

The Telegraph, at least, got it right.

But then the *Telegraph* has always been a serious publication. *Time* never has.

General Petraeus: man with a message of hope

December 31, 2007

The critics said it couldn't be done, but the vision and determination of General David Petraeus have brought greater security and cause for optimism to the people of Iraq. He is The Sunday Telegraph's Person of the Year...

Read the whole thing:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml;jsessionid=DNK00GUFH1DRDQFIQMGCFFWAVCBQUIV0?xml=/news/2007/12/30/nperson130.xml>

So Much Economic Good News Amid So Little Cheer

by Kevin Hassett, 31 Dec 2007

...to ring in the New Year, I present the Top 10 pieces of happy economic news in 2007.

1. Equity markets posted solid gains and price multiples are still low...
2. Households are wealthier...
3. Congress did nothing...
4. The Federal Reserve did something...
5. The world economy had another blow-out year...
6. The trade deficit declined...
7. Even in the face of the housing-market bust, economic growth was solid...
8. Job creation was robust...
9. The federal budget deficit declined...
10. Inflation risk is low...

Read the details, including the numbers:

http://bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601039&refer=columnist_hassett&sid=a.VtABIA5ck

The Iowa Scam

The undemocratic caucuses are a terrible way to choose a presidential candidate.

by Christopher Hitchens, 31 Dec 2007

<http://www.slate.com/id/2181008/>

What's the Matter With Iowa?

The caucuses are anything but a Norman Rockwell exercise in small-town democracy.

by John Fund, 31 Dec 2007

<http://www.opinionjournal.com/diary/?id=110011061>

Don't Fight, Adapt

We should give up futile attempts to combat climate change.

Open Letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, 13 Dec 2007

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/story.html?id=164002>

Signed by 100 noted scientists: <http://www.nationalpost.com/news/story.html?id=164004>

Over 400 Prominent Scientists Disputed Man-Made Global Warming Claims in 2007

Senate Report Debunks "Consensus"

posted By Marc Morano, 20 Dec 2007

http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.Blogs&ContentRecord_id=f80a6386-802a-23ad-40c8-3c63dc2d02cb

Anti-Military Lawyer Damages Marine's Car on Eve of Deployment

30 Dec 2007

Jay R. Grodner owns a Chicago law firm. On 1 Dec 07 he keyed a Marine's car for no reason, and then brazenly disparaged the military—at length. The Marine, who's about to deploy on a second tour in Iraq, caught Grodner in the act, and had him arrested.

The police were very co-operative, of course. But the Illinois State's Attorneys are Grodner's fellow JB's—his *landsmen*—and they're helping him weasel out of the whole thing, including the \$2,400 in damages. What should have been a felony is now a misdemeanor, and Grodner clearly intends to keep delaying the judicial proceedings until the Marine, Sgt. Mike McNulty, is risking his life in Iraq for vermin like Grodner.

The great milblogger **Blackfive** has the details, including Grodner's office addresses and phone numbers, and some outstanding reader comments:

<http://www.blackfive.net/main/2007/12/anti-military-1.html>

Benazir Bhutto: Killed by the real Pakistan

by Andrew C. McCarthy, 27 Dec 2007

...There is the Pakistan of our fantasy. The burgeoning democracy in whose vanguard are judges and lawyers and human rights activists using the "rule of law" as a cudgel to bring down a military junta. In the fantasy, Bhutto, an attractive, American-educated socialist whose prominent family made common cause with Soviets and whose tenures were rife with corruption, was somehow the second coming of James Madison. Then there is the real Pakistan: an enemy of the United States and the West...

...It is the new way of warfare to proclaim that our quarrel is never with the heroic, struggling people of fill-in-the-blank country. No, we, of course, fight only the regime that oppresses them and frustrates their unquestionable desire for freedom and equality. Pakistan just won't cooperate with this noble narrative. Whether we get round to admitting it or not, in Pakistan, our quarrel is with the people. Their struggle, literally, is jihad. For them, freedom would mean institutionalizing the tyranny of Islamic fundamentalism...

...The regime, unreliable and at times infuriating, is our only friend. It is the only segment of Pakistani society capable of confronting militant Islam — though its vigor for doing so is too often sapped by its own share of jihadist sympathizers. Yet we've spent two months pining about its suppression of democracy — its instinct not further to empower the millions who hate us. For the United States, the question is whether we learn nothing from repeated, inescapable lessons that placing democratization at the top of our foreign policy priorities is high-order folly...

...We don't have the political will to fight the war on terror every place where jihadists work feverishly to kill Americans. And, given the refusal of the richest, most spendthrift government in American history to grow our military to an appropriate war footing, we may not have the resources to do it. But we should at least stop fooling ourselves. Jihadists are not going to be wished away, rule-of-lawed into submission, or democratized out of existence. If you really want democracy and the rule of law in places like Pakistan, you need to kill the jihadists first. Or they'll kill you, just like, today, they killed Benazir Bhutto.

Read it all: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=MTExNmE0MzY3YjBIYWwZDkzOThkMWJiM2JmZGQ2NDE=>

"A man or a nation is not placed upon this earth to do merely what is pleasant and what is profitable. It is often called upon to carry out what is both unpleasant and unprofitable, but if it is obviously right it is mere shirking not to undertake it."

—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Tragedy of the Korosko*

Letter to the Troops

from General David Petraeus, 28 Dec 2007

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2007/12/letter_to_the_troops.html

Top 10 Scientific Breakthroughs of 2007

by Aaron Rowe, 27 Dec 2007

http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2007/12/YE_10_breakthroughs

The film *Charlie Wilson's War* turns history on its head:
it says that Democrats won the Cold War and Republicans caused 9/11.
—Don John

Christopher Hitchens, like Mark Steyn, usually writes very good obituaries. The deplorable one he did on Ronald Reagan was an unfortunate aberration, and Slate.com deleted it some time ago. But this one is excellent.

Daughter of Destiny

Benazir Bhutto, 1953-2007.

by Christopher Hitchens, 27 Dec 2007

...Who knows who did this deed? It is grotesque, of course, that the murder should have occurred in Rawalpindi, the garrison town of the Pakistani military elite and the site of Flashman's Hotel. It is as if she had been slain on a visit to West Point or Quantico. But it's hard to construct any *cui bono* analysis on which Gen. Pervez Musharraf is the beneficiary of her death. The likeliest culprit is the al-Qaida/Taliban axis, perhaps with some assistance from its many covert and not-so-covert sympathizers in the Pakistani [Inter-Services Intelligence](#). These were the people at whom she had been pointing the finger since the huge bomb that devastated her welcome-home motorcade on Oct. 18.

She would have been in a good position to know about this connection, because when she was prime minister, she pursued a very active pro-Taliban policy, designed to extend and entrench Pakistani control over Afghanistan and to give Pakistan strategic depth in its long confrontation with India over Kashmir. The fact of the matter is that Benazir's undoubted courage had a certain fanaticism to it. She had the largest [Electra complex](#) of any female politician in modern history, entirely consecrated to the memory of her executed father, the charming and unscrupulous [Zulfikar Ali Bhutto](#)...

Read it all: <http://www.slate.com/id/2180952/>

I use compact fluorescent lights (CFL's) in about half the fixtures in my home. They use only 20-25% of the energy of traditional incandescent bulbs, and they're perfectly fine for many applications. But there are some drawbacks. CFL's cost 6 or 7 times as much as incandescent bulbs. They don't work too well in cold winter temperatures. They tend to be somewhat larger than incandescents, so they don't always fit into your existing fixtures. You can't use them with dimmer-switches or timers that were made for incandescents. They can take 2 or 3 minutes to reach full illumination; and if you leave one on for less than 15 minutes, that shortens its life.

And get this: because CFL's contain mercury, you're not supposed to throw them into the garbage, but take them instead to a special recycling facility. If a CFL breaks indoors, you're supposed to open the windows and leave the room for 15 minutes!

Nonetheless, President Bush and the Congress **have decided to effectively ban incandescent bulbs by 2014**, because (as always) the Nanny State knows best. Apparently the Nanny State never heard of the market test that was performed in the town of Traer, Iowa. As Andrew Ferguson writes in the article linked below, "Half the town's residents turned in their incandescents for free CFLs—and **electricity consumption rose by 8 percent. The cost of burning electricity went down, and demand increased. Funny how that happens.**"

A Nation of Dim Bulbs

The nasty little surprise hidden in the new energy bill.

by Andrew Ferguson, 26 Dec 2007

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/014/519kutui.asp>

"The Iranians are playing three-dimensional chess in the Middle East, while the U.S. is playing with its hankie."
—Michael Young, 13 Dec 2007.

"The pacifists are in the West, but the missiles are in the East."
—Francois Mitterand, 1983.

Torture and the Democrats

by Mona Charen, 21 Dec 2007

...Last May, according to The Smoking Gun website, U.S. troops unearthed an even more grisly site, an al Qaeda

torture chamber in Baghdad itself. When they entered, the soldiers found an Iraqi man suspended from the ceiling by chains. The room contained torture implements including hammers, whips, meat cleavers and wire cutters as well as a crude torture manual, displaying various methods of inflicting unbearable pain. These included using a blowtorch on the skin, gouging out eyes, using an electric drill to cut through a hand, and many more.

It's useful to be reminded of what real torture looks like when the Democrats in Washington are working themselves into a characteristic froth about the CIA and the destroyed interrogation tapes. Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., declared that for "the past six years, the Bush administration has run roughshod over our ideals and the rule of law." It reminded him of nothing so much as the "18-and-a-half-minute gap on the tapes of Richard Nixon." Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., smells "obstruction of justice."

So now we will have an inquiry into whether the CIA has violated the law by destroying tapes it was under no obligation to make in the first place; concerning an interrogation technique that at the very worst (according to most reliable reports) involved making three notorious terrorists think, for a few seconds, that they were drowning...

Read it all:

http://www.townhall.com/columnists/MonaCharen/2007/12/21/torture_and_the_democrats&comments=true#b504b281-f20e-483f-8692-fbee8ab8bb2e

One-Man Gridlock: Meet Tom Coburn, Senate's 'Dr. No'

Oklahoma Conservative Specializes in the 'Hold'; Stopping 90 Bills in 2007

by Sarah Lueck, 21 Dec 2007

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119820693514244309.html?mod=hpp_us_pageone

The Greatest Gift

The ineffable generosity of our soldiers and those who love them.

by Laura Ingraham, 24 Dec 2007

Megan pulled a three-ring binder out of her bag and showed me a photograph of herself and her husband. Young — they're both 21 — with big smiles on their faces, and obviously wildly in love. "That's what he looked like," she said with a somber face, "He was such a cutie-pie, always buying me little stuffed animals and writing the most thoughtful notes the entire time he was in Iraq." Then she showed me the photo of her husband receiving the Purple Heart on Wednesday from President Bush at Bethesda Naval Medical Center. As President Bush pinned the medal on Mike as he lay unconscious in the ICU, having suffered a traumatic brain injury caused by a piece of shrapnel that pierced his temple.

