. Let's go forward and stop beating ourselves up. It only benefits the enemy. Renny Hartmann

Editor: Regarding "Support McCain?" I cannot possibly vote for McCain; He is a loose cannonball. I would like to see a campaign started to elect Huckabee with write-in votes in the election in November. I think there are enough God fearing Christians out there to put him in office. Obama is a jerk. Clinton is power hungry. What choice do we have? Carl

Editor: Do you really want Hillary or Obama as President????? I think not!!!! McCain may not be perfect, but he is an infinitely better choice than either Democratic candidates. It is time we realize that the only way we can keep the White House and other Congressional offices from going to the Democrat party is to stand together and fight to WIN as a united Republican party. IF we don't the liberal laws that will get passed will destroy any possibility that conservatives will have ANY voice in the USA! It is time to wake up to the new reality!

David A. Christensen

Editor: Regarding your editorial "Support McCain?" I do not trust him for a N.Y. minute. Please keep after him to keep him honest. I get sick when I think of him in the White House. One more thought. How about a Conservative Party? Could this be the answer? In my view, at this time the existing one is pretty bad. I'm ashamed to say that I am a part of it. Your other article by J.B Williams is right--- concentrate on the Senate. Sincerely, George Peros

Editor: Finally Rush and a few others have gotten around to calling John McCain what he really is: Liberal Republican instead of Moderate Republican. He was never a Moderate. He is a Democrat that ran as a Republican because that was the only way he could get elected. Applies to all the RHINO's. Call them by their true name. LIBERAL REPUBLICAN. Add George W. Bush to that list also. Why do we have to cave in and accept McCain when we have Newt standing in the wings? PLEASE START A DRAFT NEWT MOVEMENT right now. The public wants change. Newt is the one with the right change for this country. We need him now! Billie Stroud, San Antonio, Texas

Editor: John McCain is not perfect but, he will not surrender in our war on terror and he will not lead this country into Socialism. We have had enough of the Clintons and Obama scares me he will bankrupt this county. J. Easling

Editor: I am a conservative Republican. I am so upset at John McCain and I will never vote for him. He slammed Willie Cunningham in Cincinnati and I do not think John McCain knows how popular and what a strong conservative Republican Cunningham is. It was Barak's parents who gave him the middle name Hussein. Barak also attends a church that is racist and against whites. How stupid to slam someone who is going to get votes for you in the Cincinnati area. John McCain is an absolute wimp - he will let terrorists into our country with his weak immigration stance and his view of water boarding is silly. If he had a family member being held by a terrorist ready to slice a head off, I would certainly want someone with information water boarded to get valuable information. I just may vote for the Muslim and let him take this country right down the tubes. I will never vote for McCain or donate any money to his campaign - what an absolutely stupid man and a gutless, spineless man. He flaps in the wind and buddies up with the liberals. I gave Bush \$1000 for his campaign, McCain isn't getting anything except a no vote. Michael Toms

Editor: After seeing McCain's actions on illegal immigration, his relationship with Kennedy/Martinez/Graham/ad nauseum, and his involvement in the tanker affair to France, there is no way we will ever vote for this guy. Unlike you, his VP choice makes NO difference. We'll leave the ballot unmarked. I'd rather have a known quantity like Hillary than an inconsistent person like McCain in the WH. This man's inability to hold his temper is downright dangerous. I called McCain's office last week to express my opinion on the tanker contract. I was physically threatened by one of his staffers when I asked what was in the McCain letter to Robert Gates regarding the Airbus/WTO issue. McCain was telling, not asking, Gates to have the AF ignore Airbus's questionable business practices in the AF decision. Bottom line: This man cannot be trusted. Dr. David Nahrstedt, CA

Editor: Support McCain? Never! He can say all he wishes now about what he would or would not do as president but his voting record speaks for itself. They say sooner or later you get what you deserve. Does this nation deserve the choices for president we are faced with in 2008? Two Communist/Socialist Democrats and a Republican who dresses in sheep's clothing but is in actuality a wolf, siding with the opposition to conquer and destroy. Conservatives have NO choice in this presidential election. Voting for the lesser evil is not an option for me. Maybe Americans will finally wake up and realize we did get what we deserve.

