

Ben Bernanke

CONSERVATIVE BATTLELINE ONLINE

*The "Bold Colors" Conservative Voice in
Washington*

Issue 104 - March 26, 2008

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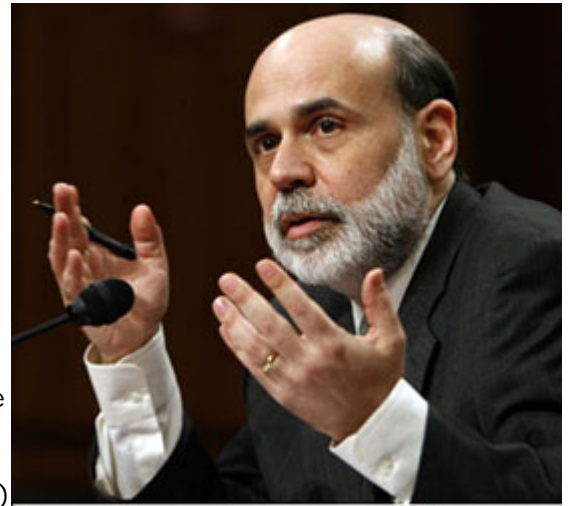
All New Dealers Now?

by Donald Devine

Issue 104 - March 26, 2008

In the wake of the Federal Reserve bailout of Bear Stearns, the generous debt guarantee to J.P. Morgan Chase and the opening of direct Fed credit lines to investment firms, progressive theorist E.J. Dionne Jr. could not contain himself: "Never do I want to hear again from my conservative friends how brilliant capitalists are, how much they deserve their seven-figure salaries and how government should keep its hands off the private economy."

He must have some strange conservative friends, since from Adam Smith to Joseph Schumpeter and forward, free-marketers have been very aware that capitalists are often the greatest danger to capitalism. They do not so much deserve their pay as bargain for it. But he does have a point. Virtually every supply-side, free market (to say nothing of progressive) voice is calling for the Federal Reserve and U.S. Treasury to intervene to rescue financial markets. Only no one knows how to regulate them, including Dionne, whose "solution" is to decry that "Wall Street titans" have become "welfare clients" but then agreeing they should be bailed out as long as they "foot some of the bill" and are contrite.



Ben Bernanke

For the first time, 71 percent of economists are saying the U.S. is already in recession. The February data show a loss of 63,000 jobs, consumer demand measured by retail sales down 0.6 percent and capital in short supply for financial institutions due to the rolling effects of the sub-prime mortgage crisis. But it is not just a recession for, at the same time, prices have zoomed 4.3 percent, with the Consumer Price Index near a 17 year high and the dollar sunk to historic lows against gold, oil, the Euro, yen, Canadian dollar and other commodities and currencies, with key currencies linked to the dollar spreading the inflation worldwide.



Henry Paulson

In other words, we are back to "stagflation"--economic stagnation and monetary inflation. While unemployment is lower, the 4.3% price inflation (not just the core) is at the precise level that led Richard Nixon to impose wage and price controls and break the dollar link to gold in 1971. Wage and price controls are discredited these days but the other policies that led to full scale stagflation under Jimmy Carter are very much alive. George Bush has already signed a "stimulus" program into law to spur demand, the Federal Reserve is pushing "liquidity" to increase the supply and availability of capital and, with the Treasury, is jawboning investment and bank restructuring and consolidation.

Will it work? Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson sounds unsure. On Fox Morning News, after defending the Federal Reserve's actions, he also agreed a correction "is inevitable. You're going to see a correction. Can we outlaw the forces of gravity? You know—what can the government do?"

Yes, what can the government do? Dionne and other progressives can only point to Franklin Roosevelt taming the Great Depression, without mentioning it took a decade and a world war to end it and that the Fed may have caused it in the first place. He conveniently ignores the Carter stagflation years, the \$250 billion Savings and Loan bank failure crisis of the mid 1980s, the commercial banking crisis of the late 1980s when 905 banks failed, the Mexican peso crisis or the late 1990s Asian financial crisis. The Federal Reserve not only did not solve these, the solutions led

to the end of the commercial banking regime the Fed was created to regulate, now down to a mere 30 percent of capital lending. These crises were met with some minor bailouts but primarily by the private sector creating new financial instruments and institutions and turning the Fed's inflation machine off. Those new investment house and hedge fund institutions and "securitized" instruments that saved the day then are now under stress themselves. That is how the market works, through cycles of growth and correction.

With an election eight months away, no politician is willing to tell the voters the truth about business cycles. Almost no one expects the "stimulus" to work but it is "doing something." While dismissing the stimulus, supply-side guru and former Dallas Fed chairman Bob McTeer presents the case for the ultra-optimists. The U.S. has not resorted to controls, the gold window has been long closed, and supply, demand and productivity are all more robust than in the 1970--so stagflation is unlikely, although he ends by admitting, "I could be wrong." While he supported Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's additional rate reductions and liquidity activities, he did concede they will increase inflation.

The dirty secret about Fed intervention is that Bernanke really has only one tool in his kit, creating additional liquidity—and that means inflation. By granting direct borrowing to the new financial institutions, Bernanke has in effect expanded his regulatory reach (without legislation) but that just infuses liquidity and inflation further into the economy. The Fed Chairman recognizes the inflation danger but he expects lower growth to control it. McTeer believes a long term decline in the dollar is inevitable given foreign dollars holdings from past trade and the fact that balances are redeemable. If this is gradual, all will be well. The danger is that Fed liquidity policy will exacerbate the flow. "The more the dollar depreciates, the sooner it will be expected to reverse, and the sooner foreign investors will resume their participation in the most dynamic, creative economy in the world." Translation: current Fed policy delays a recovery, which is pretty much what Paulson was saying too.



E.J. Dionne

Even perpetual optimists like the Wall Street Journal editors, who first called recent actions "the Fed's best policy course," although adding that "these are loans or swaps designed to be a short-term source of liquidity and it's important that they continue to be temporary." Indeed, "there is some genuine moral hazard" to the policy and it might encourage Congress to bailout mortgagees directly. If Fed policy is short term and works "maybe the Fed won't continue to run the risk of tempting inflation and a dollar rout with ever easier monetary policy." A few days later, their patience exhausted, the editors demanded the closing of the Fed's credit spigot and ending the weakening of the dollar, correctly noting that "The Fed's main achievement so far has been to stir a global lack of confidence in the greenback."

The truth is even the most optimistic supply side economists (and even most progressive ones) know a correction must take place to solve the crisis over the long run. Brian Wesbury and Robert Stein conclude:

We believe the Fed has already provided the economy with more than enough liquidity to grow at a robust rate later this year. However, igniting that boost from growth due to lower interest rates requires the Fed to convince the market it is finishing up its rate cuts. Otherwise, as long as consumers and businesses foresee much lower rates ahead, they have an incentive to postpone activity.

**THE WALL STREET
JOURNAL.**

Ignoring the pleas, a few days later the Fed increased the discount rate again, first by a quarter and then by three-quarters of a point (although acknowledging an inflation risk and with two regional chairmen now dissenting), resulting in an immediate stock market rally but then a reaction from foreign markets fearing more inflation and an even weaker dollar.

Allowing the market to self correct is extremely difficult politically in a democracy but it is the only way. Inflation is politically safer—but also more economically stagnating. Regulation is easy to prescribe but the new financial instruments are so complex the regulators are more confused than the hedge experts, just exposing themselves to more unknown risk. Even the supposedly free market Journal editors called for “a more aggressive and pre-emptive regulatory role for the Fed,” without specifying what the government regulator could do. For, contrary to Dionne, if the government regulator has already lost confidence, how can it provide what it does not possess or understand? There is a legitimate central bank function to stabilize money growth but that is precisely what it is not doing.

The sad fact is, the market must be allowed to hit bottom or neither the economy nor the dollar will recover. The market will have to weed out weaknesses and allow a solution by those bearing the risks. The reason the Great Depression was so “great,” i.e. lasted so long, was that the government would not let it hit bottom. That was the whole purpose of the Roosevelt economic program, to avoid a correction. Fighting gravity did not work then and it will not now. It is sharp pain for a short time (that can be cushioned but not eliminated) or long-term stagnation, one or the other. Ask Japan, which has been in a New Deal-like decade-and-a-half long slump because it will not allow the market to correct.

When even the pro-market supply-siders at the Journal and its allies are willing to accept the government as the market regulator of last resort—even while acknowledging the need for a correction—are we all New Deal central planners now? The only recent politician to have the intelligence and wisdom to let a recession correct stagflation was Ronald Reagan and even he suffered two years of low public opinion ratings for his courage. But he ended up as the most popular recent president, with two decades of prosperity and even Barak Obama and Hillary Clinton reluctantly singing his praises.

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



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Editor**

Pretty Business Nonsense

by S.T. Karnick

Issue 104 - March 26, 2008

The George Clooney dramatic vehicle *Michael Clayton* is well produced, with persuasive performances, decent if uninspired cinematography, and reasonably interesting direction, but the script contains two entirely unreal elements, central to the story, that destroy the sense of reality the filmmakers try so carefully to build through the surface aspects of the film.

Both the false premises revolve around the notion that corporations go around indiscriminately killing people.

In the film the president of U-North, a fictional large U.S. firm based all too obviously on ADM and Monsanto, knew that one of the company's products would cause cancer in farmers and their families by polluting the groundwater in rural areas—and deliberately suppressed this information and allowed the production to go on.

This is one of the great fantasies of statist: that they can catch some big company holding a "smoking gun" proving that it knowingly killed people.

It just doesn't work that way. In fact, things go in the very opposite direction in real life. American companies are so afraid of being sued into oblivion—a very real fear with a large number of examples to justify it—that they will avoid putting out a product if there is even the slightest chance that it will harm somebody.

Thus a firm's self-interest keeps it firmly on the side of its customers' safety—and denies the public countless safe and useful products because many Americans' greed and lawsuit addiction forces companies to avoid doing anything that could cause them any trouble.