"This is my Mike now," she said, rubbing her eyes. He is completely blind and to alleviate a terrible cranial pressure build-up, doctors had to remove the front of his skull. Since being wounded several months ago, Mike has never regained consciousness and suffers from terrible seizures. "That's my guy," she repeated, before she went on to tell me about how they met and fell in love.

As I met Megan, I kept thinking about the fact that some person somewhere carefully assembled the IED that would eventually maim Mike and many others. They are often packed with nails, hunks of lead, and screws to cause maxim human suffering. When they explode, the contents rip through flesh and bones, shattering countless dreams in the process.

How can we comprehend this level of evil, and the physical and emotional agony it causes? This young woman and her husband should be out buying their first Christmas tree together, going to parties, and raising a glass to their future. When I asked what she was doing for the holiday she said, "I'll be here with Mike. I would never want him to be alone on Christmas." They had been married for about three months when Mike was wounded. In these days before Christmas, Megan and other military wives and moms gave me a precious gift. They reminded me that true love requires sacrifice — sometimes seemingly unbearable, heart-wrenching sacrifice. They are living out their love in big and small ways. Many have moved thousands of miles to relocate to the hospitals where their husbands, wives, sons, and daughters are being treated. This takes an enormous emotional and financial toll, yet they do it for love. When they are not at the hospital bedsides of their wounded warriors, they sit for hours a day in waiting rooms across the United States, hoping for good news — or at least hoping to be spared more bad news. They pray with each other, cry with each other, and yes, even manage to laugh with each other as they hope for a day when they can return to "normal life." Yet the families of our most seriously injured troops know they face a "new normal," one that is much different from the normal life they knew before.

As we are about to celebrate Christmas spending time with our families and friends, let us all do our best to live up to the true spirit of this season — and to make it a time filled with love, faith, gratitude, hope, charity, and... yes, let's try for some peace on earth. Let's also remember the military families and our wounded heroes, who will spend this Christmas at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center, Bethesda Naval Medical Center, and other medical facilities across the nation. As we rush anxiously around because we "haven't found the perfect gift" for so-and-so, these families hope and pray for gifts that cannot be put under a tree: a hand that squeezes back, a smile, the first step on a new prosthesis, or a positive medical report.

They need our prayers and support at Christmas and every day. Please give what you can to any of the wonderful organizations that support our bravest and their families.

<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=YTIxZGMwMGZiNDc1NGJjZjlmMzRjYjUyZGJlYzU4NzQ>

An important message for everyone...

from an American soldier who has spent more than one Christmas deployed in a war zone:

As we celebrate yet another Christmas as a free nation, that time to thank our Creator and the brave young men and women in uniform who have sacrificed so much (lives, Christmases/holidays away from family, etc.) to earn and hold our freedom. Lest we forget, be mindful that even on the first Christmas of our independence, such as these were sacrificing the warmth of home and family to earn our freedom.

December 1776 was a desperate time for George Washington and the American Revolution. The ragtag Continental Army was encamped along the Pennsylvania shore of the Delaware River exhausted, demoralized and uncertain of its future.

The troubles had begun the previous August, almost immediately following public awareness that America had proclaimed Independence from the British crown. British and Hessian troops invaded Long Island routing the colonial forces, forcing a desperate escape to the island of Manhattan. The British followed up their victory with an attack on Manhattan that compelled the Americans to again retreat, this time across the Hudson River to New Jersey.

The British followed in hot pursuit, chasing the Americans through New Jersey and by December had forced the Continental Army to abandon the state and cross the Delaware into Pennsylvania. With New Jersey in their firm control and Rhode Island successfully occupied, the British were confident that the Revolution had been crushed.

To compound Washington's problems, the enlistments of the majority of the militias under his command were due to expire at the end of the month and the troops return to their homes. Washington had to do something and quickly. His decision was to attack the British. The target was the Hessian-held town of Trenton just across the Delaware River.

During the night of December 25, Washington led his troops across the ice-swollen Delaware about 9 miles north of Trenton. The weather was horrendous and the river treacherous. Raging winds combined with snow, sleet and rain to produce almost impossible conditions. To add to the difficulties, a significant number of Washington's force marched through the snow without shoes.

The next morning they attacked to the south, taking the Hessian garrison by surprise and over-running the town. After fierce fighting, and the loss of their commander, the Hessians surrendered.

Washington's victory was complete but his situation precarious. The violent weather continued—making a strike towards Princeton problematic. Washington decided to retrace their steps across the Delaware taking their Hessian prisoners with them.

The news of the American victory spread rapidly through the colonies reinvigorating the failing spirit of the Revolution. The battle's outcome also gave Washington and his officers the confidence to mount another successful attack against Trenton on January 2, 1777, followed by defeat of the British at Princeton on January 3, 1777. Although not apparent at the time, these battles were a decisive turning point in the Revolution. The victories pulled the languishing Revolution out of the depths of despair, galvanized colonial support, shocked the British and convinced potential allies such as France, Holland and Spain, that the Continental Army was a force to be reckoned with.

But even these victories didn't relieve these brave warriors from the hardships of service. Just a year later, they spent another agonizingly cold Christmas at Valley Forge.

So today, as we enjoy our warmth and safety as a free Nation, let us be thankful that such men and women as these still stand guard around the globe so we can enjoy our Christmas in a free land.

Charlie Wilson's War* is full of **LIES*

The new film starring Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts, and written by the notorious Aaron Sorkin, cynically credits only Democrats—not the Reagan Administration—for America's successful 1980s covert operation against the Soviets in Afghanistan. And it also blames America's involvement there as a "root cause" of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071221/NATION/549681582/1008>

Take the Heartland Institute's "Global Warming Test":

N.B.: this has nothing to do with John Kerry's "global test."

<http://www.globalwarmingheartland.org/GWQuiz/Testindex.html>

The Forgotten Man

by William Graham Sumner, c. 1895

...The friends of humanity start out with certain benevolent feelings toward "the poor," "the weak," "the laborers," and others of whom they make pets. They generalize these classes, and render them impersonal, and so constitute the classes into social pets. They turn to other classes and appeal to sympathy and generosity, and to all the other noble sentiments of the human heart. Action in the line proposed consists in a transfer of capital from the better off to the worse off.

Capital, however, as we have seen, is the force by which civilization is maintained and carried on. The same piece of capital cannot be used in two ways. Every bit of capital, therefore, which is given to a shiftless and inefficient member of society, who makes no return for it, is diverted from a reproductive use; but if it was put into reproductive use, it would have to be granted in wages to an efficient and productive laborer. Hence the real sufferer by that kind of benevolence which consists in an expenditure of capital to protect the good-for-nothing is the industrious laborer. The latter, however, is never thought of in this connection. It is assumed that he is provided for and out of the account...

Read it all: <http://www.blupete.com/Literature/Essays/Best/SumnerForgotten.htm>

Bah! Humbug!

Rowan Williams, the moonbat Archbishop of Canterbury, says nearly all of the Nativity story is just a legend. This is the same guy who has said that terrorism can have "serious moral goals," and that America's liberation of Afghanistan is "morally tainted." He and Prince Charles should just go ahead and convert to Islam. We know they want to!

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml;jsessionid=JHPSTTV04EG5FQFIQMGCFFGGAVCBQUIV0?xml=/news/2007/12/20/nwise120.xml>

"There are countries that apply religious or sharia law: Saudi Arabia and Iran come to mind. If a person wants to live under sharia law these are countries where they might feel at ease. But not Australia."

—Peter Costello, Treasurer of Australia 1996-2007

M. Zuhdi Jasser, a former U.S. Navy lieutenant commander, is chairman of the board of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy (<http://www.aifdemocracy.org/>). His fascinating article describes the struggle over Islam's place in America, and tells what moderate Muslim-Americans must do to overcome the extremists.

Exposing the "Flying Imams"

by M. Zuhdi Jasser, *Middle East Quarterly*, (Winter 2008 issue)

...In 1964, Sayyid Qutb, the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood's leading theoretician, published *Ma'alim fi al-Tariq (Milestones)* in which he laid out steps to achieve an Islamic state and defeat the West. He described a generational process to ensure the victory of Islamism over Western liberal society. Liberal and traditional Muslims have yet to wage an effective counter-jihad against their Islamist brethren. There does not yet exist a liberal Muslim intellectual work equivalent to *Milestones* to lay the groundwork to defeat Islamism and ensure the creation of integrationist, tolerant American Muslim institutions...

...The imams and clerics who push for Islamist societies are none other than politicians who cloak themselves in religious jargon. It is naïve to treat these clerics as simple activists or consider their civil rights discourse at face value. Until moderate Muslims challenge their actions, terror networks and their ideologies will flourish. Freedom and liberty are prerequisites to bring an individual close to God through religious practice free from coercion. If some imams fear that individuals will lose faith without coercive direction, then they misunderstand both Islam and liberty...

Read the whole thing: <http://www.meforum.org/article/1809>

Savage vs. CAIR: The battle over free speech

by Cinnamon Stillwell, 19 Dec 2007

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/g/a/2007/12/19/cstillwell.DTL&type=printable>

To support Michael Savage in his battles against the bloodthirsty jihadis and effete liberals who would muzzle him: Send a check to "The Trust Account of Daniel Horowitz" with a simple note saying it's for Michael Savage. Mail to: Daniel Horowitz Attorney, PO Box 1547, Lafayette, California 94549

Life and Death in New Jersey

by Jeff Jacoby, 19 Dec 2007

When Governor Jon Corzine signed legislation repealing New Jersey's death penalty on Monday, there were many people for whom he had good words...

...But there were some people Corzine forgot to mention.

The governor forgot Kristin Huggins. She was the 22-year-old graphic artist kidnapped in 1992 by Ambrose Harris, who stuffed her into the trunk of her car, then let her out in order to rape her and shoot her twice—once in the back of her head, once point-blank in the face.

The governor forgot Irene Schnaps, a 37-year-old widow butchered by Nathaniel Harvey in 1985. After breaking into her apartment and robbing her, he killed her with 15 blows to the head, using a "hammer-like" weapon with such violence that he fractured her skull, broke her jaw, and knocked out her teeth.

The governor forgot Megan Kanka, who was just 7 years old when she was murdered by a neighbor, Jesse Timmendequas. A convicted sex offender, Timmendequas lured Megan into his house by offering to show her a puppy. Then he raped her, smashed her into a dresser, wrapped plastic bags around her head, and strangled her with a belt....