It could be this democratic republic's end is on the horizon because of the apathy and complacency as well as the greed and ignorance of the American electorate. Living under tyranny is the same whether the tyrant calls himself Democrat or Republican. Elaine Biggerstaff, Bonney Lake, WA

Editor: Regarding "Support McCain?" it was a mistake for Romney to suspend his race for the White House. He should have stayed in until the convention. In fact, it would nice if he reentered the race now. Perhaps then the candidate might be selected at the convention and it might not be John McCain. Likewise, the Democrats might make their selection at the convention and it might not be Clinton or Obama. Remember Garfield. Jack Buzbee

Editor: John McCain is reeling from his clever success in the "front-loaded" early Republican primaries with "Independent" and registered "Democratic" voters. These phony trials were allowed to produce a "Non-Republican" Primary-election outcome! This is a sure prescription for failure in the fall General election!! These individuals, even if supportive of McCain's vision of values will abandon him for the "purer" versions of the Liberals! McCain already is showing signs of weakness by attacking and disavowing a personal campaign leader on the grounds he used "Obamas" full name!! That action is unconscionably defensive and shows a fundamental character flaw, an unwillingness of John McCain to confront liberalism! He must always be seen as "Politically Correct"! This is not a candidate who can be trusted to see conservatism prosper. Yes! John McCain has strengths, but he is so philosophically flawed and lacking in his "Executive" capacity that it will take a miracle, not just conservative support, to assure his election! We conservatives would be better served to try to gain solid control of the Senate and thus protect against the liberal legislative onslaught and the aging Supreme court "retirements", then the "Hold our Noses" and support McCain. We can start by getting Jeff Sessions re-elected!! Bob Langelius, White Plains, NY

Editor: I would suggest that any political movement or ideology that can't evolve or change will die. The Conservative mantra from the past that tax cuts are always good has been shown to be patently absurd over the last 7 years. The cry of smaller government has been thrown into the ditch. A party that presents a candidate to its members and the independents it needs to win that has just finished giving them and the majority of the country the proverbial finger over illegal immigration, trade policies and freedom of speech is highly unlikely to prosper. In other words ladies and gentlemen a Conservative party and its members that don't follow Conservative principals of lower taxes for all, smaller but effective government, business and trade policies that benefit the Nation as a whole rather than a narrow wedge group, are no longer Conservatives. If it doesn't quack like a duck, you can be fairly certain it's not a Duck. Kind Regards, Joe Mahoney

Editor: Why should I support McCain? He is not REPEAT IS NOT A NATURAL BORN CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES. He in essence is a Naturalized citizen. George Proctor

Editor: "Support McCain?" sounds like what you think rather than what the people think. I will tell you as I have relayed to others who condemn McCain for his actions, his beliefs and his reactions there is a reason that they call him a maverick. He is not a hand puppet and he is his own man with his own thoughts and his own ideas. Unlike Obama who is an Oprah Winfrey hand puppet, who has her thoughts and ideas about a presidency parroted everyday through Obama and his wife. I will sleep better at night should McCain become president because I will not be worrying about being attacked by jihad extremists and I know that our country as well as its borders will be secured. If you really want to know who Barack Hussein Obama is you start with his closest allies Jeremiah A Wright his pastor and Robert Malley his foreign affairs advisor and the reverend Al Sharpton his confident and friend. These are the people that are advising him and after you have checked them out and their ties you then decide who is best for this country. Sincerely, Vicki Hampton

Editor: Your idea of supporting McCain because YOU call him a conservative is the most absurd statement of the season! He is no more a Conservative than either of the Democrats! He has supported LIBERAL agendas all through his time as Senator, and has betrayed any conservative support! Your wasting your time and space and I cannot figure out why, unless you are now on his payroll? John Boyle

Editor: Having never been a big fan of McCain, and now that I am stuck with him, I do have a couple of questions for him. Let me just say this, I have sent him many, many emails and have yet to get one response. I also write Obama and have gotten a response everytime. Pretty pathetic if I do say so myself. My first concern is that McCain will pick a rino for vp - which in turn, would be the final nail in the GOP's coffin, hang it up folks, go home, you're working for nothing. McCain needs to pick Romney for VP or hang this election up. I am very upset over this election and if McCain does not start reaching out to conservatives, instead of apologizing to Obama because a talk show host invoked Obama's middle name one too many times. If McCain thinks playing nicey nice in this election process will get him a victory, he is very wrong. The Democratic nominee will never apologize to him for any smearing on their part. Someone shake this man will ya? Sorry about rambling but my blood is boiling. Thanks, Robin