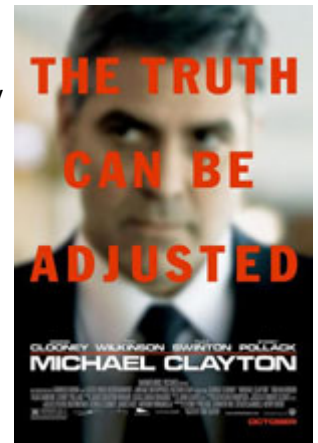
Hence the central premise of *Michael Clayton* is absurd. Similarly unreal is the film's notion that companies send out goons to kill people who threaten their bloated, obscene, fully unjustified profits. This is a manifestation of the Columbo Syndrome, after the fun 1970s mystery show [Columbo](#), in which the killer was always a rich and powerful person.

The difference between [Columbo](#) and *Michael Clayton* is huge, however. In [Columbo](#) the antagonist's wealth and power is way to provide a sufficiently formidable opponent for the great detective. The antagonist is presented most assuredly as a deviation, not the norm for American business people. The show is a fun game, not presented as a realistic view of American society.

Even more importantly, [Columbo](#) concentrated its characters' motives on what we all know ultimately motivates nearly all that we do: personal issues—getting out of debt, eliminating an annoying spouse while keeping his or her money, avoiding exposure of some other crime, etc.

Michael Clayton, by contrast, never even suggests any personal reasons for the characters to commit the vile crime at the center of the film, which resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people, a real mass murder. The filmmakers assume that pointing out that the miscreants are business people will be enough to convince us that they'd glibly murder countless innocent strangers.

That is a thoroughly ludicrous notion, and it entirely destroys the very sense of verisimilitude and relevance that the filmmakers are clearly so intent on establishing.



The fact is, the real problem with corporations is that the government-established policy of allowing the shareholders to have only limited liability—meaning their other assets cannot be placed in danger if they hold stock in a corporation that goes bad in some way; only the money they invested in the firm is at risk—means that the people who provide the money don't have any other stake in the firm. And that means that the people with the most at stake are the management, employees, and customers.

That is why companies can make bad decisions time and time again—because the stockholders often don't take as much interest as they would if they were held fully responsible for all harm the company might do. They have a lot to gain, and numerous other things to do with their time, and only their initial investment to lose.

But it is also why a company's managers do everything they can to avoid legal trouble. They have everything to lose—their livelihood and even their freedom. Thus even when Enron was crumbling, the firm's executives didn't kill VP Sherron Watkins when she warned them that she knew of the company's numerous illegal practices. Instead, they tried their luck with the courts—and went to jail.

The bosses of Enron were right up to their necks in blatantly illegal activities—but they never descended into violence. If they didn't think to kill off or even physically threaten the person who eventually led to their arrest, trial, and incarceration, certainly it is absurd to posit that corporate boardrooms are places where car bombings and other murder plots are hatched.

The centrality of such notions to the story line of *Michael Clayton* is quite a pity, as the performances and other superficial elements of the film are quite good. But pretty nonsense is still nonsense.

S.T. Karnick edits The American Culture at <http://www.stkarnick.com/>

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Modernization and Its Discontents

by Thomas Brewton

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Anthony Daniels's [At the Forest's Edge](#) on the New Criterion website ruminates about the analyses of modernity expressed by Sigmund Freud in *Civilization and Its Discontents* and by Jose Ortega y Gasset in *The Revolt of the Masses*. Both works were published in 1930 and both are products of the materialistic philosophy of the 19th century that repudiated God and spiritual religion, proclaiming that only the tangible and material elements of everyday life here on earth had any real influence upon human conduct and the course of history.

Humans in that philosophy are merely bundles of nerves and muscle that respond positively to sensual pleasure and negatively to pain. Intellectuals, therefore, in theory, can structure political societies that will create universal happiness and harmony, effecting paradise on earth. It was this promise that gave us the Soviet Union and National Socialist Germany.

Freud looked clinically at individual cases, concluding that the discontents of modern civilization arise from the conflict between man's sensual (primarily sexual) urges and the restrictions imposed by Judeo-Christian morality. He came down in favor of following the sensual urges in order to have a happy life.

Ortega's view encompassed the whole of European society in the post-World War I era. Mr. Daniels writes:

The picture Ortega draws of the mass man is not an attractive or flattering one, but Ortega is not a snob who simply excoriates the appalling habits and tastes of those below him in the social scale. For him, mass man is the man who has no transcendent purpose in life, who lives in an eternal present moment which he wants to make pleasurable in a gross and sensual way, who thinks that ever-increasing consumption is the end of life, who goes from distraction to distraction, who is prey to absurd fashions, who never thinks deeply and who, above all, has a venomous dislike of any other way of living but his own, which he instinctively feels as a reproach. He will not recognize his betters; he is perfectly satisfied to be as he is...Life for mass man is not a biography, but a series of moments, each unconnected with the next, and all deprived of larger meaning or purpose.

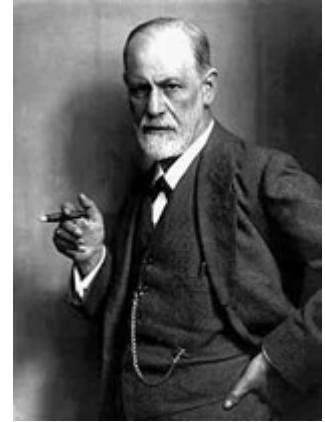
Many of Freud's ideas have been repudiated in recent decades, but Ortega's picture remains distressing accurate.

Both Freud and Ortega were atheists and regarded spiritual religion as ignorance to be banished by what in the United States John Dewey called progressive education.

What Freud and Ortega would not see was that the socialistic materialism spawned by the French Revolution was the true source of civilization's discontents and the banality and crassness of mass man.

By initiating the destruction of Christianity in Europe, the French Revolutionary version of the Age of Enlightenment effectively decapitated civilization, leaving one-dimensional humans with bodies and discontents but little wisdom.

Thomas E. Brewton is a Staff Writer for the New Media Alliance, Inc. (www.thenma.org).



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Sun-Times Racism?

by Warner Huston

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Chicago Sun-Times columnist Mary Mitchell has proven that skin color is deeper than hate in her Sunday column as she scolded Barack Obama for distancing himself from the endorsement of the racist Nation of Islam leader, Louis Farrakhan. Mitchell scoffed at Barack's denouncement of Farrakhan as merely a "game" to placate racist white people and tried to pump up the legitimacy of Farrakhan at the same time. Shockingly Mitchell excused every hateful thing ever said by Farrakhan and said that Barack should have "found a way" to accept Farrakhan's endorsement "without denigrating Farrakhan's legacy."



Mitchell scolded Barack Obama because he tried to make sure that voters don't think that he, Barack, supports the sort of racism evinced in the past by Louis Farrakhan. Saying that, "most black people understand the game." Mitchell seems to feel that the only reason Obama eschewed Farrakhan's praise is because all those racist whites would pillory Barack for accepting such an endorsement and so, she feels, he had to trash Farrakhan. Sadly for Mitchell, Farrakhan is a worthy representative of the black community and she feels that Obama is somehow being an apostate to that community for dumping on Farrakhan.

How Mitchell can excuse Farrakhan for all his racist comments is inexplicable. She seems, though, to merely accept at face value his word that he isn't a racist. One wonders if she would as easily accept the disclaimer from any KKK member that he doesn't really hate blacks... wink, wink... in the same way she so easily seems to take Farrakhan at his word despite all his continued racist comments?

But, Louis Farrakhan has a long and storied history of racist pronouncements against Jews and whites and has made many, many threats of violence against whites as well as numerous proclamations urging black separatism. He hasn't just made a comment or two that "might" be interpreted as racist he's made a career out of being a hater.

During the 1984 presidential campaign of Jesse Jackson, for instance, Farrakhan threatened white America with a black insurrection. Farrakhan said he'd "lead an army of black men and women to Washington, D.C. and we will . . . negotiate for a separate state or territory of our own." This is Black Panther type rhetoric not that of a religious leader, for sure.

The [ADL](#) has chronicled many of Farrakhan's anti-Jew, anti-white, and anti-homosexual attacks over these many years.

Farrakhan's bigoted and anti-Semitic rhetoric has included statements calling whites "blue eyed devils" and Jews "bloodsuckers" that controlled the slave trade, the government, the media and various Black individuals and organizations. In 2006, he blamed Jews and Israel for the war in Iraq, for controlling Hollywood and for promoting what he considers immorality during his February Saviours' Day address in Chicago.

In a 2007 interview with Arabic-language television news network Al Jazeera, Farrakhan accused Jews of anti-Semitism, charging that "The real anti-Semites are those who came out of Europe and settled in Palestine, and now they call themselves the true Jews, when in fact, they converted to Judaism."

There are dozens and dozens of Farrakhan quotes revealing his hatred for white and Jews. It is without legitimate dispute that he is an overt racist and a violence advocating cult leader. Mitchell's ability to ignore decades of Farrakhan's hate-speak is simply incredible.

Apparently Mitchell doesn't even believe Barack when he says he disavows Farrakhan.

When Sen. Barack Obama "rejected" and "denounced" the support of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan during the MSNBC debate last week, it wasn't his finest hour.

Here Mitchell winks at Obama's possibly fake denouncement of Farrakhan as a sop to racist whites. Of Barack's rejection of Farrakhan, Mitchell says that his efforts were "insulting" to Farrakhan and the black community. "Although Obama scored points for defusing a political bomb, his answer was insulting."

She goes on to paint Farrakhan as the sensible one by praising his efforts to smooth Obama's feathers and seems to praise other Nation of Islam followers for keeping their eye on good politics by "forgiving" Obama for his apostasy. "Other longtime supporters of the Nation of Islam are willing to forgive Obama for playing into the hands of his staunchest critics."

Forgive? What is to forgive? Barack rightfully let people know he doesn't support the hate that constantly flows from Farrakhan. Barack has nothing to be forgiven for in this case. But here is Mitchell imagining that Barack must be forgiven for speaking out against racism! Simply unbelievable.

Then Mitchell ridiculously praises Farrakhan for his long "battle against racial oppression and hatred."