Read the rest: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2007/12/19/life_and_death_in_new_jersey/

Does Gore Know What He's Talking About?

by Ed Koch, 18 Dec 2007

...Should Al Gore be out there creating the impression that the U.S. primarily is the cause of global problems? I say "no." It is particularly galling when a recent Wall Street Journal article reported: "Under the vaunted Kyoto, from 2000 to 2004, Europe managed to increase its emissions by 2.3 percentage points over 1995 to 2000. Only two countries are on track to meet targets...[M]eanwhile in the U.S., under the president's oh-so-unserious plan, U.S. emissions from 2000 to 2004 were eight percentage points lower than in the prior period."

In other words, when it comes to the emissions problem, the U.S. is leading the way toward solving the problem without throwing millions of people out of work.

Read the whole thing: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2007/12/us_leads_world_to_solving_clim.html

This is just a really well-written piece. Hope you like it.

Clintonian Triangulation Comes Full Circle

by Jonah Goldberg, 19 Dec 2007

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/printpage/?url=http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2007/12/clintonian_triangulation_comes.html

Jimmy Carter Endorses Huckabee for President

PLAINS, GA. (AP)—Former President Jimmy Carter shocked the political world this morning when he announced his endorsement of a Republican for president. "During the past six years, America has needlessly alienated many nations around the world, and caused the deaths of at least one million innocent people," said Carter, "all because of a failed and corrupt leadership that always chooses war over negotiation, because of its inordinate fear of Islam."

Carter continued, "A true-believing Christian who's an ordained minister, and a former governor of Arkansas, is just the man to lead our nation back to its proper place in the world: humble, willing to listen, not beholden to Big Business, eager to help poor downtrodden people everywhere, especially the Palestinians....."

Just kidding. But it's totally believable, isn't it? What's *unbelievable* is Huckabee's naivete, which Hugh Hewitt has called "the infantilization of foreign policy." Peter Wehner, a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, has the real story.

The Problem With Pastor Mike

Foreign-policy foolishness just won't suffice.

by Peter Wehner, 17 Dec 2007

<http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=NjgzMzYzY2Y1ZjAxNTg5YzAzNzY2MjMwOWYxNWM0ZTc=>

Self-Loathing Reaches New Depths

The British group Optimum Population Trust says "the biggest cause of climate change is climate changers—in other words, human beings."

British professor John Guillebaud has called on his countrymen to voluntarily reduce the number of children they have, in order to help Mother Earth with her climate-change "problem."

Australian professor Barry Walters, writing in the Medical Journal of Australia, has called for a "carbon tax" on babies, with, conversely, "carbon credits" for those who undergo sterilization procedures.

Toni Vernelli is one of the female eco-activists recently profiled in London's Daily Mail, who all boasted about how they'd had their tubes tied and babies aborted in order to save the planet. She said "Every person who is born produces more rubbish, more pollution, more greenhouse gases and adds to the problem of overpopulation."

Professor David Benatar of the University of Cape Town "argues for the 'anti-natal' view – that it is always wrong to have children...Anti-natalism also implies that it would be better if humanity became extinct." His new book is *Better Never to Have Been: The Harm of Coming into Existence*.

Alan Weisman's book *The World Without Us* presents a view of how wonderful Earth would be without any people.

For my part, I'd be content to see a world without John Guillebaud, Barry Walters, Toni Vernelli, David Benatar, and Alan Weisman. They should all be put in a spacecraft and launched toward Uranus.

As Dave Barry would say, "I am not making this up." Each of these loathesome idiots is quoted in an excellent column by Mark Steyn ("**Children? Not if you love the planet,**" 14 Dec 07) in which he points out, near the end:

Lest you think the above are "extremists," consider how deeply invested the "mainstream" is in a total fiction. At the recent climate jamboree in Bali, the Rev. Al Gore told the assembled faithful: "My own country, the United States, is principally responsible for obstructing progress here." Really? The American Thinker's website ran the numbers. In the seven years between the signing of Kyoto in 1997 and 2004, here's what happened:

- Emissions worldwide increased 18.0 percent;
- Emissions from countries that signed the treaty increased 21.1 percent;
- Emissions from nonsigners increased 10.0 percent; and
- Emissions from the United States increased 6.6 percent.

Read it all: <http://www.oeregister.com/opinion/child-birth-homeless-1942317-year-percent#>

On December 7, "W's Disastrous Mortgage Fix," by Nicole Gelinas, was posted on this website. It had first appeared in the New York Post, and Ms. Gelinas is also a contributing editor at City Journal, which added to her credibility. One major theme of the piece was that risk-taking lenders and borrowers don't have an innate right to be bailed out by the rest of us when their risks go badly. But there was much more to it than that, and some mortgage experts whose opinions I respect have advised me that the column is rubbish, because Ms. Gelinas is presenting exorbitant worst-case scenarios—as if she were the Al Gore of the mortgage crisis. The column has been removed from this site.—Don John

Vlaams Belang and other European groups are dedicated to saving their countries and cultures from Islam. Sadly, the proprietor of the great website LittleGreenFootballs continues to consult only leftist opinions about Vlaams Belang et al. That's like asking a Communist, or a Democrat, or Keith Olbermann to tell you all about Joseph McCarthy. I've got to go along with conservatives like Diana West, Bat Ye'or, Robert Spencer, Richard Minter, Fjordman—and Baron Bodissey:

Suggested Corrections for Charles Johnson

by Baron Bodissey, 12 Dec 2007

<http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2007/12/suggested-corrections-for-charles.html>

The outstanding English-language German website *Davids Medienkritik* posted the item below in September. But this level of willful blindness and dhimmitude is still worth displaying and decrying.

German Chair of of IPPNW Describes 9/11 Terror Attacks as "Airplane Accidents"

The Chairwoman of the German branch of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), Angelika Claussen, was recently interviewed on "Kulturzeit" a program on the German state-sponsored television channel "3sat". When asked to comment on the danger of nuclear terrorism, Claussen refers to the 9/11 terror attacks on the World Trade Center as "airplane accidents" and "airplane crashes."

View the clip here, with English subtitles: <http://medienkritik.typepad.com/blog/2007/09/german-chair-of.html>

Conventionally Ignorant

by Victor Davis Hanson, 14 Dec 2007

In which Dr. Hanson demolishes the five worst echo-chamber myths about Iraq:

"There is no military solution to Iraq."

"We haven't tried regional diplomacy."

"We need to talk to Iran."

"We can't impose democracy on anyone."

"Iraq is the worst [fill in the blanks] in American history."

Read it: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=ODBiMjAwOTdiZDFjNDA2MDdkMTkxMTQ4MjMyZTMxMzM=>

A Bad Day for Human Rights

Something has been lost since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was first adopted.

by Joseph Loconte, 11 Dec 2007

Yesterday was International Human Rights Day, the date marking the adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, December 10, 1948. Not even the most devoted U.N. apologists, however, could be in a festive mood. Even by their own Orwellian standards—in which the world's dictatorships sit in judgment of the world's democracies—it has not been a banner year for the cause of human rights.

The latest U.N. debacle might be called the Great Helicopter Scam. Last week U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon complained that he couldn't persuade U.N. member states to donate a single helicopter for the planned African Union-UN peacekeeping force in Sudan, where ethnic cleansing has killed at least 200,000 people and displaced another 2 million. The joint mission of 26,000 troops, to begin deploying next month, needs at least 10 transport and attack helicopters to provide air mobility and firepower to protect civilians and peacekeepers...

...Yet even as the body count continues to escalate, many activists and others remain busy excoriating the United States for its "cowboy diplomacy" and supposed "loss of credibility" on human rights issues. Never mind that the United States has helped maintain 34 base camps for the AU force and given more than \$1.7 billion in assistance, making it the largest single donor to Darfur. Forget that the Bush administration, along with Great Britain, has done the most to tighten economic sanctions against Khartoum's Islamist regime. The U.N.'s dissembling over Darfur is an unhappy reminder of what can happen to the cause of human rights when America does not take the lead militarily...

Read the rest: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/014/467smvwy.asp>

Lawrence O'Donnell Reveals Himself—and His Kind

The second hour of the Hugh Hewitt Show on 10 Dec 2007 featured an astounding display of temporizing, sophistry, casuistry, and moral gymnastics by Democrat operative and TV actor-producer-writer Lawrence O'Donnell—who was already infamous for screaming at [John O'Neill](#) and the late [Cathy Seipp](#).

O'Donnell, who delivered an intemperate anti-Mormon rant on the [previous day's McLaughlin Group](#) television show, responded to Hewitt's clever questions with a truly incredible string of cynical, bigoted non-sequiturs. He hemmed and hawed—complete with embarrassing pauses—about whether or not he's a practicing Catholic. Hewitt asked if Catholic politicians should be held accountable for all the past policies and actions carried out in the Church's name—just as Mitt Romney is being held to account for historical Mormonism. O'Donnell actually tried to define Catholicism down into a cafeteria religion, the way some Jews do to Judaism.

Mark, a black Mormon official in Los Angeles, phoned in and pointed out some past practices in Judaism and Christianity that many today would define as racism: the priesthood among the ancient Israelites was restricted to the direct descendants of Aaron, and Christ specifically said that He did not come to preach to the Gentiles. Mark said "there is no record in the Scriptures of the priesthood being given to blacks in the Old or New Testaments. Blacks would not have been given the priesthood in the Old Testament. The revelation came in 1978. It was the happiest day of my life, because I was able to join the Church." O'Donnell just laughed at this, derided the notion of revelation (saying it was to preserve the LDS Church's tax-exempt status), and said that the ancients were, in fact, racists.

O'Donnell then proceeded to call Mormonism a joke, a racist faith, and its founder Joseph Smith a criminal, adulterous rapist. Throughout the interview, Hewitt continued to point out O'Donnell's inconsistencies and double-standards. Then, at the

very end, came the defining—and revealing—moment for Lawrence O'Donnell (and all the liberals who think like him):

LO: I can vote for anybody of any religion. I can vote for atheists. I can vote for anybody, and I don't care what their religion is. All I care about is their policies. He chose to give the speech. I think he lied in the speech. I don't think he believes everything in the Book of Mormon. I think he's lying about that. It's an insane document produced by a madman who was a criminal and a rapist.

HH: Do you believe everything in the Bible, Larry?

LO: He comes from a long line of extreme rapists of teenage children.

HH: Larry, do you believe everything in the Bible?

LO: No, of course not.

HH: Okay. And do you believe, would you say the same things about Mohammed as you just said about Joseph Smith?

LO: Oh, well, I'm afraid of what the...that's where I'm really afraid. I would like to criticize Islam much more than I do publicly, but I'm afraid for my life if I do.

HH: Well, that's candid.

LO: Mormons are the nicest people in the world. They're not going to ever...

HH: So you can be bigoted towards Mormons, because they'll just send you a strudel.

LO: They'll never take a shot at me. Those other people, I'm not going to say a word about them.

"O would some Power the giftie gie us, tae see ourselves as others see us."