Editor: Regarding "Support McCain?" I say deport him. Richard Keene

Editor: I am a conservative and have voted as a Republican ever since Eisenhower. Remember him?? I am afraid of Obama and/or Hillary. I cannot believe you guys keep hacking away at John McCain.? I miss Newt more than anybody, for sure. But, to withhold support for OUR PARTY'S nominee for President is not to be believed...PLEASE STOP NOW...YOU GIVE AMMO TO OBAMA AND HILLARY. Shame on your continued assault on OUR CANDIDATE....Bill Christie in NJ

Editor: Lisa Fabrizio's "Questions to McCain" deserve honest and straightforward answers that the Senator/Presidential candidate must address before true Conservatives will vote for him, and were some of the same questions that I sent to him. I have never received a response from Senator McCain, probably because I am only one. It is good to know that those in more recognizable positions are also asking, and I hope receiving answers. Another question that I must have answered: Is the Senator going to listen to the majority of American voices that are fed with his Illegal Alien Amnesty legislation? Has he heard us on this issue? And what is he going to do about the illegal aliens living outside of the law in the U.S.? Does he understand that we insist that they be deported and told to sign up for citizenship and await their turn just like our forefathers did? I certainly hope so. I do not relish the idea of having to exist under four years of ultra liberal Democratic rule. I am looking forward to receiving Lisa's next letter to McCain, and learning if she received a reply from the elite President elect. Thank you for your time. Don Lloyd

Editor: J. B. Williams is right-on. We need to concentrate on the Senate seats that are up for re-election. Roxana Muise

Editor: I read J.B. Williams' article about getting Republican Senators into office and to give up on the Presidential race. I agree with you and at the same time disagree. If you were to go to one of these two sites and read the information that you can gather there it may be an eye opener and maybe you'll include as links to go to for information.

(<http://an-american-for-sovereignty.com>& <http://vote-itz-ur-right.com>) I agree our nations future is at stake and feel we can not concede yet to just sitting this one out in the Presidential race. I am

100% behind you in getting active both in seating a Congressman and Senator that will preserve our country's sovereignty, Freedoms, Rule of Law and Values. Your kids & mine your grandchildren & mine future is needing our action now. Boyd Lieberman, Shreveport, LA

Editor: Spencer Warren's "Anti-American Oscars" is a great read. We need more of this type of writing in the mainstream media. I doubt that most Americans even take a second glance at what they are watching or realize what the truth in History really is. Much like the wonderful text books we now have in our middle school and high schools through out America. Thank you for taking the time and doing the research to put forth this information. Sincerely, William H. Freeman, Marion, IL

Editor: Thanks for the wonderfully written commentary of brutally truthful insights in Spencer Warren's "Anti-American Oscars". Five Stars from me, JCH, Advance NC

Editor: Is there a email address to email any of the STUPID sounding Hollywood people portrayed in Spencer Warren's "Anti-American Oscars"? If so I would spend all day doing it--if I could do so in a nice way. Judy Hatton

Editor: Right on for S.T, Karnick's "Easy on Anti-Jesus Slur." I also agree with Spencer Warren's "Anti-American Oscars" which clearly pointed specifically to certain movies from the 60s culture that were nothing but fabricated information and were a large contributing force to the anti-American beliefs portrayed in these movies. One last word. If so many of these people think this is such a horrible and wicked country I would suggest they return to the lands of their forefathers. Given the opportunity they would not in fact leave. Money would not be the controlling factor in their decisions. Thank you for your article. Kathleen Potterfield

Editor: Please keep up the good work such as Roy Innis' "Government Energy Arsenic." Help keep USA from expending trillions of unnecessary dollars to fight nature. The zealots pick co2 because if not 'manmade' they will be unable to cripple the capitalist economies with fighting this nonsense. Chuck Higgins

**E-mail the
Editor**