At 74 years old, Farrakhan has paid his dues in the battle against racial oppression and hatred. Over the years, a lot of black people have disagreed with Farrakhan on his stance regarding Israel, and many of us have regretted his ongoing controversy with powerful Jewish leaders.

This is amazing for its obliviousness. Farrakhan is an agent against racism and hatred? His entire history is one of fomenting such sentiments! Yet, here is Mitchell bold faced in her denials of such. This is simply a head spinner.

Mitchell ends her piece with a finger wagging in Obama's face. "Obama should have found a way to escape Russert's trap without denigrating Farrakhan's legacy."

This Sun-Times piece has to rank as one of the most obscene apologias for evil I've seen in a national U.S. paper since Walter Duranty won the Pulitzer making excuses for Joseph Stalin in the pages of the New York Times in the 1930s.

The Sun-Times should certainly be ashamed of this idiocy.

Warner Todd Huston is a Staff Writer for the New Media Alliance, Inc. (www.thenma.org).

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Editor**

Public Radio Sanctuary

by David Keene

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I was surprised, but not shocked, when I opened my Sunday paper to read that more than a few National Public Radio listeners were upset that a number of conservatives had actually been interviewed by network reporters attempting to plumb conservative attitudes on a variety of public issues. The apparent thrust of e-mails and other missives from listeners was that NPR had no business giving a bunch of "right-wing nuts" access to its subsidized microphone.



David Keene

NPR, dubbed "Northeast People's Radio" some years ago by a conservative wag, provides a diet of mostly bland liberal fare to an audience of some 13 million listeners, most of whom are having a hard time deciding whether Hillary or Obama will get their vote this fall. The "Conversations with Conservatives" included over the course of a few days as part of NPR's "Morning Edition" a week or so ago didn't go down very well with an NPR audience that celebrates diversity as long as it doesn't include conservatives.

These folks don't even seem to want to know what folks like me are thinking, as they find us so distasteful that they wish we could simply be banished from their consciousness. They know that we're the enemy, and that is enough. They certainly don't want to listen to our politically incorrect views during their morning commute, and they seem upset that NPR's reporters would subject them to such abuse.

Conservatives are different. Bob Novak told me some years ago that he listens to NPR every morning because the absurdity of much of what he hears upsets him enough to keep his combative juices flowing for the rest of the day, but then he doesn't crave the mellowness so attractive to liberals. Bob, you see, actually wants to know what others think.

Actually, the outrage of NPR's listeners is important in that it reflects a growing tendency on the left to want to shut the rest of us up lest we contaminate their world and perhaps corrupt the young and naive. Commercial talk radio has proved especially vexing in this regard. They've been unable to compete in this arena and have been examining bringing back the old "fairness doctrine" to force radio stations that air conservatives to give "equal time" to their spokesmen and -women, knowing full well that this would lead to the death of talk radio because no one would listen.

You see, the left doesn't just disagree with conservatives, but considers the views expressed by conservatives to be so evil that they don't want to have to be subjected to them and would like to make sure no one else is, either. Thus, global warming alarmists, led by the scintillating Al Gore, consider global warming "deniers" war criminals and wonder whether simply expressing views at variance with their own should be criminalized.

They see public radio as their very own sanctuary, and the thought that an NPR host would allow conservatives to invade it even for a few brief moments is hard to accept. It doesn't occur to them that news reporters might want to air differing perspectives or that exposure to those perspectives might allow them to learn something about how others think. And it certainly doesn't bother them that their little fragment of the airwaves exists only because it is subsidized in part by the taxes paid by the very people they wish wouldn't be allowed to sully it.

On the other hand, the NPR spokesman quoted in the story said the network had only received 60 or so complaints. Now, while it is perfectly true that everyone who does complain can be assumed to be speaking for many who don't, it might be a stretch on the reporter's part and my own to suggest that a sample of 60 fairly represents the views of the millions who didn't complain. On the other

hand, they may have been so traumatized they couldn't bring themselves to do anything but pray they wouldn't be subjected to further such abuse in the future.

In fairness to the reporters, talk show hosts and producers who work for NPR, I have to say that they usually manage to achieve levels of fairness foreign to their listeners. I have been interviewed hundreds of times over the years by NPR correspondents and enjoy the network's call-in shows, whose hosts may not agree with me, but are unfailingly fair. They get it, but must cater to an audience that I fear never will.

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

**E-mail the
Editor**

Unbiased CNN?

by Matthew Balan

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CNN's Jon Klein, in [an internal memo obtained by the TVNewser blog](#), bragged about the strong ratings the network won during its recent debates and primary coverage, and spun the reason for this success. "CNN is proving that with innovation, execution, and passion, the sky's the limit. Our deep-seated commitment to independent coverage that is unbiased — without an agenda — is more powerful and popular than the partisan rants that permeate the airwaves." Klein might have had Keith Olbermann in mind when he referred to "partisan rants," but one would only need to look at the past three months to disprove such an outrageous claim by Klein.



The first and most egregious example of CNN's bias occurred at their joint debate with YouTube at the end of November 2007. Retired general Keith Kerr, a member of the "LGBT Americans For Hillary Steering Committee" and an open homosexual himself, not only asked about homosexuals serving openly in the military played at the debate via his Internet video, [but was also present at the debate to follow-up with the Republican candidates personally](#). For a week, CNN and its operatives denied that they knew Kerr's affiliation with the Clinton campaign, and even some in the mainstream media, such as Tim Rutten of the Los Angeles Times, [slammed CNN for "this most recent debacle masquerading as a presidential debate."](#)

On January 3 of this year, during its coverage of the Iowa Caucuses, CNN chief political analyst Bill Schneider [concluded that Democratic caucus-goers were "pretty moderate," while the Republicans were "very conservative."](#) On January 9, Jack Cafferty [gushed over Hillary Clinton's infamous "emotional" moment in New Hampshire](#). "In a brief, unguarded moment yesterday, Hillary Clinton gave us a peek behind the curtain, and it was terrific." Two days later, CNN correspondent Alina Cho [described Michelle Obama in an absolutely positive way](#), using words such as "funny, fiery, and blunt," and on "The Situation Room," Carol Costello [wondered whether Obama's second-place finish in the New Hampshire primary points to "the undercurrent about race that exists in this country."](#)

Later in January, Costello [tried to convince viewers into thinking that Rush Limbaugh and conservative talk radio had "lost influence"](#) due to John McCain's success in the Republican presidential race. "American Morning" co-host John Roberts [directed tougher questions](#) to then-presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani in comparison to his interview of Hillary Clinton. And to close out the month, CNN chief legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin cited Giuliani's endorsement of John McCain [as an example of the former New York City mayor's "militaristic, authoritarian approach."](#)

During the first three weeks of February, Klein's network continued their trend of biased coverage. On the first day of the month, Roberts and senior political correspondent Candy Crowley [heralded the "grandeur of history" surrounding the possible nomination of Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama](#). Almost two weeks later on February 12, "The Situation Room" host Wolf Blitzer [wondered if the Republicans would go "Willie Horton" against Obama](#). And on February 18, correspondent Tom Foreman [used sound bites from two liberals to attack John McCain for his 'no new taxes' pledge](#).

Matthew Balan is a news analyst at the Media Research Center.

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Regulating Volunteerism

by Paul Weyrich

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When Alexis de Toqueville traveled through the United States in 1831 to observe American penal institutions, he wrote down his observations of American political and civil society. Four years later he published *Democracy in America*, one of the defining texts of early American history. He titled Section 2, Chapter 5, "Of the Use Which the Americans Make of Public Associations in Civil Life." In it, he marveled that Americans "of all ages, all conditions, and all dispositions constantly form associations. They have not only commercial and manufacturing companies, in which all take part, but associations of a thousand other kinds, religious, moral, serious, futile, general or restricted, enormous or diminutive. The Americans make associations to give entertainments, to found seminaries, to build inns, to construct churches, to diffuse books, to send missionaries to the antipodes; in this manner they found hospitals, prisons, and schools."



Alexis de Tocqueville

This came as quite a shock to the young 19th-Century French aristocrat, and de Toqueville freely admitted his prior ignorance of such associations. Europe, by this time, had lost much of the religious, cultural and civic vigor which had sustained it and enabled it to expand in the 15th to 18th Centuries. America, by contrast, had dynamic communities anxious to help others, improve their standard of living, and exert a powerful influence on government policy. He noted, "I have often admired the extreme skill with which the inhabitants of the United States succeed in proposing a common object for the exertions of a great many men and in inducing them voluntarily to pursue it."

I mention de Toqueville's analysis of 19th-Century American society to remind readers that from the beginning of our history, Americans have actively and spontaneously engaged in civic and political life by forming voluntary associations. The emphasis is on the voluntary aspect of these organizations and their intention to affect change in government. While all levels of government might have encouraged civic participation, the Federal Government did not create and fund its own voluntary societies, let alone micromanage them. To do so would have had the reverse effect of the original intention of voluntary associations – it would have allowed politicians a unique means of manipulating public policy for their own agenda, ideological or otherwise.

How far we have come! The House of Representatives is now scheduled to vote on H.R. 2857, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act, more creatively known as the GIVE Act. If passed and signed into law, the bill would revise and reauthorize appropriations for numerous community service programs through Fiscal Year 2012. Among the revisions to some of the programs is the addition of four "purposes" to the National and Community Service Act of 1990. These include "providing year-round opportunities in service-learning; involving citizens in emergency and disaster preparedness, relief, and recovery; increasing service opportunities for retiring professionals; and encouraging service by Baby Boomers and continued service by national service alumni." Yes, you read that correctly. Congress would now be in the business of specifically encouraging community service by Baby Boomers and national service alumni. Perhaps our elected leaders think Baby Boomers are too selfish and national service alumni too short-sighted to serve or continuing serving. Perhaps these groups need Congress to lend them a helping hand and show them how to serve. Who knew this was one of the obligations and enumerated powers of Congress under the Constitution?