Audio:

<http://hughhewitt.townhall.com/TalkRadio/Show.aspx?RadioShowID=5&ContentGuid=5b7a77ce-c809-4d20-96fc-e59edaa11035>

Transcript:

<http://hughhewitt.townhall.com/talkradio/transcripts/Transcript.aspx?ContentGuid=cb634a31-a45d-47fd-b285-d181b269d10c>

Other relevant links:

<http://www.captainsquartersblog.com/mt/archives/016283.php—comments>

<http://hotair.com/archives/2007/12/09/video-scary-larry-odonnell-melts-down-over-romneys-ridiculous-religion/>

<http://michellemalkin.com/2004/10/22/lawrence-odonnell-and-liberals-unhinged/>

<http://cathyseipp.journalspace.com/?entryid=543>

The Golden Compass is the work of the aggressive, religion-despising atheist Philip Pullman. Renounce him, and all his works and pomps.

Sympathy for the devil: thoughts on *The Golden Compass*

by Charles J. Chaput, Archbishop of Denver, 12 Dec 2007

<http://www.archden.org/dcr//news.php?e=450&s=2&a=9476>

Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition

by Cal Thomas, 13 Dec 2007

I have been waiting for this to happen. For years we have witnessed the carnage when innocents were mowed down at schools, colleges, shopping malls and post offices. The unarmed (disarmed?) were easy targets for crazed gunmen armed with grievances, weapons, and ammunition.

Now someone has shot back, probably saving many lives. All of the gun-control laws that have been passed and are still being contemplated could not have had the affect of one armed, trained and law-abiding citizen on the scene like 42-year-old Jeanne Assam, a volunteer security guard at the New Life Church in Colorado Springs...

Read the rest:

http://www.townhall.com/columnists/CalThomas/2007/12/13/praise_the_lord_and_pass_the_ammunition&comments=true—cd5f4655-b24f-4395-acb3-f83740fc127e

Huckabee the Horrible

The Republican Party has several excellent presidential contenders. Mike Huckabee isn't one of them. There's a rumour going around, probably started by the mainstream media, that he's all things to all men. But his alarming record on many important issues makes it clear that he's not worth a pitcher of warm spit:

Immigration:

<http://www.standardnewswire.com/news/742931899.html>

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071130/NATION/111300094/home.html>

Taxing and Spending:

http://www.clubforgrowth.org/2007/10/huckabees_tax_hiking_record.php

http://www.factcheck.org/elections-2008/huckabees_fiscal_record.html

Crime...including some shocking clemencies and paroles!

<http://arkjournal.com/2007/12/mike-huckabee-clemency-king.html>

Religion:

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2007/12/unfortunate_playing_of_the_rel.html

Education:

<http://nalert.blogspot.com/2007/12/huckabee-errand-boy-for-teachers-unions.html>

Quarantining AIDS patients:

<http://dailymail.com/News/200712080097>

A national smoking ban (the ultimate nanny-state move):

<http://www.groundreport.com/article.php?articleID=2835569>

Abolish the CIA

Destroying the interrogation tapes amounts to mutiny and treason.

by Christopher Hitchens, 10 Dec 2007

...for most of the duration of the Iraq debate, the CIA was all but openly hostile to any argument for regime-change in Baghdad. This hostility extended all the way from a frenzied attempt to discredit Ahmad Chalabi and the Iraqi National Congress, to the Plame/Wilson imbroglio, and the agency's "referral" of Robert Novak's disclosure to the Department of Justice. Interagency hostility in Washington, D.C., between the CIA and the Department of Defense has never been so damaging to any administration, let alone to any administration in time of war, as it has been to this one.

And now we have further confirmation of the astonishing culture of lawlessness and insubordination that continues to prevail at the highest levels in Langley. At a time when Congress and the courts are conducting important hearings on the critical question of extreme interrogation, and at a time when accusations of outright torture are helping to besmirch and discredit the United States all around the world, a senior official of the CIA takes the unilateral decision to destroy the crucial evidence. This deserves to be described as what it is: mutiny and treason. Despite a string of exposures going back all the way to the Church Commission, the CIA cannot rid itself of the impression that it has the right to subvert the democratic process both abroad and at home...

Read the whole thing: <http://www.slate.com/id/2179593/>

Dems Were Briefed on Waterboarding—and Supported It!

Hill Briefed on Waterboarding in 2002

In Meetings, Spy Panels' Chiefs Did Not Protest, Officials Say.

by Joby Warrick and Dan Eggen, 9 Dec 2007

...In September 2002, four members of Congress met in secret for a first look at a unique CIA program designed to wring vital information from reticent terrorism suspects in U.S. custody. For more than an hour, the bipartisan group, which included current House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), was given a virtual tour of the CIA's overseas detention sites and the harsh techniques interrogators had devised to try to make their prisoners talk.

Among the techniques described, said two officials present, was waterboarding, a practice that years later would be condemned as torture by Democrats and some Republicans on Capitol Hill. But on that day, no objections were raised. Instead, at least two lawmakers in the room asked the CIA to push harder, two U.S. officials said.

"The briefer was specifically asked if the methods were tough enough," said a U.S. official who witnessed the exchange.

Congressional leaders from both parties would later seize on waterboarding as a symbol of the worst excesses of the Bush administration's counterterrorism effort. The CIA last week admitted that videotape of an interrogation of one of the waterboarded detainees was destroyed in 2005 against the advice of Justice Department and White House officials, provoking allegations that its actions were illegal and the destruction was a coverup.

Yet long before "waterboarding" entered the public discourse, the CIA gave key legislative overseers about 30 private briefings, some of which included descriptions of that technique and other harsh interrogation methods, according to interviews with multiple U.S. officials with firsthand knowledge.

With one known exception, no formal objections were raised by the lawmakers briefed about the harsh methods during the two years in which waterboarding was employed, from 2002 to 2003, said Democrats and Republicans with direct knowledge of the matter. The lawmakers who held oversight roles during the period included Pelosi and Rep. Jane Harman (D-Calif.) and Sens. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) and John D. Rockefeller IV (D-W.Va.), as well as Rep. Porter J. Goss (R-Fla.) and Sen.

Pat Roberts (R-Kan)...

Read it all: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/08/AR2007120801664.html?hpid=topnews>

Warren Buffett's Estate-Tax Vision Isn't Charitable

by John Tamny

...Buffet argues that in the last twenty years the tax-laws have helped the "super-rich" get richer, while "the average American went exactly nowhere on the economic scale." Good rhetoric for sure, but the "super-rich" of today were for the most part not pictured in any snapshot of the super-wealthy 20 years ago. Proof of the latter comes from the latest Forbes 400, which showed that of its initial 400 members, only 32 remain...

...Though Buffett's motives are perhaps pure in suggesting that, "We need to raise about 20 percent of GDP to fund the programs the American people want from the federal government," and that we need to do this while removing the tax burden on those making less than \$20,000 per year, in making this assertion he seems to be saying aid, rather than incentives, is what drives economic advancement. That the underclass he champions grew so substantially in the 1960s once government aid became a greater reality doesn't seem to concern him.

Ignoring for now the often enervating impact of government handouts, to the extent that marginal rates of taxation on estates and income must rise to fund the governmental generosity he desires, they negatively impact the capital reliant economic advances that improve the opportunities of tomorrow's entrepreneurs. Incentives matter, so any discussion of taxpayer-funded handouts should be analyzed in light of how long the productive class will work and reveal its income just to see it redistributed in unproductive ways...

Read the whole thing: http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2007/11/buffetts_estatetax_vision_isnt.html

"There have been only two kinds of CIA secret operations: the ones that are widely known to have failed—usually because of almost unbelievably crude errors—and the ones that are not yet widely known to have failed."

—Edward Luttwak, 22 March 2006

'High Confidence' Games

The CIA's flip-flop on Iran is hardly reassuring.

WSJ editorial, 5 Dec 2007

...As recently as 2005, the consensus estimate of our spooks was that "Iran currently is determined to develop nuclear weapons" and do so "despite its international obligations and international pressure." This was a "high confidence" judgment. The new NIE says Iran abandoned its nuclear program in 2003 "in response to increasing international scrutiny." This too is a "high confidence" conclusion. One of the two conclusions is wrong, and casts considerable doubt on the entire process by which these "estimates"—the consensus of 16 intelligence bureaucracies—are conducted and accorded gospel status.

Our own "confidence" is not heightened by the fact that the NIE's main authors include three former State Department officials with previous reputations as "**hyper-partisan anti-Bush officials**," according to an intelligence source. They are **Tom Fingar**, formerly of the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research; **Vann Van Diepen**, the National Intelligence Officer for WMD; and **Kenneth Brill**, the former U.S. Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)...

Read the rest: <http://www.opinionjournal.com/editorial/feature.html?id=110010946>

Dark Suspicions about the NIE

by Norman Podhoretz, 3 Dec 2007

...In other words, a full two years after Iran supposedly called a halt to its nuclear program, the intelligence community was still as sure as it ever is about anything that Iran was determined to build a nuclear arsenal. Why then should we believe it when it now tells us, and with the same "high confidence," that Iran had already called a halt to its nuclear-weapons program in 2003? Similarly with the intelligence community's reversal on the effectiveness of international pressure. In 2005, the NIE was highly confident that international pressure had not lessened Iran's determination to develop nuclear weapons, and yet now, in 2007, the intelligence community is just as confident that international pressure had already done the trick by 2003.

It is worth remembering that in 2002, one of the conclusions offered by the NIE, also with "high confidence," was that "Iraq is continuing, and in some areas expanding its chemical, biological, nuclear, and missile programs contrary to UN resolutions." And another conclusion, offered with high confidence too, was that "Iraq could make a nuclear weapon in months to a year once it acquires sufficient weapons-grade fissile material."

I must confess to suspecting that the intelligence community, having been excoriated for supporting the then universal belief that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction, is now bending over backward to counter what has up to now been a

similarly universal view (including as is evident from the 2005 NIE, within the intelligence community itself) that Iran is hell-bent on developing nuclear weapons. I also suspect that, having been excoriated as well for minimizing the time it would take Saddam to add nuclear weapons to his arsenal, the intelligence community is now bending over backward to maximize the time it will take Iran to reach the same goal...

Read it all: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/podhoretz/1474>

Whom Do You Trust?

by Don John, 3 Dec 2007

Do you trust Democrats, elite college professors, and the mainstream media on immigration?

National defense?

International relations?

Economics?

Guantanamo?

Global warming?

National sovereignty?

The Patriot Act?

Social Security?

Free speech on the radio?

Waterboarding?

A constitutional right to abortion?

If you're a conservative, you probably don't trust them on *any* of those issues. How about history: for instance, the 1968 Tet Offensive, or America's abandonment of Vietnam in 1974-75? Don't trust 'em there, either, eh?

Well then *why on earth* would you trust Democrats, elite college professors, the mainstream media (and a bunch of checkered-pants country club RINOs) to tell you the true story of Senator Joseph McCarthy?

Liberals hated him passionately, and remain heavily invested in besmirching his name even now, a full 50 years after his death.

Their master narrative goes something like this. McCarthy was a paranoid hyper-patriot who imagined that Soviet spies were everywhere—even hiding under your bed. He played on the public's irrational fear of our erstwhile (World War II) allies. He faked and forged and misinterpreted evidence, brought wholly unsubstantiated charges against innocent people, and although he never proved his accusations, still ruined many of their lives. Assisted by henchmen like the homosexual Roy Cohn, McCarthy created a terrible climate of fear throughout the country, wherein people were terrified to express any liberal opinions, and even ratted on friends just to save themselves. Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible*, set in the witch trials of 1690s Salem, Massachusetts, was intended as an allegory of the whole sorry affair. Finally, a few other brave men like Edward R. Murrow and Joseph Welch stepped forward, stood up to Senator McCarthy, and brought the nation to its senses. What a tale of courage!

None of it is true. Some of it is purposely conflated with the proceedings of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), and the public relations worries of Hollywood studio moguls—none of which ever had *anything* to do with Joseph McCarthy. The rest is nothing but half-truths, moral inversions, and plain old spin.

Here are the salient facts of Joseph McCarthy's life. He was born in 1908 on a farm in Grand Chute, Wisconsin (near Appleton). He worked his way through to a law degree at Marquette University from 1930 to 1935, and was admitted to the bar in 1935. Originally a Democrat, he was elected Judge of Wisconsin's 10th Circuit Court in 1938. Although his status as a judge exempted him from military service, McCarthy volunteered for the Marine Corps in 1942, and served until April 1945. He fought in the South Pacific, flew more than 30 combat missions, and won the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He was elected to the U.S. Senate as a Republican in 1946, and again in 1952. From 1950 to 1954, he aggressively investigated and exposed numerous traitors (mostly Communists) with government connections. Wrongly accused (by cynical media and leftist politicians) of corruption, fabrication, and persecution, he was censured by the Senate in 1954 by a 67-22 vote, and his power came to an end. In 1957 he died of acute hepatitis (not alcoholism, a lie the liberals love), and was buried in Appleton.

Just because the young women of 1690s Salem weren't really witches, it doesn't follow that there weren't any American Communists in the 1940s and 1950s who were loyal to the USSR and ready to sell out the USA. There were plenty of them: not innocent idealists, but actual Soviet agents who had infiltrated the our government and military, and were reporting sensitive information to Moscow on a regular basis.

In 1995, when the VENONA transcripts were declassified, they revealed that at least 349 people in the U.S. had engaged in clandestine activities with Soviet intelligence agencies. Among the many who'd been identified by McCarthy were

Solomon Adler, Cedric Belfrage, T.A. Bisson, Virginius Frank Coe, Lauchlin Currie (who had been a special assistant to FDR), Harold Glasser, David Karr, Mary Jane Keeney, Philip Keeney, Leonard Mims, Franz Neumann, Allan Rosenberg, Nathan Gregory Silvermaster, and William Ludwig Ullman.

Some of the individuals who were involved in McCarthy's eventual demise were not spies. McCarthy never said they were. But though the things he did say about them were factual, the Senator was demonized, pilloried, and hounded out of Washington for telling the truth.

Captain Irving Peress, an Army dentist, took the Fifth Amendment twenty times under sustained questioning about his alleged recruiting military personnel to join the Communist Party. He also refused to answer questions on Defense Department forms concerning membership in "subversive organizations," and the Army Surgeon General had recommended his dismissal early in 1953. McCarthy was alarmed that Peress had not been discharged after that recommendation, but for some mysterious reason had been promoted to the rank of Major.

Brigadier General Ralph W. Zwicker, Irving Peress's commanding officer at Camp Kilmer NJ, was not accused of anything at all. But when Senator McCarthy asked him about Peress, Zwicker was evasive, hostile, and uncooperative. When Zwicker, in response to a hypothetical question, said that he would not remove from the military a general who originated the order for the honorable discharge of a Communist major, knowing that he was a Communist, McCarthy told Zwicker that he was not fit to wear the uniform of a general. A lot of people were really upset about the Senator's saying such a thing. Fifty-three years later, one still may well ask: Why?

Young Fred Fisher was indeed a member of the National Lawyers' Guild (NLG), a known Communist front. McCarthy would not have been wrong to reveal this. However, it was already a matter of public record: the *New York Times* had run a story about Fisher's NLG ties on April 16, 1954.

Way back then, facts didn't matter to liberals who were all upset that someone wanted to defend America. Some things never change.

The Real McCarthy Record

A longtime smear campaign has clouded the truth.

by James J. Drummey, 2 Sept 1996 (first published 11 May 1987)

<http://members.tripod.com/~BioLeft/mccarthy.htm>

N.B.: Mr. Drummey's article includes the true context of Joseph Welch's "Have you no sense of decency, sir" nonsense that leftists love to preen about. And, by the way, the National Lawyers Guild is STILL an anti-American organization today. The convicted terrorist-enabler **Lynne Stewart is a prominent member.—Don John**

Senator Joe McCarthy, Anti-Communist

<http://members.tripod.com/~wwx2/mccarthy.html>

Joseph McCarthy: Reexamining the Life & Legacy of America's Most Hated Senator

Arthur Herman interviewed by Brian Lamb, 6 Feb 2000

<http://www.booknotes.org/Transcript/?ProgramID=1553>

VENONA Transcripts (KGB spies 1943-80)

<http://www.nsa.gov/venona/>

Books about McCarthy

McCarthy and His Enemies, by William Buckley and Brent Bozell (1953)

Joseph McCarthy: Reexamining the Life and Legacy of America's Most Hated Senator, by Arthur Herman (1999)

Treason: Liberal Treachery from the Cold War to the War on Terrorism, by Ann Coulter (2003)

Blacklisted by History: the Untold Story of Senator McCarthy, by M. Stanton Evans (2007)

Here are the 22 senators who voted against the condemnation of Joseph McCarthy. All were distinguished public servants, but the two most famous names are particularly worth noting.

Frank Barrett (Wyoming), Styles Bridges (New Hampshire), Ernest Brown (Nevada), John Marshall Butler (Maryland), Guy Cordon (Oregon), Everett Dirksen (Illinois), Henry Dworshak (Idaho), Barry Goldwater (Arizona), Bourke Hickenlooper (Iowa), Roman Hruska (Nebraska), William Jenner (Indiana), William Knowland (California), Thomas Kuchel (California), William Langer (North Dakota), George Malone (Nevada), Edward Martin (Pennsylvania), Eugene Millikin (Colorado), Karl Mundt (South Dakota), William Purtell (Connecticut), Andrew Schoepel (Kansas), Herman Welker (Idaho), and Milton Young (North Dakota). Malone, Jenner, and Welker attended McCarthy's funeral.

Yet another outstanding story from the Autumn 2007 issue of *City Journal*, by one of its best contributors. You wouldn't believe what lengths the ACLU and other "advocates" went to in order to preserve the depravity of LA's Skid Row rather than let the LAPD help the people. Or, perhaps you *would* believe it.

The Reclamation of Skid Row

by Heather MacDonald

http://www.city-journal.org/html/17_4_skid_row.html

CAIR twisted his words to make him sound like a racist. CAIR are the racists. In the suit, Savage presents transcripts of what he actually broadcast, *in context*. And he also exposes a lot of dirt about CAIR's pro-terrorist activities.

Michael Savage Sues Committee on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

29 Nov 2007

http://www.savage-productions.com/Savage_CAIR_suit.html

"CNN: the Most BUSTED Name in News"—Hugh Hewitt

<http://hughhewitt.townhall.com/blog/g/08573e8b-a270-4e69-a40a-40dd0ccf8126>

CNN'S Screwup

by Michelle Malkin, 30 Nov 2007

[http://www.nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?](http://www.nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/11302007/postopinion/opedcolumnists/cnns_screwup_219339.htm)

[url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/11302007/postopinion/opedcolumnists/cnns_screwup_219339.htm](http://www.nypost.com/seven/11302007/postopinion/opedcolumnists/cnns_screwup_219339.htm)

An Embarrassing End to the YouTube Experiment

by Blake D. Dvorak, 30 Nov 2007

http://www.realeclearpolitics.com/articles/2007/11/an_embarrassing_end_to_the_you.html

"Human history has demonstrated repeatedly that you're safer if your enemies know you'll stand up for yourself than if you're proudly outspoken about your defenselessness or your unwillingness to fight."

—Bruce Bawer, 2 Sept 2007

FLYING PIG ALERT! via Michelle Malkin and Bill Amos.

Murtha Finds Military Progress in Trip to Iraq

Warns that Iraqis must do more for their own security

by Jerome L. Sherman, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 29 Nov 2007

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07333/837824-100.stm?cmpid=latest.xml>

Murtha Says He's "Optimistic" About Deal on War Money

by Nicholas Johnston, 29 Nov 2007

http://news.yahoo.com/s/bloomberg/20071129/pl_bloomberg/aadfzm3aag5s_1

Geert Wilders is a giant among men.

Dutch Lawmaker Planning Film Criticizing the Quran

AP, 28 Nov 2007

THE HAGUE—A Dutch conservative lawmaker said Wednesday he is making a film to highlight what he describes as "fascist" passages in the Quran, his latest high profile criticism of Islam.

The interior and justice ministers said they were concerned, but believed they had no authority to prevent the lawmaker, Geert Wilders, from screening his film.

Wilders plans to depict parts of the Quran he says are used as inspiration "by bad people to do bad things."

Less than 10 minutes long, the film is expected to air in late January. It will show "the intolerant and fascist character of the Quran," said Wilders, whose anti-Islam campaign helped his Freedom Party win nine seats in parliament in last year's election.

In the past, Wilders has said that half the Quran should be torn up and compared it with Adolf Hitler's book *Mein Kampf*. He has claimed the Netherlands is being swamped by a "tsunami" of Islamic immigrants.

Immigrants from Muslim countries number about 1 million of the country's 16 million people.

Wilders' planned broadcast is reminiscent of the film "Submission" — a fictional study of abused Muslim women with scenes of near-naked women with Quranic texts engraved on their flesh.

Submission director Theo van Gogh was shot and had his throat slit by a Muslim extremist on an Amsterdam street in 2004. Prominent Muslim critic Ayaan Hirsi Ali, who wrote the screenplay, was threatened in a note left on Van Gogh's body. She now lives under round-the-clock protection in the United States.

Justice Ministry spokesman Wim van der Weegen said the government is "taking measures" before the broadcast of Wilders' film. He declined to elaborate.

"Based on the discussion, the ministers have expressed concern," Van der Weegen said. "But at the same time (they) have said that Mr. Wilders has freedom of expression."