The bill goes on to authorize hundreds of millions of dollars for various service programs, including the usual emphasis on reaching out to Indian tribes, "disadvantaged youth," "underserved communities" and two particular minority groups. In other words, the groups Congress has a habit of over-serving, creating within these communities an unhealthy dependency upon government handouts as a stimulus for civic, educational, cultural and economic improvement.

Has American civic life grown so stale and people so isolated that there is no longer any initiative among American citizens to volunteer of their own accord without relying upon federal tax dollars and handouts for support? I doubt it. What we now have are a bunch of over-active, over-reaching politicians and bureaucrats who no longer trust the American people to manage their finances, their lives and their communities on their own. Volunteering was important to American life and it remains important today. As citizens we have an obligation to help those less fortunate in our communities, including those in prison, those in foster care, those from severely impoverished families, rural and urban, and those who have served our country in war and have suffered while doing so. Our communities will only be as strong as the weakest among us. That said, H.R. 2857 if enacted into law would be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

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

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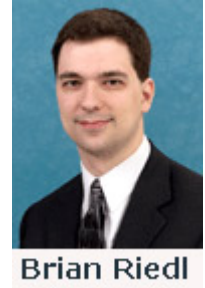
\$3,000 Tax Increase

by Brian M. Riedl

Issue 104 - March 26, 2008

Despite healthy tax revenues and federal spending that tops \$25,000 per household, the House Democratic majority has proposed a fiscal year (FY) 2009 federal budget that:

- Raises taxes by \$1.265 trillion over five years and \$3.911 trillion over 10 years, or more than \$3,135 per household annually;
- Includes 17 reserve funds that could be used to raise taxes by hundreds of billions more;
- Increases discretionary spending by 8 percent and does not terminate a single wasteful program; and
- Completely ignores the impending explosion of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid costs.



Brian Riedl

The White House has responsibly pledged to veto legislation with tax and spending increases that would follow from these proposals. Congress should start over and write a budget that does not raise taxes on American families or businesses, is in line with the President's spending proposals, and addresses the coming entitlement tsunami. Anything less would likely worsen the economic downturn, make it more difficult for families to make ends meet, and kick serious budget challenges further down the road.

The Democratic congressional majority promised Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) budgeting that would prevent new deficit spending. Yet, last year, they used blatant accounting gimmicks, such as fake sunsets and shifting payment dates, to pass:

- SCHIP legislation adding \$55 billion to the budget deficit;
- A farm bill adding \$7 billion to the budget deficit despite record-high farm incomes;
- A student loan bill with \$15 billion in new deficit spending; and
- Terrorism risk insurance legislation adding \$8.4 billion to the budget deficit.

Gimmicks such as abusing the "emergency" designation also helped Congress eventually to secure White House acceptance of most of its proposed 9.4 percent increase in discretionary spending. Despite pledges of fiscal restraint and deficit reduction, FY 2008 was a year of large new deficit spending. There is little indication that this year will be markedly different.

The FY 2009 House budget resolution assumes \$15.973 trillion in tax revenues over the next five years, which exactly matches the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) baseline. The CBO's baseline, however, assumes tax increases of \$1.265 trillion over five years and \$3.911 trillion over 10 years, or \$3,135 per household annually. Taxes on American workers and businesses would rise by an average of 12 percent. Revenues would rise from 18.8 percent of GDP to a near-record 20.3 percent of GDP by 2018.

And that may not even be all. The House budget also includes 17 more reserve funds, which effectively gives lawmakers a blank check to hike taxes even more to finance additional spending.

The baseline tax increase of \$3.911 trillion assumes the expiration of all 2001 and 2003 tax relief, including the expanded child tax credit, marriage penalty relief, and lower 10 percent tax bracket. It also assumes the expiration of all other temporary tax relief and allowing the alternative minimum tax (AMT) to hit an additional 20 million taxpayers. True, lawmakers may choose to keep some of the current tax cuts by raising other taxes instead. For example, the House is planning to avoid the AMT hike by raising other taxes through the reconciliation process, and the budget includes language pledging to retain some of the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts. However, increasing some tax rates as the

price of maintaining other tax policies at current levels is still a tax increase. Taxpayers will still pay trillions of dollars more, regardless of which pocket lawmakers take it from.

Some lawmakers have even declared that, because it is already written into current law, allowing the tax cuts to expire does not constitute a tax increase. However, a tax increase is a tax increase, even if lawmakers schedule it years in advance. Under the House budget, millions of Americans would see their marginal income tax rates leap from 25 percent to 28 percent; the estate tax would surge from zero to 55 percent. It would be difficult for taxpayers to believe that their taxes have not been raised.

While there is never a good time to raise taxes, pledging \$4 trillion in tax increases during a time of economic uncertainty is especially worrisome. Raising tax rates on every taxpayer and business would reduce incentives to work, save, and invest and therefore significantly reduce the economy's long-term capacity to grow and raise living standards. The same Congress that distributed a one-time \$1,200-per-household tax rebate in hopes of helping the economy now turn around and raise taxes by \$3,135 per household annually. Even though the budget delays most of the tax increases until 2011, businesses and investors might begin pulling back long-term investment plans in anticipation of higher investment taxes and the resulting slower economic growth.

Federal spending now tops \$25,000 per household annually, and the coming Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid costs of 77 million retiring baby boomers could eventually add another \$12,000 per household to the taxpayers' annual tab. Rather than address escalating federal spending and the coming entitlement tsunami, the House budget irresponsibly piles on even more spending and debt.

The House budget would boost FY 2009 discretionary spending (excluding emergencies) by \$74 billion, or 8 percent, above this year's level. That amount is also \$23 billion over the President's proposed \$992 billion. If Congress's larger budget becomes part of the spending baseline, it will translate into approximately \$283 billion in new spending over 10 years above the President's requested level. That does not include the extra spending that could result from the 17 reserve funds mentioned above.

Discretionary spending has already expanded by 45 percent (after inflation) since 2001. While defense spending has received large increases, even non-defense programs have increased by 28 percent under President Bush--at an annual rate that is nearly twice as fast as under President Clinton. Yet the House would provide an additional 8 percent increase.

Regrettably, the House budget does not propose any significant offsets for this new spending. Nor does it propose eliminating a single wasteful federal program. Not even wasteful and unnecessary programs like the Advanced Technology Program, which spends much of its \$70 million budget subsidizing Fortune 500 companies, would be reduced. In failing to offer spending reductions, congressional budget writers ignored:

- At least \$55 billion in annual program overpayments;
- \$60 billion in corporate welfare;
- \$123 billion for programs for which government auditors cannot find any evidence of success;
- \$140 billion in potential budget savings identified in the CBO's "Budget Options" books; and
- Massive program duplication, such as the 342 economic development programs, the 130 programs serving the disabled, the 130 programs serving at-risk youth, and the 90 early childhood development programs.

By a party-line vote, Democrats on the House Budget Committee also rejected an amendment offered by Representatives Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) and John Campbell (R-CA) to impose a one-year moratorium on earmarks so that a new bipartisan select committee can make recommendations on how to reform the earmark process. The continuation of earmarking-as-usual will likely create more

upward pressure on program budgets while also pressuring lawmakers to support large, wasteful spending bills in order to preserve their pork. This is certainly not the change the American people voted for in 2006.

The coming collision of 77 million retiring baby boomers with Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid represents the greatest economic challenge of the present era. What Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has recently called the "calm before the storm" ended on January 1, 2008, when the first baby boomers became eligible for early Social Security benefits. In just three years, they will become eligible for Medicare. In the coming decades, the cost of these programs will leap from 8.4 percent of GDP to 18.6 percent of GDP. Without reform, this 10.2 percent of GDP cost increase would require either raising taxes by the current equivalent of \$12,072 per household or eliminating every other government program.

The budget resolution simply ignores the entitlement problem. Worse, it rejects the President's common-sense proposal to save \$8 trillion by reducing Medicare Part B and Part D subsidies for the wealthiest seniors and adjusting payment formulas. The President offered this and other recommendations in response to the Medicare trustees' recent warning that a record 45 percent of Medicare's budget will soon be subsidized out of general tax revenues, leaving just 55 percent funded by payroll taxes and user premiums. The Democratic congressional leadership has thus far chosen to ignore the trustees' warning.

This abdication of responsibility will have negative consequences for nearly every American. For every year that Congress chooses to ignore the problem, the nation's 77 million baby boomers move a year closer to retirement, and the price tag of the inevitable reforms

The House budget resolution pledges to raise taxes by an average of \$3,135 per household. This classic tax-and-spend budget pushes up discretionary spending and leaves the nation woefully unprepared to face the coming retirement of 77 million baby boomers. The White House has rightly drawn a veto line in the sand for any budget bills that emerge from this budget resolution. Lawmakers should go back to the drawing board and write a budget that contains no tax increases, meets the President's spending targets, and deals realistically with coming entitlement costs. If they do not, the President should keep his veto pen ready.

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Editor**

No Universal Health Care

by John Goodman

Issue 104 - March 26, 2008

There is a nasty little secret about health reform. Pay attention. This could be shocking.

Question: How many politicians, think tanks, business coalitions, etc., do you know who seriously advocate universal access to health care?

Answer: None, actually. Unless you count the National Center for Policy Analysis and a few academics scattered here and there who are mainly connected to us.

Question: How many support universal health insurance coverage?

Answer: A whole slew of them. On the Democratic side, almost everyone who ran for president. Even Obama on some days. Among Republicans, there is Romney and Schwarzenegger. Then there is the health insurance industry, the drug companies, the hospitals, the American Medical Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the NFIB..to say nothing of all their friends.

Question: What's the difference between universal access and universal coverage?

Answer: I thought you'd never ask. "Access" is about health care. "Coverage" is about money. Typical coverage questions are: Who pays whom? For what? and How much?

Question: Are you implying that special interests are using health reform as an opportunity to feather their own nests?

Answer: Good catch. But, try a kinder, gentler way of putting it. Virtually every universal coverage plan you've ever heard about was put together by people who spend money, or by people who receive the money, or by think tank and foundation folks who have spent too much time talking to payers and payees, or by some combination of the above. There are no universal coverage plans constructed by garden-variety patients.