Wilders said he is not afraid of reprisals if his film angers Muslims. "I have lived with 24-hour protection for three years," he said.

"I will make the film and see what reaction it creates."

Dutch Muslim leaders did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/11/28/europe/EU-GEN-Netherlands-Anti-Quran-Film.php>

Pessimists like Lou Dobbs and Larry Summers are wrong about America's long-term economic prospects.

Follow the Fundamentals

by David Brooks, 27 Nov 2007

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/27/opinion/27brooks.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin

"It was the love of God I was desperate for but never found in Islam. I lived half my life in Islam and my soul was empty, and in this Church in the U.S. my soul was revived and nourished with love of all of humanity."

—Nonie Darwish, 11 Feb 2003

No Lasting Peace

by Ralph Peters, 27 Nov 2007

...Whether the American administration is Republican or Democrat, it pressures Israel for concessions—since the Arabs won't make any...

...Today's session in Annapolis may or may not result in a we-the-undersigned statement or a few unenforceable commitments. And yes, there's merit just in bringing folks together and keeping them talking. But the baseline difficulty is that we want to solve problems for people who don't really *want* those problems solved...

...In the end, the problem's difficulty can be put in New York City terms: A shiftless, violent family that turned an apartment into a slum was evicted. The new tenants cleaned up the place and made the apartment a showcase. Now the former tenants hate them for it—and want the apartment back.

But the apartment can only accommodate one family.

If you want a sober perspective on the Annapolis dog-and-pony show, just ask yourself this: Who will leave disappointed, if nothing much results? The Arabs won't care. They came because we got on our knees and begged. The Israelis will just be relieved that their latest trip to the geostrategic dentist is over. Any Russians soiling the furniture at the Naval Academy will be delighted if another American effort flops. And the Europeans just popped in to check the "we care" box.

The only unhappy campers will be us. We set ourselves up. Again. Oh, and even if there's some sort of agreement, only the Israelis will honor it. Grudgingly...

Read it all. Sad, but true: [http://www.nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?](http://www.nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/11272007/postopinion/opedcolumnists/no_lasting_peace_314090.htm)

[url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/11272007/postopinion/opedcolumnists/no_lasting_peace_314090.htm](http://www.nypost.com/seven/11272007/postopinion/opedcolumnists/no_lasting_peace_314090.htm)

"We do not worship Iran, we worship Allah. For patriotism is another name for paganism. I say let this land [Iran] burn. I say let this land go up in smoke, provided Islam emerges triumphant in the rest of the world."

—Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini

Nationalism means patriotism, and patriotism requires heroes, not victims.

—Robert D. Kaplan, 4 Oct 2007

"Everybody fought for something that is a combination of love, belief, and country."

—Moshe Dayan, June 1967

The Stab That Failed

The congressional Democrats' surge-against-the-surge—a case study in political futility.

by Noemie Emery, 26 Nov 2007 (December 3 issue)

...In the course of the past year, they have gone from attacking a plan that had not been effective to attacking one that hadn't been tried yet, to attacking one that exceeded all expectations, while in the process ignoring reality, slandering a commanding general, and denying American forces in battle due credit for what they had done...

Read the whole wonderful thing: http://www.weeklystandard.com/Utilities/printer_preview.asp?idArticle=14405&R=115D6DB0

The End of the Stem-Cell Wars

A victory for science, for the pro-life movement, and for President Bush.

by Ryan T. Anderson, 25 Nov 2007 (December 3 issue)

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/014/387asfv.asp>

NPR Loves Bad Cinema—If It's 'Laudable Agitprop' Against the Troops

by Tim Graham, 24 Nov 2007

National Public Radio's arts-and-culture show *Fresh Air* recently displayed how its leftist ideology trumps artistic judgment, especially when it comes to movies designed to get America out of Iraq before our crazed soldiers senselessly kill more civilians. Film critic David Edelstein lauded Brian De Palma's new movie "Redacted" as a "laudable artistic response to an unpopular war," even as he conceded the movie is terrible as a work of art...

Read the rest:

<http://newsbusters.org/blogs/tim-graham/2007/11/24/npr-loves-bad-cinema-if-its-laudable-agitprop-against-troops>

Unheralded Military Successes

Low-cost, low-risk operations such as those in Colombia and the Philippines show what the U.S. can achieve.

by Robert D. Kaplan, 25 Nov 2007

...Between risk-prone invasions like Iraq, on the one hand, and isolationism, on the other, the missions in Colombia and the Philippines showcase low-cost, low-risk and tediously unspectacular counterinsurgency options. And these places are not alone. Other U.S. military deployments I have observed recently—in Algeria, Mali, Niger, Kenya, Georgia and Nepal—are variations in a minor key. What stands out about all of these missions is their small scale and implicit modesty. We are not in combat in any of these countries—but, rather, training local militaries that are or might be.

In all these countries, our military aid is combined with civilian development assistance. This is the global war on terrorism as preventive rather than as proscriptive. It doesn't cost much. You could spread Green Beret teams across Africa for the price of one F-22 jet. If there is another model out there that will keep the U.S. military engaged without overextending it, and will help move along inter-agency cooperation, I have not seen it...

Read it all:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/sunday/commentary/la-op-kaplan25nov25,0,3416323.story?coll=la-sunday-commentary>

There are valid reasons for some individuals not to have children. The one that's touted in the story below ISN'T ONE OF THEM. When Europeans abdicated the adult responsibility to make judgments about what's right and wrong (or even good, better, and best), they soon lost all pride in their own cultures. Now the continent is overrun with Third World savages.

At least those savages are proud of their own native cultures; too bad their pride is unwarranted.

Look at these morons. They just don't get it. Even if the planet is getting overpopulated—which it ISN'T—Western culture humans (even leftists) are not the ones we need fewer of.

Meet the women who won't have babies—because they're not eco-friendly

by *Natasha Courtenay-Smith and Morag Turner, 21 Nov 2007*

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/femail/article.html?in_article_id=495495&in_page_id=1879

Mankind: the Eco-Destroyer!

First we Warmed the Earth.

Then we turned the Oceans to Acid.

Now we're shortening the life of the whole Universe!

Henny Penny has the latest:

Mankind 'shortening the universe's life'

by *Roger Highfield, Science Editor, 21 Nov 2007*

Forget about the threat that mankind poses to the Earth: our activities may be shortening the life of the universe, too.

The startling claim is made by a pair of American cosmologists investigating the consequences for the cosmos of quantum theory, the most successful theory we have. Over the past few years, cosmologists have taken this powerful theory of what happens at the level of subatomic particles and tried to extend it to understand the universe, since it began in the subatomic realm during the Big Bang.

But there is an odd feature of the theory that philosophers and scientists still argue about. In a nutshell, the theory suggests that we change things simply by looking at them and theorists have puzzled over the implications for years.

They often illustrate their concerns about what the theory means with mind-boggling experiments, notably Schrodinger's cat in which, thanks to a fancy experimental set up, the moggy is both alive and dead until someone decides to look, when it either carries on living, or dies. That is, by one interpretation (by another, the universe splits into two, one with a live cat and one with a dead one.)

New Scientist reports a worrying new variant as the cosmologists claim that astronomers may have accidentally nudged the universe closer to its death by observing dark energy, a mysterious anti gravity force which is thought to be speeding up the expansion of the cosmos.

The damaging allegations are made by Profs Lawrence Krauss of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and James Dent of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, who suggest that by making this observation in 1998 we may have caused the cosmos to revert to an earlier state when it was more likely to end. "Incredible as it seems, our detection of the dark energy may have reduced the life-expectancy of the universe," Prof Krauss tells New Scientist.

Read it all. Or don't bother. We'll all be dead soon anyway!

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/main.jhtml?xml=/earth/2007/11/21/scicosmos121.xml&CMP=ILC-mostviewedbox>

Overriding IDF and Shin Bet objections, Olmert approves arming Palestinian West Bank forces with 50 Russian APCs, 1000 rifles and 2 million bullets

November 21, 2007

<http://debka.com/headline.php?hid=4793>

Something To Give Thanks For

Good news from Iraq.

by *Christopher Hitchens, 19 Nov 2007*

...And "the cabinet," according to the Nov. 18 *New York Times*, "has sent legislation to the Parliament softening the de-Baathification law that had prevented former Baathists' working in government jobs." I wonder how many people, reading that ordinary sentence about "the cabinet" and "the Parliament," as reported also in independent Iraqi media, have any idea what it means when compared with the insane proceedings of the totalitarian abattoir state that was Iraq until 2003...

Read it all: <http://www.slate.com/id/2178286/>

Al Gore is like Jim Jones, and we're drinking his Kool-Aid

by Phil Valentine, 18 Nov 2007

...We're trying to make ends meet just to afford gas in our cars while Al Gore has a carbon footprint the size of Sasquatch. And no one seems to care...

The Branch Algorians read from the Gospel of Al and never question a word. The movement's devil is carbon dioxide, an essential component of photosynthesis and the substance we all exhale with every breath. Understand this: CO2 is not a pollutant. However, Gore and the radical environmentalists have been quite successful in convincing people that smog and CO2 are the same. They are not. CO2 has nothing whatsoever to do with the smog or haze we see over our cities. There is absolutely no evidence that CO2 has anything to do with any kind of warming...

...You see, global warming is the perfect template for Marxism because it's the great equalizer. The wealthier a nation, the more CO2 it produces. To atone for its sins, it must pay carbon offsets. In other words, the producing nations pay the non-producing or under-producing nations in cash for the sin of emitting a harmless gas. It's beautiful.

The global warming movement is a way to not just confiscate money and wealth from the producers, but because of their guilt, they gladly hand it over. If Karl Marx were still alive, he'd be beaming with pride.

Read it all:

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071118/COLUMNIST0130/711180390/1007/OPINION>

The Pilgrims tried Socialism 386 years ago. And guess what: it failed!

The Tragedy of the Commons

by John Stossel, 21 Nov 2007

Every year around this time, schoolchildren are taught about that wonderful day when Pilgrims and Native Americans shared the fruits of the harvest. "Isn't sharing wonderful?" say the teachers.

They miss the point. Because of sharing, the first Thanksgiving in 1623 almost didn't happen.

Read the rest. It's short and sweet: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/john-stossel/the-tragedy-of-the-commons.html>

Vlaams Belang (VB) controversy

Vlaams Belang is a Belgian political party formed in 2004; it translates as "Flemish Interest." The party advocates Flemish independence, acculturation of immigrants, and strict limits on immigration. It rejects multiculturalism, but does accept a multiethnic society. Charles Johnson's website, LittleGreenFootballs, believes Vlaams Belang to be white supremacist, citing Wikipedia, among other sources. This led to a rift with the noted Norwegian blogger Fjordman, who pointed out Wikipedia's political flaws, and cited such noted VB supporters as Diana West, Bat Ye'or, Robert Spencer, and Richard Minitier.