[You can test out this assertion, by the way. Do a random survey of ordinary folks and ask them to list the 10 most important problems they have with the health care system. Then go to the Clinton, Obama, Romney and Schwarzenegger Web sites and see how many of the 10 are addressed in any serious way. Or you can take my word for it that "portability" is the biggest issue in all the polls. See if you can find that seriously addressed anywhere.]

Question: But isn't insurance coverage supposed to create access to care?

Answer: Good question. And without any prompt. The reason you probably think that is because there are dozens of studies that claim to find that result. However, these studies are poorly designed, and they never ask the right question anyway.

Question: What is the right question?

Answer: Right on cue. Since virtually all universal coverage plans envision enrolling a lot more people in Medicaid and/or enrolling them in S-CHIP plans that pay Medicaid rates and/or enrolling them in private plans that pay Medicaid rates, the right question is: Does the expansion of plans that pay Medicaid rates improve access to care?

Question: And the answer to that question is?



John Goodman

Answer: Not obvious. A study previously reported here, sponsored by the American Cancer Society sheds light on the question:

- Among patients whose cancer was diagnosed in Stage I (early detection) vs. Stage II, there was no difference between those with private insurance and those who lacked it for breast and bladder cancer.
- Among the four cancer types for which lack of private insurance means delayed diagnoses, the uninsured were diagnosed earlier than Medicaid patients for two of them (melanoma and uterine cancer) and later than Medicaid patients for the other two (colorectal and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma).
- Comparing Stage I with Stages III and IV (very late detection), lack of private health insurance made no difference for three cancer types.
- Among the seven cancer types where lack of private insurance meant later detection, the uninsured fared better than Medicaid patients for two of them and fared worse for five of them.

[The American Cancer Society, by the way, has been spending millions of dollars promoting "universal coverage" through television ads. Clearly, their money is better spent on research.]

Here's the Bottom Line: First, expansion of programs that pay Medicaid rates does not necessarily expand access to care; in fact it may reduce access to care. Second, enrollment in Medicaid is only marginally better than being uninsured, a finding that is consistent with the observation that more than 10 million eligibles don't even bother to enroll. Third, real access to care means being able to pay more for care than what Medicaid pays.

John Goodman is President of the National Center for Policy Analysis

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Editor**

Statues of Muhammad

by Daniel Pipes

Issue 104 - March 26, 2008

Denmark's police recently foiled a terrorist plot to murder Kurt Westergaard, the artist who drew the strongest of the twelve Muhammad images, prompting most of the country's newspapers to [reprint his cartoon](#) as an act of solidarity and a signal to Islamists that their threats and violence will not succeed.

This incident points to the Islamists' mixed success in curbing Western [freedom of speech about Muhammad](#) – think of Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* or the Deutsche Oper's production of Mozart's *Idomeneo*. If threats of violence sometimes do work, they as often provoke, anger, and inspire resistance. A polite demarche can achieve more. Illustrating this, note two parallel efforts, dating from 1955 and 1997, to remove nearly-identical American courthouse sculptures of Muhammad.



This cartoon of Muhammad by Kurt Westergaard, published on September 30, 2005, along with eleven others, [gained the most attention and anger.](#)

In 1997, the Council on American-Islamic Relations demanded that part of a 1930s frieze in the main chamber of the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. be sandblasted into oblivion, on the grounds that Islam prohibits representations of its prophet. The seven-foot high marble relief by Adolph Weinman depicts Muhammad as one of 18 historic lawgivers. His left hand holds the Koran in book form (a jarring historical inaccuracy from the [Muslim point of view](#)) and his right holds a sword.

Chief Justice [William Rehnquist](#), however, rejected CAIR's pressure campaign, finding that the depiction "was intended only to recognize [Muhammad] ... as an important figure in the history of law; it is not intended as a form of idol worship." Rehnquist only conceded that [court literature](#) should mention that the representation offends Muslim sensibilities. His decision met with [riots and injuries in India](#).

In contrast, back in 1955, a campaign to censor a representation of Muhammad in another American court building did succeed. That would be the New York City-based courthouse of the Appellate Division, First Department of the New York State Supreme Court. Built in 1902, it featured on its [roof balustrade](#) an eight-foot marble statue of "Mohammed" by Charles Albert Lopez as one of ten historic lawgivers. This Muhammad statue also held a Koran in his left hand and a scimitar in the right.

Though visible from the street, the identities of the lawgivers high atop the building were difficult to discern. Only with a general overhaul of the building in February 1953, including its statues, did the public become aware of their identities. The Egyptian, Indonesian, and Pakistani ambassadors to the United Nations responded by asking the U.S. Department of State to use its influence to have the Muhammad statue not renovated but removed.

Characteristically, the State Department dispatched two employees to convince New York City's public works commissioner, Frederick H. Zurmuhlen, to accommodate the ambassadors. The court, Chief Clerk [George T. Campbell](#), reported, "also got a number of letters from Mohammedans about that time, all asking the court to get rid of the statue." All seven appellate justices recommended to Zurmuhlen that he take down the statue.

Even though, as [Time magazine](#) put it, "the danger that any large number of New Yorkers would take to worshipping the statue was, admittedly, minimal," the ambassadors got their way. Zurmuhlen had the offending statue carted off to a storehouse in Newark, New Jersey. As Zurmuhlen figured

out what to do with it, the *Times* reported in 1955, the statue "has lain on its back in a crate for several months." Its ultimate disposition is Then, rather than replace the empty pedestal on the court building roof, Zurmuhlen had the nine [remaining statues](#) shifted around to disguise the empty space, with Zoroaster replacing Muhammad at the westerly corner spot. Over a half-century later, that is where matters remain.

Recalling these events of 1955 suggests several points. First, pressure by Muslims on the West to conform to Islamic customs predates the current Islamist era. Second, even when minimal numbers of Muslims lived in the West, such pressures could succeed. Finally, contrasting the parallel 1955 and 1997 episodes suggests that the earlier approach of ambassadors making polite representations – not high-handed demands backed up by angry mobs, much less terrorist plots – can be the more effective route.

This conclusion confirms my [general argument](#) – and the premise of the [Islamist Watch project](#) – that Islamists working quietly within the system achieve more than those relying on ferocity and bellicosity. Ultimately, soft Islamism presents dangers at least as great as does violent Islamism.

Mr. Pipes (www.DanielPipes.org), director of the Middle East Forum, is suspending his column for several weeks.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Experts Expose Warming

by Alan Caruba

Issue 104 - March 26, 2008

In early March, I and about five hundred other people attended the 2008 International Conference on Climate Change, including some of the world's leading authorities on climatology, meteorology, economics, energy, and other fields of knowledge.

It was an extraordinary event, held in New York and sponsored by the Heartland Institute, a Chicago-based think tank that has been among those leading the effort to educate and inform the public about the mountain of lies that have led them to believe that the Earth is experiencing a huge increase in heat, a "global warming", that is allegedly the direct result of human activities, primarily from the use of energy that includes coal, natural gas, and oil.



Alan Caruba

The conference message is simplicity itself: There is no "consensus" on global warming. The science is not "settled." Indeed, this conference marks a highpoint in the effort to rescue the planet from people who regard their fellow human beings as a cancer afflicting the Earth.

This hoax, generated out of the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, actually included some IPCC members who have labored long and hard to dispute the IPCC reports on the basis of real science, not the spurious claims based largely on flawed and even deliberately false computer models.

In breakfasts, luncheons, and dinners, some of these now-famed global warming "dissenters" and "deniers" presented talks complete with power-point presentations filled with statistics and charts that disputed the alleged facts of the IPCC. These presentations were then augmented by a series of panels on paleoclimatology, climatology, the impacts of the global warming hoax, its affect on the economics of both developed and developing nations, and how it twists the politics of our nation and others.

What made this event so extraordinary was that it is, to my knowledge, the first time since the global warming hoax was perpetrated back in the 1980s (it had been preceded by a campaign in the 1970s asserting—correctly—that we are closer to the next ice age) that such a gathering has occurred. It has taken three decades to bring together these experts and the reason why is fairly simple.

The forces behind the global warming hoax, the environmental organizations, have been heavily funded by foundations and, as in the United States, by billions of government dollars directed to research on the climate. These groups have garnered more money from membership and the sales of all manner of books, publications, DVDs and other items. Still others have made their money by suing the government and having their legal fees reimbursed along with any other rewards.

The "stars" of the conference were men with impeccable credentials, but largely unknown to the general public because the media has been enthralled the global warming hoaxers, either deliberately or by virtue of being disinterested in the actual science involved. Too many have failed their commitment to journalism's high standards and they have failed a public that depends on them to explain these complex issues.

For decades, the headlines have heralded all manner of crisis to the point of absurdity whereby now blizzards are attributed to warming trends. This past year has seen significant and unusual blizzard conditions worldwide and this too, the public has been told, results from a dramatic warming that is not occurring.

For me, there was the particular pleasure of actually meeting many of those who have been on the front lines of disputing the hoax, but our work is far from finished.

Much damage is being done to America by legislation based on the global warming lies, particularly as regards their impact on the provision of the energy this nation requires to be competitive in the global marketplace and to sustain our lifestyle. Our political candidates all subscribe to the global warming hoax. The leaders in the Senate and House all advocate it as well.

The result is legislation that forces the nation to literally burn its food crops—notably corn—in order to turn it into an efficient fuel additive, ethanol. This in turn is forcing up the cost of food. It is legislation that does not permit for the exploration and extraction of energy reserves such as oil and natural gas along 85% of our nation's continental shelf, nor in Alaska where billions of barrels of oil remain untapped. It is legislation that grants huge subsidies—a form of hidden tax—to wind and solar energy, the two most inefficient and unreliable forms of energy. It is legislation that bans the future use of incandescent light bulbs.

In short, America is gripped by a form of life-threatening insanity perpetrated by the Greens and legislated by politicians who haven't a clue about the ways they are wrecking our economy in the name of global warming.

So this extraordinary conference, drawing men and women from as far away as Australia, New Zealand, China, the United Kingdom and Europe, may well be the last best hope to turn away from a future that will be marked by the undermining of America's and Europe's economies.

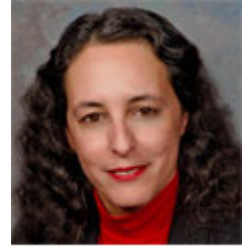
Alan Caruba writes a weekly column posted on the Internet site of The National Anxiety Center, www.anxietycenter.com. He blogs at <http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com>.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Nanny State Culture

by Lisa Fabrizio

Issue 104 - March 26, 2008



Lisa Fabrizio

When the smoking ban in restaurants first went into effect in my home state of Connecticut five years ago, I told a few folks who were happy about it, that it was only a matter of time before the government came after their private property rights on other issues that were near and dear to their hearts. Most people scoffed at my defense of the restaurant owners' property rights and one fellow actually said, "The problem with you people is that all you care about is the Constitution."

Of course, the ensuing years only saw more government intrusion and some shocking court decisions eat away at the liberties of a proud, freedom-loving people. The case that most disturbed my liberal friends was the U.S. Supreme Court's shocking 2005 decision in *Kelo v. New London*, which essentially eviscerated the Fifth Amendment's proscription against depriving citizens of their private property except for "public use."

Now, when I repeat my warnings that, with liberals in power, no one's rights are safe, I hear little or no argument at all. And the fellow who chastised me about the Constitution has since actually read the eight-page document and is now a proud conservative who joins me in castigating those still in denial.

Yet, while I bemoan the liberal goings-on in my once liberty-loving state, I only have that much more empathy for the many good people of California, who also have a RINO governor, but labor under the 'leadership' of a much worse regime. This week's outrage concerns the ruling of an appellate court that "parents do not have a constitutional right to homeschool their children" and that those who do so might be subject to severe penalties.

Now the judges in this case may actually have a legal leg to stand on, given that California really has no concrete provisions either for or against homeschooling on the books, but of course, that is not really the issue at hand. That more and more parents are taking direct responsibility for the raising of their own children is naturally troubling to the proprietors of the Nanny State.

The father in the case [said](#) that he withdrew his children from the public school system because, "We just don't want them teaching our children. They teach things that are totally contrary to what we believe." This is an affront to those who would wean our children on their secular, socialist agenda. Here is the real kicker from Judge H. Walter Croskey, writing the unanimous [opinion](#) (emphasis mine):

The parents in the instant case have asserted in a declaration that it is because of their "sincerely held religious beliefs" that they home school their children and those religious beliefs "are based on Biblical teachings and principles"... [T]hose assertions are not the quality of evidence that permits us to say that application of California's compulsory public school education law to them violates their First Amendment rights. **Their statements are conclusional, not factually specific. Moreover, such sparse representations are too easily asserted by any parent who wishes to home school his or her child.**

Homeschooling is a threat to these folks because in states that continue to refuse to permit realistic school 'choice', concerned parents must look elsewhere. This particularly bucks the feminist agenda, which is huge in the educational field, because it encourages moms to stay at home and make the raising and educating of their children their number one priority instead of going out to do battle with the dreaded 'glass ceiling'. And it has the anti-God squad foaming at the mouth as well.

Liberals get really testy when some folks, devout Christians for example, choose to live their lives under God's laws; but have no compunction in compelling others to live under the tender mercies of

the Nanny State where they make the rules. They seem genuinely shocked when citizens refuse to cede their parental rights to them so they can fashion their children into liberal clones.

The case in California might unfortunately lead to more government regulation of homeschooling, but hopefully it will be overturned on appeal. In his opinion, Judge Croskey cited parts of *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, a 1972 Supreme Court case dealing with an Amish family who wanted to withdraw their children from public school after the eighth grade. What Croskey didn't cite was this from the majority opinion written by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger:

This case involves the fundamental interest of parents, as contrasted with that of the state, to guide the religious future and education of their children. The history and culture of Western civilization reflect a strong tradition of parental concern for the nurture and upbringing of their children. This primary role of the parents in the upbringing of their children is now established beyond debate as an enduring tradition.

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

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Editor**

Clinton Tied—Dems Still Up

by Scott Rasmussen

Issue 104 - March 26, 2008

As of the end of last week, the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll shows Likely Democratic Primary Voters evenly divided the race for the **Democratic Presidential Nomination**. Nationally, Barack Obama now holds a statistically insignificant one-point advantage over Hillary Clinton, 45% to 44%. Before the story broke about his former Pastor, Obama led Clinton by eight percentage points. These results are identical to those just before Obama's Tuesday morning speech ([see recent daily results](#)).

Nationally, [51% of all Likely Voters said that speech was good or excellent](#). Just 21% said poor. However, 56% remain concerned about Obama's relationship with Pastor Jeremiah Wright. See [Obama's Speech](#).

Obama's favorable ratings remain little changed from recent days—48% favorable, 50% unfavorable. Before the Pastor Problem became big news, Obama was viewed favorably by 52%. One month ago, he was viewed favorably by 56%. The number with a Very Unfavorable opinion of Obama has increased from 26% a week ago to 33% today.

McCain is viewed favorably by 54% of voters nationwide and unfavorably by 43%. For Clinton, those numbers are 43% favorable, 55% unfavorable ([see recent daily results](#)).

Looking ahead to the **General Election** in November, John McCain continues to lead both potential Democratic opponents. On Friday morning, McCain leads Barack Obama 49% to 41% and Hillary Clinton 51% to 41% (see [recent daily results](#)). New polling from [Minnesota](#) shows a very close race in the Land of 10,000 Lakes. With those new poll results, Minnesota moves from Likely Democratic to Leans Democratic in the Rasmussen Reports [Balance of Power Calculator](#).

Democrats currently lead in states with 200 Electoral Votes while the GOP has the advantage in states with 189. When "leaners" are added, the Democrats lead 247 to 229. Over the past month, McCain has gained ground in [Ohio](#), [Michigan](#), [Minnesota](#), [Colorado](#), [New Hampshire](#), and [Pennsylvania](#). Both Democrats continue to lead in [New York](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Connecticut](#) and [California](#) (see summary of [recent state general election polling](#)).

The bottom line is that Obama is given a 41% chance of becoming the next President while McCain is given a 40% chance. That's a big change since the beginning of the month when Obama was given a 58% chance of winning while expectations for McCain were at 36%. March has been a very good month for John McCain. But, a Rasmussen Reports video notes that a good month of March doesn't get you to the White House. That requires a good day in November. There is at least [one major issue standing between McCain and a victory celebration in November](#)—the economy.

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



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Obama Exploit Election Commission?

by Marion Harrison

Issue 104 - March 26, 2008

Opinions vary as to the worth of the role of the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") when it fully is functioning as prescribed by law. Regardless of one's opinion as to whether the Federal election law scheme as legislated and implemented is the ideal, FEC is the duly constituted Federal regulatory agency and the only one. How dysfunctional - maybe just plain bizarre - that FEC should be stalemated as the country enters a time when both political parties could be disabled by its inaction.

FEC by statute is comprised of six Commissioners, nominated by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the United States Senate. At the moment it has only two Commissioners - hence, no quorum, no function.



How did this dearth develop? The short, and somewhat oversimplified, answer is that some Democratic Senators, including a first-term Senator from Illinois who is seeking the Presidency, by the (arguably iniquitous, but in any event sometimes misapplied) use of a "hold" have blocked one nominee, with the ensuing effect of holding up all of them and creating and perpetuating vacancies.

After the Supreme Court invalidated the original plan for appointments to the commission, the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders were Senators Michael J. (Mike) Mansfield, of Montana, and Hugh Scott, of Pennsylvania. They were competent and pragmatic and worked together well to get things done. They entered a gentleman's agreement that each would choose three individuals, those names informally would be forwarded to the President; and the Senate would confirm them. (So much for separation of powers between the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments, but that's a separate, and at times theoretical, Constitutional subject. I like it, partially because a Supreme Court Justice and I lecture about it each summer.)

The foregoing informal agreement held until well into the William J. (Bill) Clinton Administration and to some extent has worked since then. It combines the pragmatic values of assuredness, promptness and bipartisanship. The alternative is an FEC which is nonfunctional, overtly political by favoring one party over the other, or both. As of this writing, while daily and routine FEC business continues, the agency cannot make policy, adjudicate complaints with finality or act with respect to major issues - as, by way of example and not limitation, allowing statutorily authorized matching funds.

The Senators, including Senator Barack Obama (D-IL), are blocking the confirmation of Presidential nominee Hans von Spakovsky. Opponents claim that von Spakovsky, who served 18 months as an FEC Commissioner by recess appointment (that is, without Senatorial confirmation), supposedly promoted policies while a Department of Justice lawyer adverse to some voters from racial, or possibly ethnic, minorities. Whether von Spakovsky did so, there is no serious allegation, if any at all, that he acted unacceptably during his 18 months as a recess-appointed FEC Commissioner. No substantive reason is evident as to why the Senate could not confirm the other two Bush nominees, which would bring FEC to four Commissioners and a functioning quorum.

Might it be sheer coincidence that the Obama hold on the von Spakovsky nomination and the absence of Senatorial confirmation of the other two FEC nominees preclude any FEC approval (or disapproval) of the request of Senator John S. McCain, III to withdraw from the public-financing system? Or that the impasse, preceding what well may be a McCain - Obama November 8 contest, presently is weakening, and may continue to weaken, the McCain candidacy?

Marion Edwyn Harrison is President of, and Counsel to, the Free Congress Foundation

**E-mail the
Editor**

Green Lobby Fraud

by Jeffrey Folks

Issue 104 - March 26, 2008

Here I am in the sunny South, sitting inside in the midst of a late-winter blizzard. In most of the eastern U.S., in fact, this has been the coldest winter in memory. Since 1998 temperatures in the northern hemisphere have been trending down, and predictions for the next 20 years point toward colder than normal temperatures. We may well be entering a period akin to the Little Ice Age, a time of widespread crop failures, hunger, and lower life expectancies due to disease. In response to this crisis, the Democratic Congress is busy passing new taxes that make it more expensive to heat homes, fuel cars, and grow food.