Fjordman's defense of VB: <http://globalpolitician.com/articledes.asp?ID=3763&cid=1&sid=112>

Johnson's attack on Fjordman: [http://littlegreenfootballs.com/weblog/?entry=27911_Fjordmans_Dramatic_Exit\(s\)&only](http://littlegreenfootballs.com/weblog/?entry=27911_Fjordmans_Dramatic_Exit(s)&only)

Johnson's attacks on Vlaams Belang and its defenders:

[Organizing to Resist the Islamization of Europe](#)

[When Friends Attack](#)

[About Vlaams Belang and Sweden Democrats](#)

[Sweden Democrats Document Dump](#)

[Islam in Europe: 'This Isn't Going to Be Pretty'](#)

[Videos: Vlaams Belang and Vlaams Blok](#)

[Vlaams Belang Leader Interviewed](#)

[Vlaams Belang and the US White Supremacist Cesspool](#)

[Wednesday Night Link Depot](#)

['Repugnant?' Yes, That's What I Wrote](#)

[Now is DeWinter of Our Discontent](#)

[The Mask Comes Off at Brussels Journal](#)

[A Nuanced Look at Brussels Journal's Latest Claim](#)

[WN Weapons of Mass Deception](#)

[Sources for Pim Fortuyn 'Fascist' Quote](#)

[A White Power Rat in the Vlaams Belang Youth Magazine](#)

[Minitier Misrepresents LGF Vlaams Belang Posts \(aka Vlaams Belang Nazi Links\)](#)

[Video: A French Documentary on Vlaams Belang](#)

[Interviewed by Tom Paine](#)

"The problem is not that Democrats are 'bought' by trial lawyers. The problem is that Democrats, who see victims everywhere, are actually disposed to believe the narrative of pandemic victimization of investors."

—George Will, 18 Nov 2007

"A liberal is a man too broadminded to take his own side in a quarrel."

—Robert Frost

World should give thanks for America

by Mark Steyn, 18 Nov 2007

...Americans aren't novelty junkies on the important things. The New World is one of the oldest settled constitutional democracies on Earth, to a degree the Old World can barely comprehend. Where it counts, Americans are traditionalists.

We know Eastern Europe was a totalitarian prison until the Nineties, but we forget that Mediterranean Europe (Greece, Spain, Portugal) has democratic roots going all the way back until, oh, the mid-Seventies; France and Germany's constitutions date back barely half a century, Italy's only to the 1940s, and Belgium's goes back about 20 minutes, and currently it's not clear whether even that latest rewrite remains operative. The U.S. Constitution is not only older than France's, Germany's, Italy's or Spain's constitution, it's older than all of them put together.

Americans think of Europe as Goethe and Mozart and 12th century castles and 6th century churches, but the Continent's governing mechanisms are no more ancient than the Partridge Family. Aside from the Anglophone democracies, most of the nation-states in the West have been conspicuous failures at sustaining peaceful political evolution from one generation to the next, which is why they're so susceptible to the siren song of Big Ideas – communism, fascism, European Union...

...So Americans should be thankful they have one of the last functioning nation-states. Europeans, because they've been so inept at exercising it, no longer believe in national sovereignty, whereas it would never occur to Americans not to. This profoundly different attitude to the nation-state underpins, in turn, Euro-American attitudes to transnational institutions such as the United Nations.

But on this Thanksgiving the rest of the world ought to give thanks to American national sovereignty, too. When something terrible and destructive happens – a tsunami hits Indonesia, an earthquake devastates Pakistan – the United States can project itself anywhere on the planet within hours and start saving lives, setting up hospitals and restoring the water supply...

...If America were to follow the Europeans and maintain only shriveled attenuated residual military capacity, the world would very quickly be nastier and bloodier, and far more unstable. It's not just Americans and Iraqis and Afghans who owe a debt of thanks to the U.S. soldier but all the Europeans grown plump and prosperous in a globalized economy guaranteed by the most benign hegemon in history...

Read it all: <http://www.oeregister.com/opinion/americans-world-thanksgiving-1924033-europe-europeans>

A world dying, but can we unite to save it?

Pollution in the seas is now speeding global warming, says a devastating new climate report.

ToS' Environment Editor Geoffrey Lean reports from Valencia, 18 November 2007

Humanity is rapidly turning the seas acid through the same pollution that causes global warming, the world's governments and top scientists agreed yesterday. The process – thought to be the most profound change in the chemistry of the oceans for 20 million years – is expected both to disrupt the entire web of life of the oceans and to make climate change worse...

This is a bunch of leftist rubbish. They know we're not buying the Gullible Warming canard, so they're trying a new tack. Read the rest, for a good laugh: http://environment.independent.co.uk/climate_change/article3172144.ece

But for some sane, rational thoughts, read the Comments by Ian Fitzsimmons, GAC (especially), Paul Kotik, Hodeo51, Roderick M., Doug W., C.Russell, Mike B, BattrBill, Leo Leone, Jamison, Jeremy Maynard, Mike, Hal Turner, GAC (more info), Yvonne, Danviskov, murph, Fred, L. Hanks, Walter Lantz, Eric Johnson, civil westman, Gandy, Charles, Joel Goodman, JimB, Lee, Fiftycal, libmeister, jack, Bob S, Dean Pradzinski, Don DeVan, Fearmongering, worddust, Mike (more), Dardo Hunter, Robert E Cowger, Yoric, R. Bergman, David Boothby, Acer Dude, wbill, stargirl, Sigmond, Alex Carson, surfer dude, D. Marshall, G. Naladdin, doctorf1956, Steve, Shaw, flyingtree, sue, Laune, and John.

<http://ios.typepad.com/ios/2007/11/a-world-dying.html#comments>

Just another classic oration by Senator Lieberman. That's all.

The Politics of National Security

address by Sen. Joseph Lieberman, 8 Nov 2007

"There is something profoundly wrong—something that should trouble all of us—when we have elected Democratic officials who seem more worried about how the Bush administration might respond to Iran's murder of our troops, than about the fact that Iran is murdering our troops."

Read it ALL: <http://lieberman.senate.gov/newsroom/release.cfm?id=287039>

King Juan Carlos tells bloviating dictator Hugo Chavez to STFU:

"Tu..... ¿Por qué no te callas?"

The man who bravely faced down an attempted fascist coup in 1981 now speaks truth to Communism.

Two good versions of the story:

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2007/11/an_unexpected_hero.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C2%BFPor_qu%C3%A9_no_te_callas%3F

Denying Alliance

by Charles Krauthammer, 16 Nov 2007

When the Democratic presidential candidates pause from beating Hillary with a stick, they join in unison to pronounce the Democratic pieties, chief among which is that George Bush has left our alliances in ruins. As Clinton puts it, we have "alienated our friends," must "rebuild our alliances" and "restore our standing in the world." That's mild. The others describe Bush as having a scorched-earth foreign policy that has left us reviled and isolated in the world.

Like Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid, who insist that nothing of significance has changed in Iraq, the Democrats are living in what Bob Woodward would call a state of denial. Do they not notice anything?

Read it all. It's good: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=MmU0NDZhMDUxOTBhMjdkMWUxZGRlZTFjYWQwYjc4MmWI=>

American Workers Are 'Trading Up'

by Daniel Griswold, 16 Nov 2007

...The critics have it all wrong: The middle class isn't disappearing—it's moving up. The Census reports that the share of U.S. households earning \$35,000 to \$75,000 a year (in '06 dollars)—roughly, the middle class—has indeed shrunk slightly over the last decade, from 34 percent to 33 percent. But so, too, has the share earning less than \$35,000—from 40 percent to 37 percent. It's the share of households earning more than \$75,000 that's jumped—from 26 percent to 30 percent.

Trade has helped America transform itself into a middle-class service economy. Yes, the country's lost a net 3.3 million manufacturing jobs in the past decade—but it's added a net 11.6 million jobs in service and other sectors where average wages are higher than in manufacturing. Most of these new jobs are in better-paying categories, like professional and business services, finance and education and health services. Trade accounts for only about 3 percent of annual job displacement in our dynamic economy...

...Critics of trade repeat as a mantra that real wages have been stagnant since the 1970s. But the data on real wages exclude benefits—which have been rising as a share of worker compensation. Those data also rely on a cost-of-living index that has systematically overstated inflation and thus understated real income gains.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the average real hourly compensation earned by Americans has actually grown by 22 percent during the past decade—even as trade and other measures of globalization have grown rapidly.

Trade has brought us lower prices on a broad range of goods—from fruits and vegetables to clothing, consumer electronics and automobiles—stretching the paychecks of U.S. workers.

Household incomes have also been rising. When they point to a small decline in median household income compared to 2000, opponents of trade are cherry-picking their numbers. That year was the frothy peak of a decade-long expansion. Use 1996—the comparable point in the previous business cycle—as the baseline, and you see a 6 percent rise in median income....

Read the rest: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2007/11/american_workers_and_families.html

Send the State Department to War

by Max Boot, 14 Nov 2007

The State Department has announced that it will force 50 foreign service officers to go to Iraq, whether they want to or not. This is the biggest use of "directed assignments" since the Vietnam War, and it represents a long-overdue response to complaints that diplomats aren't pulling their weight in Iraq and Afghanistan.

However welcome, this is only a baby step toward a larger objective: to reorient the department and the government as a whole for the global war on Islamic terrorism. Yes, this is a war, but it's a very different war from conventional conflicts like World War II or the Civil War. It is, in essence, a global counterinsurgency, and few counterinsurgencies have ever been won by force alone.

While maintaining military power remains important, even more crucial goals are aiding moderate Muslims, countering enemy propaganda, promoting economic growth, flexing our political and diplomatic muscles to achieve vital objectives peacefully, gathering intelligence, promoting international cooperation, and building the rule of law in ungoverned lands.

The government developed expertise in many of these areas during the cold war, but those skills were lost as budgets were slashed and jobs eliminated during the "peace dividend" decade of the 1990s. Because civilian capacity has been so anemic, an undue burden has fallen on the military — something that soldiers understandably resent...

...Modern management theory holds that small, tightly focused organizations are likely to be more effective than large conglomerates that try to do a million different things. If we apply that insight to the State Department, it would make sense to undo some ruinous consolidations that occurred after the cold war, when the United States Agency for International Development was placed within the State Department's sphere of influence and the United States Information Agency was folded into the department outright. No wonder our capacities in nation-building and strategic communications have withered — their practitioners are second-class citizens behind traditional foreign service officers.

The information and development agencies should be made independent again, and their resources expanded. The Agency for International Development, in particular, has seen a precipitous decline in personnel. In the 1960s, it had 1,900 officers in South Vietnam alone. Today it has only 1,200 to cover the entire world, forcing it to rely mainly on contractors. If we expand its ranks, it could become our lead nation-building agency, sort of a global FEMA, marshaling the kind of resources that have been lacking in Iraq and Afghanistan...