The most recent scientific evidence demonstrates that the whole idea of global warming orchestrated by Al Gore and his green friends in Congress is simply a fraud. Global warming is simply a fiction dreamed up by the same anti-growth intellectuals who have always opposed capitalism. Long before the advent of global warming, this same crowd railed against suburban "sprawl," as they called it-while those who were lucky enough to move to the suburbs called it "the good life." This same anti-growth gang warned that evil computers like HAL in 2001: A Space Odyssey would take over the world and murder us all while we were sleeping.

After Three Mile Island, the same foolish fear mongers passed legislation to shut down nuclear energy development, and now we're paying for that bad energy policy. These same eco-Democrats blocked the construction of new oil refineries, so we're paying \$4 a gallon for gas. They shut down most oil and gas exploration in the U.S., so we're 70% dependent on foreign nations who use our petrodollars to sponsor terrorism. They continue to block utilities from burning cheap coal, so now we're paying five times what we should for electricity.

As if this were not enough, the eco-Democrats have decided that Americans should not eat. Current legislation mandates that 85% of the corn crop must be burned to produce ethanol. If you think \$4 a gallon is a lot to pay for milk, think again. The Democrats want you to pay \$16.

Now Democrats in the House of Representatives have passed a bill to add an additional \$18 billion each year to the cost of gasoline. They are on the verge of passing a "cap and trade" bill that will add an additional \$100 billion each year to the price of energy. Conveniently, this \$100 billion would be collected by the government and used for discretionary spending on the many new programs proposed by Senator Barack Obama. All of this while vast reserves-15 trillion barrels of oil and even greater supplies of natural gas, according to the latest estimate-lie just under our feet.

The energy policy of the Democratic Congress is designed to bankrupt this country, and it is doing a good job of it already. High food and fuel prices are the direct result of the costly restrictions and taxation passed by previous Democratic Congresses, going all the way back to the fiasco of the Carter years. How impoverished does this country have to become before the public understands this?

It's getting colder in this country, not warmer, yet Congress is just getting started with costly new programs to combat global warming. Global warming is a fiction, but carbon restrictions would not lower global temperatures, even if they were rising. So Congress has decided to bankrupt the United States-nothing is said about the emissions of China or India, or the rest of the "developing" nations-to "combat" a fiction with a fiction. Brilliant!

Not only is it getting colder: Americans are getting poorer, and Congress thinks that the solution is to pass new taxes on energy. It's expensive enough to heat our homes as it is, but Congress wants to make it more expensive. For this, we have the green lobby and its enablers in Congress to blame. Those professional politicians have spent their lives pandering to the environmental lobbyists. It's time they were held accountable.

It is the fault of these same people that gas is \$4 a gallon and rising. It's their fault that milk is over \$4 a gallon, eggs are \$2 a dozen, and everything else we buy is twice what it ought to be.

It's time to stand up to those who have sold out the American people to gain favor with the environmental lobby. All those who for decades have blocked the drilling of oil in Alaska, those who voted to require burning 85% of our corn crop to produce ethanol need to be booted out, those who support "cap and trade" need to trade their soft seats in Congress for a real job in the real economy.

The leading culprits are Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Nancy Pelosi, and Harry Reid, but there are plenty of others, even some Republicans. If we show them the door in November, maybe, just maybe, we'll be able to keep the wolf from our door later on.

Dr. Jeffrey Folks taught for thirty years in universities in Europe, America, and Japan. He has published nine books and over a hundred articles on American culture and politics in national journals and newspapers. He is currently writing on issues in American literature, media, family, and education.

**E-mail the
Editor**

A McCain Contract?

by Dan Calabria

Issue 104 - March 26, 2008

Regarding your editorial, "Support McCain?", is it possible for principled conservatives to support, work and vote for John McCain in November? Of course it is. But first he has to treat conservatives as serious people interested in principle rather than an interest group to be appeased. He needs their votes; they don't need his.

Everyone has heard the old line, fool me once, etc., and conservatives understand that John McCain now has to step up, but not with mere "trust me" rhetoric. He needs to make some firm commitments in writing - in blood if necessary. In doing so he has to pledge to treat all conservatives, many of which are independent voters, as voters - not pesky nuisances. He has to recognize that he is where he is because of them and not because of his fair-weather media friends few, if any, of whom will ever vote for him.



McCain has to offer his version of a "President's Contract with America" that would include:

1. Pledge that his first act as president will be to sign an Executive Order accelerating construction of a form of fence or electronic barrier on our southern border to stop the flow of illegal aliens. Then he must commit to focusing on organizing a real national effort to make it possible for illegal immigrants to come out of the shadows and voluntarily enter a program to qualify to become U. S. citizens by proving that they are legally employed and proficient in English. Those who do not wish to become citizens must apply and register as guest workers, subject to finger printing and photo IDs. Those unwilling to abide by this process will be ordered to voluntarily leave the country. Any illegals who ignore these requirements will be deported as they are identified.
2. Sign a pledge to NOT raise taxes and commit to fight to make the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts permanent, including abolishing the federal estate tax.
3. Appoint a bipartisan commission to develop a program to permanently rescind the Alternative Minimum tax over a 5 year period.
4. Pledge to find a way to strengthen and save the Social Security program without raising taxes and make it possible for all workers under 40 the option of having a voluntary personal social security account.
5. No later than 6 months after his inauguration, send a bill to Congress to permit oil offshore oil drilling and in ANWAR, including tax incentives for industry to encourage building new oil refineries and nuclear energy plants in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.
6. Commit to amending McCain Feingold to remove any restrictions whatsoever on our constitutional right to free speech - 24/7/365 - eliminating any 60 day "silent" periods.
7. Send a bill to Congress to eliminate all capital gains taxes over a period of not more than 5 years in order to promote a huge increase in investments by business and industry which would be limited to U. S. based projects only that will create jobs and encourage investments in American companies.
8. Send a bill to Congress that makes "earmarking" for any purpose illegal and pledge to NOT sign any earmarks that reach his desk.

9. Commit to continue military operations in GITMO and support its purposes in the fight against terrorism, and not allow captured non-combatants access to the American legal system simply because they are not citizens and seek to destroy the system that we have fought to protect.

10. Pledge that on or before June 30 he will identify at least 3 possible candidates for his vice presidential running mate from among proven, principled conservatives which might include: Governor Mark Sanford, South Carolina, Senator Jim DeMint, South Carolina, Representative Mike Pence, Indiana, Representative Paul Ryan, Wisconsin, or other potential candidates with impeccable credentials as honest, reliable politicians who will help lead the country in meeting the challenges we face.

This is the kind of "Contract" McCain needs to offer to win the votes of all Republicans, conservatives and thinking independent voters, including "Reagan" Democrats. Failure to adopt this bold approach will result in failure to convince voters that he has earned their votes and he's likely to fall short of winning the presidency because concerned Americans will simply not vote in November. He must understand that this is not a matter of "his turn", and he must earn the support of these concerned voters whose patience has been exhausted, and cannot vote for a "trust me" candidate, or be treated as pesky nuisances or mushrooms.

Senator McCain, this is your ticket to the White House in November - ignore this opportunity at your own peril.

Dan Calabria writes at www.realitychecktimes.com

**E-mail the
Editor**

Questions For McCain

by Barb Seavey

Regarding your editorial, "Support McCain?", I have many, many, many concerns about John McCain as President.

I am for the most part an independent and generally vote that way but this 2008 general election has left me with so many concerns and disappointments. I know I will not vote for a Democrat and I am having a real hard time being convinced I should vote for McCain. McCain has talked out of both sides of his mouth so many times I don't feel as though I can trust him when he says he learn what the people want. I am going to list a few of my questions.



John McCain

1. Does McCain really understand that the citizens want the illegal aliens gone? Does he understand that we want tough border security and enforcement of the law? Is he for large or huge fines on employers that hire illegal's and for deportation of illegal workers when they find them as well? Is he for more border guards with a lot more authority than what they have had under Bush so that when they (the border guards) find or catch these illegal's they can take more action? When any illegal immigrant is caught breaking the law in crossing, drug running and will not stop or starts shooting at the border guard, will he give our border guard the authority to be able to shoot back and hopefully hit their sorry back side and afterwards not have to sit in jail for doing his job and protecting his country? Also, will he pardon the two border guards that are sitting in jail now due to President Bush's inability to pardon them which is one of the worst decisions Bush ever made (and to think I voted for him)?
2. Is McCain under the false belief that the United States can cure the whole world's ills? Is he also for all this global economy and rule? One of the worst things about all of this global nonsense is that it is the United States that ends up paying the lions share if not all. What is his thought's on Iraq, Iran and the rest of the middle East Countries?
3. What is McCain going to do about the economy and infrastructure of the United States? Borrowing more money is not the answer. They have to start paying down the national debt. Is he going to try to keep tax cuts in place and not change his mind? Is he going to try to bring more industry back to the United States? Is he for estates to be tax free under a million dollars? What is he trying to do or his plans to help solve the energy crisis? Gas made from corn is not the answer, it costs too much to make and all it is doing is driving up the cost of fuel and groceries which is a necessity for every single American.
4. Is McCain for carrying on with Bush's Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America agreement or is he going to try to get out of it? I don't believe we need foreign countries in here building our roads and buying up our land. Has he thought about America losing its sovereignty if we start selling large parcels of land to foreign countries? This goes back to illegal's getting in here if we have open borders between the United States and Mexico and Canada. It seem's as though Pres. Bush is more worried about Mexico than he is the US and I was wondering if McCain shares the same thoughts. It appears that Mexico has Bush in their back pocket and I was wondering if McCain was going to fit in their back pocket also. What is McCain's thought's on NAFTA and his reasons for his beliefs or thought's.

I would like to believe there is some good in the man but at the present time I haven't been able to find much. Maybe rather than telling us what he would do he should start to sign some pledges that some of the conservatives have asked him to sign. I don't feel his word is worth much and signing a pledge don't cost anything but it does help you stay true to your word.

I thank you for the opportunity to voice a few of the questions I have.


Barbara Seavey

**E-mail the
Editor**

Reader Comments

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Editor: There are very, very few conservative publications I would recommend to anyone (I'm distinguishing them from libertarian publications, where I have a number to recommend). However, Donald Devine's "Conservative Battleline Online" deserves consideration--especially when it is not dealing with conservative politics per se. In the last issue, for example, are two excellent articles on Hollywood. Spencer Warren has written on "There Will Be Blood" and shows it is archetypical Hollywood anti-business, anti-entrepreneur trash, no matter how good the acting is. Of all people on the planet, Hollywood liberals wouldn't be able to exist--they would commit suicide--without the conveniences provided by the entrepreneurs they routinely trash. Then, the supreme irony with "No Country for Old Men" is that it got the Oscar for best picture because the Hollywoodites completely misread its message. Its message, as author S.T. Karnick demonstrates, is not that America is a nation of deranged killers--that misinterpretation is probably why it got the Oscar. Anyway, these two articles get the message right on these two films. But my favorite article is "Interglacial Time" by Alan Caruba, about the biggest hoax of our time--"global warming." "Saving the Poor from Barbara" by John Goodman is also worth a look. I have a friend with a medical and military background that is evidence that she has brains, if not intelligence. The problem is how little she uses those brains, because she keeps getting suckered in to government humanitarian programs. Once she sees how counterproductive they are, the jobs end in mental exhaustion with physical health consequences. So what does she do? After some rest, she goes on to another government humanitarian program that's just a waste of money. I remember when the next thing she wanted to do was the fashionable thing of helping AIDS victims in Africa. I gave her a sober, analytical article (I think from the New York Times, no less!) that showed that the only progress being made against AIDS in Africa was with programs conducted by businesses there. Of course that made complete sense to me--who has more self-interest in keeping their workers alive, and no interest in spending money on unproductive programs? I suggested that, with her background, she should set herself up as a private contractor providing AIDS and health resources to companies operating in Africa. I was preaching to a deaf person. She didn't articulate it that way, but I could sense that she thought it was somehow immoral to make money in the private sector for doing good. Better to fleece the taxpayers, and the fate of the victims of AIDS be damned. David Franke



Editor: Thanks for "Bill Buckley RIP." We have posted these reminiscences by his friends and admirers on our Yorktown Patriot website (<http://www.yorktownpatriot.com/>). Your essay "Buckley's Program" is superb and is similar in emphasis to my essay "Why I am a conservative" that appears in the current Modern Age. The enthusiasm for Hillary and Barack Obama and their message of big government is disconcerting. Apart from Bush's blunder in Iraq it is our own acquiescence in the takeover of higher education by the Left that anyone going to college in today's world is taught to love the growth of government programs. Conservatives are defeated for now and there's not much we can do about it. Richard Bishirjian, President Yorktown University

Editor: Thank you for "Buckley's Program." Vicki Hampton

Editor: It is with great concern that I write to you regarding the article "Buckley's Program" highlighting William F. Buckley, Jr. and the Conservative Movement. In the eyes of millions of Americans across our great nation there are no real conservatives left in the political field. But, just a moment, there is one, Congressman Ron Paul who, despite the blackout of the mainstream media, is still the only REAL conservative on Capitol Hill. Oh, yes, there are others, however, none as passionate about the direction our country has taken since the current administration took over in 2000. Paul, an economic scholar who has studied Austrian Economics for over 30 years is the only Presidential candidate running with a sound monetary policy. This man has shown incredible courage in going public with the truth of the conditions in our once great nation. We are a nation of mesmerized people, lulled and brainwashed with the utter nonsense we view on the major news networks and other methods of spinning. It's way far too late to convince the American people that what we currently have here is nothing short of fascism. It more than grieves me that my children and grandchildren will grow up in a country filled with the powerful elite who want nothing more than to rid the country of our poor and our middle class. It won't take that many years to realize the damage done, but unfortunately, it just may be too late. Respectively yours, Catherine Abbitt, Haltom City, Texas

Editor: Enjoyable, enlightening tributes to A Great Man, William F. Buckley Jr. Bill Doran

Editor: Thanks for your articles on Bill Buckley. My brother and I subscribed to NR starting from the first issue in '55. I saw Bill "live" three times, in '55, '76, '78. There was a conservative event in Carnegie Hall featuring him, Sen. Joe McCarthy, Sen. Bill Jenner, a retired general and others. Bill gave a raucously funny recount of the "Paul Hughes" case. On one of the two latter occasions, I shook hands with him as he stood on a dais and I quickly asked him if he recalled that Carnegie Hall event. With eyebrows shot upwards, he answered yes, yes!!! Just some few personal vignettes of an ordinary foot-soldier in the army of the right, conscripted by Bill Buckley, without whom there would be no "right" today. Patrick J. Bonner

Editor: "Tho the great one be gone, his words and thoughts will always stand alone" - RIP, William F. Buckley JR. - Jason Leverette, conservative patriot

Editor: Great article, "Interglacial Time" by Alan Caruba, I wonder if any of our wonderful politicians will take the time to read about it and really digest what it is saying instead of listening to all the greens and tree-huggers who are causing the rise in energy prices we are all experiencing. Dave Stypula, Jackson, New Jersey

Editor: I couldn't agree more with Alan Caruba's "Interglacial Time" and wonder if the global warming isn't just a ploy to bring down America and help set up the New World Order or is that a conspiracy theory? I do believe the sun is the factor that is not getting the news or the coverage as being the culprit as well as the shifting of the magnetic poles. What better way to bring down countries' economies than with this global warming scam? Boyd Lieberman

Editor: I am a former member of the U.S. delegation to the IPCC representing the Pentagon. While I retired from government in 1995, I still like to follow the discussion (debate?) on global climate change. Re: your article by Dennis Avery "Changing Europe Into Cuba," it would be helpful to have specific technical references so those of us who are interested can check the sources. How did Dennis develop the data on temperatures and how do they compare with world-wide temperature data? Thanks. Morgan Rees

Editor: I used to think "a picture is worth a thousand words." In "There Will Be Blood", Spencer Warren's words are worth a thousand pictures. And many of Hollywood's pictures are worth three words only: "piece of c-ap." Thanks for lots of interesting, inspiring" bio-snapshots." Joan B

Editor: What a great piece of work is "Accommodating Sharia" by Daniel Pipes. The average American citizen has little idea how dangerous these people are. They publicly say they will convert everyone, or kill those who will not convert. Thanks, Morris Kernick

Editor: In regard to John Goodman's "Saving Poor From Barbara," my "best buddy" has been helping Africa for over 30 years now. A good use for the \$1,500 would be providing a good source of water (over there, a well). Many of the illnesses they contract are from drinking bad water. His organization can be found at icfaid.org. He uses people who are African nationals who already live there, rather than highly paid outsiders. It's one of the most efficient programs out there (sorry, had to brag on him!) Steve Purdy

Editor: Regarding "McCain Win Conservatives?" by David Keene, if this man pushes the global warming agenda and does not opt for energy independence using our own resources, I will not vote for him. If he does not commit to building the border fence in his first year, I will not vote for him. If he says he will do anything other than enforce our immigration laws, I will not vote for him. If he does not pick a true conservative for his running mate, I will not vote for him. Charles Nelson

Editor: Regarding "McCain Win Conservatives?" by David Keene, both Mr. Obama and Mrs. Clinton offer nothing but more of the 19th Century socialism that FDR started in the 1930s and which became embedded more firmly in our political culture under Lyndon Johnson in the 1960s. President Richard Nixon even invented "revenue" sharing that emboldened state and local governments to expand exponentially in the 70s. In the early 90s, President Bush I signed the ADA Act for disabilities that increased coverage of people with diabetes, low vision, and alcoholism--practically no possible hangnail can't be shoehorned into the ADA, although the Supreme Court did stop allowing a legally blind employee from driving a FedEx truck. This President Bush, knowing full well Social Security and Medicare are demographic time bombs, promoted a new prescription drug plan for Medicare. My college students can't start the semester until their federally-backed loans are coordinated with Administration, they can't buy text books until their federally-sponsored grants have been coordinated with Student Services, and they can't snack at the student center until their state-subsidized tuition has cleared. Students rack up debts like eight balls, some leaving school with over \$100,000 in debt that is all guaranteed by taxpayers. The Wall Street Journal warns occasionally how much a house of cards the student loan system is, just another scandal waiting to break and sucker the electorate. People will never give up this system as they or their brother or

their girlfriend benefits in some way, and politicians can't stop themselves from dreaming up new ways to spend tax monies on self-described "deprived" worthies. John McCain, on the other hand, has never had an earmark or voted for a tax increase. For conservatives and everyone else, he is our only hope. Renny Hartmann

Editor: Regarding "McCain Win Conservatives?" by David Keene, all is lost because we voted in a bunch of sissies who won't fight back, or cannot because of their skeletons in the closet. I have told you before that I will not vote for John McCain because he is just as much a Democrat as the two Democrats "Hilary, and Obama." In any case I will be voting for Garfield the cat. Don't bother to send me any further emails. The Republican Party has no longer got my support. I will vote my conscience and vote for only qualified public servants and none of them may have had a previous political career. Sincerely, Leo Ryan

Editor: I was stunned as I opened my Republican Ballot to find Tom Tancredo, Duncan Hunter, and Fred Thompson ALL included as possible candidates for my selection, notwithstanding the fact that they were no longer contenders (though each infinitely better choices)! I reflected on the effects of my choosing one of the drop-outs and, holding my nose, chose the lesser of the remaining evils. It has subsequently caused me to wonder how many fellow Floridian conservatives failed to fully appreciate that, by choosing anyone other than Mitt Romney, they had in fact inadvertently contributed to the media supported John McCain victory? I have been unsuccessful in finding ANY data tallied for these "lost" votes, while deluged with the numbers posted by McCain and Romney. I wonder if your organization may be able to ferret out that data and publish it, and if such ballots may indeed have contributed to the unfortunate results. Robert Courter

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Editor**