...Lt. Col. John Nagl, a counterinsurgency expert, has suggested setting up an "adviser corps" of 20,000 soldiers. His idea would make advisory service not a career detour but a career in itself, equal, at least in theory, to infantry, armor and other traditional specialties...

...Some will no doubt object that to build up these capacities will encourage reckless "imperialism" or "militarism." But improving our abilities in nation-building, strategic communications, security advising and related disciplines will actually lessen the chances that we will need to mount a major military intervention such as the one in Iraq. Our goal should be not just to deal with the aftermath of wars (Phase IV, in military parlance) but to solve problems before they grow into full-blown wars. In other words, to win Phase Zero.

Read the whole thing: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/14/opinion/14boot.html?ref=opinion>

There are some real journalists in Iraq. Scott Thomas Beauchamp is not one of them; neither is Michael Ware. But one of the real journalists is named Michael Yon. His work has been shown here before: you don't have to scroll down too far to see his great photo of the cross being re-installed atop St. John's Church in the formerly war-torn Dora neighborhood of Baghdad, just last week. But today he has a wonderful post, with lots of captioned pictures of the Mass celebrated there to re-open the church. The brotherly love and religious tolerance are not the result of restrictive laws and speech-codes. They are real.

Come Home

by Michael Yon, 16 Nov 2007

...Today, Muslims mostly filled the front pews of St John's. Muslims who want their Christian friends and neighbors to come home. The Christians who might see these photos likely will recognize their friends here. The Muslims in this neighborhood worry that other people will take the homes of their Christian neighbors, and that the Christians will never come back. And so they came to St John's today in force, and they showed their faces, and they said, "*Come back to Iraq. Come home.*" They wanted the cameras to catch it. They wanted to spread the word: *Come home*. Muslims keep telling me to get it on the news. "*Tell the Christians to come home to their country Iraq.*"...

...The interpreter "Ice," pictured here with members of the congregation outside St John's after mass, grew up in this neighborhood. His family is Christian and St. John's is their church. I asked Ice if the Muslims treat the Christians poorly in Iraq, and he said what other Iraqi Christians and Muslims have also told me: an unequivocal "No." Ice said they had no problems at all until al Qaeda instigated friction between people...

Those are just two of the captions. You've got to see the photos that go with them, and many more:

<http://michaelyon-online.com/wp/come-home.htm>

When your're done, you may want to cough up some dough:

Michael Yon does not receive financial support from any network, movie, book or television deals at this time. He is entirely reader supported. He relies on his readers to help him replace his equipment and cover his expenses so that he may remain in Iraq and bring you the stories of our soldiers. If you value his work, please consider supporting his mission:

<http://www.michaelyon-online.com/wp/support-next-dispatch-from-iraq/>

"What is at risk is not the climate but freedom...I see the biggest threat to freedom, democracy, the market economy and prosperity now in ambitious environmentalism, not in communism. This ideology wants to replace the free and spontaneous evolution of mankind by a sort of central planning."—Vaclav Klaus, president of Czechia

"Of all tyrannies, a tyranny exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end, for they do so with the approval of their own conscience."—C.S. Lewis

Hernando de Soto is president of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy (ILD). Located in Lima, Peru, it designs and implements capital formation programs in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and former Soviet Nations. Some 30 heads of state have invited ILD to carry out these programs in their countries.

The Mystery of Capital (excerpt from Chapter 3)

by Hernando de Soto *Finance & Development*, March 2001

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2001/03/desoto.htm>

Although he was deeply involved with Vatican II, Father Lubac (1896-1991) is considered one of the greatest theologians of the twentieth century.

The Tragic Misunderstanding of Atheist Humanism

by Henri de Lubac, from chapter one of *The Drama of Atheist Humanism* (1963)

http://www.ignatiusinsight.com/features2007/hdelubac_atheism_july07.asp

"As coercive monopolies that spend other people's money taken by force, governments are uniquely unqualified to solve problems. They are riddled by ignorance, perverse incentives, incompetence, and self-serving."

—John Stossel, 7 Nov 2007

The Precise Horrors of Waterboarding

<http://www.blackfive.net/main/2007/11/the-precise-hor.html>

How They Did It

Executing the winning strategy in Iraq.

by Kimberly Kagan, 19 Nov 2007 issue

The surge of operations that American and Iraqi forces began on June 15 has dramatically improved security in Baghdad and throughout Iraq. U.S. commanders and soldiers have reversed the negative trends of 2006, some of which date back to 2005. The total number of enemy attacks has fallen for four consecutive months, and has now reached levels last seen before the February 2006 Samarra mosque bombing. IED explosions have plummeted to late 2004 levels. Iraqi civilian casualties, which peaked at 3,000 in the month of December 2006, are now below 1,000 for the second straight month. The number of coalition soldiers killed in action has fallen for five straight months and is now at the lowest level since February 2004.

These trends persisted through Ramadan, when violence had typically spiked. "I believe we have achieved some momentum," General Raymond T. Odierno, commander of coalition combat forces in Iraq, said modestly in his November 1 press briefing. Since security was deteriorating dramatically in Iraq a year ago, how U.S. commanders and soldiers and their

Iraqi partners achieved this positive momentum deserves explanation, even though hard fighting continues and the war is not yet won...

Read the rest: <http://weeklstandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/014/346ydlgo.asp>

"There will be no true glory for our soldiers in Iraq until they are recognized not as victims, but as aggressive warriors. Stories of their bravery deserve to be recorded and read by the next generation. Unsung, the noblest deeds will die."

—Francis "Bing" West, USMC (ret.)



Thanks and Praise

7 Nov 2007

Michael Yon: "I photographed men and women, both Christians and Muslims, placing a cross atop the St. John's Church in Baghdad. They had taken the cross from storage and a man washed it before carrying it up to the dome."

<http://www.michaelyon-online.com/wp/thanks-and-praise.htm>

http://littlegreenfootballs.com/weblog/?entry=27838_Michael_Yons_Photo_of_the_Year&only

The egregious, insufferable Norman Mailer died recently. *Deo Gratias*, and also *Alleluia*.

A little harsh, you say? Whatever happened to *de mortuis nil nisi bonum*, you say?

Please remember that in September 2001, Mailer said "The people that did this were brilliant." He also compared the twin towers of the World Trade Center to "two huge buck teeth," and pronounced the ruins at Ground Zero "more beautiful than the buildings were."

Not satisfied, he denounced Americans as "cultural oppressors and aesthetic oppressors" of the Third World.

Then in March 2003, he proclaimed "We went to war just to boost the white male ego."

Wouldn't you like to see the literary reputation of this pretentious, preening exhibitionist utterly demolished by a renowned and respected scholar? Roger Kimball, take it away!

Norman Mailer, a dissenting view

by Roger Kimball, 10 Nov 2007

http://pajamasmedia.com/xpress/rogerkimball/2007/11/10/norman_mailer_a_dissenting_vie.php

McCarthyism: the Rosetta Stone of Liberal Lies

by Ann Coulter, 7 Nov 2007

When I wrote a ferocious defense of Sen. Joe McCarthy in *Treason: Liberal Treachery from the Cold War to the War on Terrorism*, liberals chose not to argue with me. Instead they posted a scrolling series of reasons not to read my book, such as that I wear short skirts, date boys, and that "Treason" was not a scholarly tome.

After printing rabidly venomous accounts of McCarthy for half a century based on zero research, liberals would only accept research presenting an alternative view of McCarthy that included, as the Los Angeles Times put it, at least the "pretense of scholarly throat-clearing and objectivity."

This week, they got it. The great M. Stanton Evans has finally released [*Blacklisted by History: The Untold Story of Senator Joe McCarthy and His Fight Against America's Enemies*](#). Based on a lifetime's work, including nearly a decade of thoroughgoing research, stores of original documents and never-before-seen government files, this 672-page book ends the argument on Joe McCarthy. Look for it hidden behind stacks of Bill Clinton's latest self-serving book at a bookstore near you.

Read the rest: <http://www.anncoulter.org/cgi-local/article.cgi?article=218>

Far from being a world-wide warmonger, for a long time America has been transparently bluffing—everywhere but Iraq. The only worse foreign policy would be the Democrats' traditional breast-beating defeatism.

America's Strategies for Victory & Defeat

by Caroline Glick, 8 Nov 2007

The Battle of Iraq is nearly over. And the Americans have nearly won. Their enemies are on the run. Al-Qaida forces have lost or are losing their bases of operations. Its fighters are being killed and captured in ever increasing numbers. Iraq's Sunni citizens, who, until recently, refused to take any part in the post-Saddam regime, are joining the army and citizens' watch groups by the thousands...

...The new American strategy in Iraq is based on a fairly simple assumption: The US goal in Iraq is to defeat its enemies, and to defeat its enemies the US must target them with the aim of defeating them. This is a strategy based on common sense.

Unfortunately, common sense seems to be the rarest of commodities in US foreign policy circles today. Outside of Iraq, and until recently in Iraq as well, the US has based its policies on the notion that it can bend its adversaries to its will by on the one hand signaling them in a threatening way, and on the other hand by trying to appease them where possible. And this is the heart of the failure...

Read it all: <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1192380771302&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

Correction: Ms. Glick mentions, in passing, that Pervez Musharraf has ruled Pakistan since 1998. He actually seized power in a bloodless coup on 12 October 1999.

Global Warming Tutorial

Robert Carter is a professor at the Marine Geophysical Laboratory of James Cook University in Australia. Here's an interesting lecture-with-visuals he gave in September 2007.

The four parts total about 37 minutes. It is NOT a high-tech video presentation. It's a lecture in a darkened room with a huge projection screen. Give it a chance. After a couple of minutes, it becomes very easy to follow.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOLkze-9GcI>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vN06JSi-SW8&NR=1>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCXDISLXTaY>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpQQGFZHSno>

A simply outstanding article on what Mr. Steyn calls our "present tense culture."

Twenty years ago today

by Mark Steyn, 4 Nov 2007 (November issue)

<http://newcriterion.com:81/archives/26/11/twenty-years-ago-today/>

Is Media Bias An Established Fact Now That Even Harvard Sees It?

by *Investor's Business Daily*, 9 Nov 2007

A new study finding the media give far more favorable coverage to Democrats than Republicans could have settled once and for all the debate over whether the news we get has a liberal bias. After all, it was done by the Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government — hardly a bastion of conservative orthodoxy.

But given the study's reception in the mainstream media, it's doubtful the issue has been put to rest. Like similar studies in the past, Harvard's went largely uncovered. A Nexis search found 20 news mentions of the report, with only a handful highlighting the revelation of extreme bias.

	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Network evening news			
Democrats	39.5%	43.4%	17.1%
Republicans	18.6%	44.2%	37.2%
Newspaper front page			
Democrats	58.8%	30.0%	11.2%
Republicans	26.4%	34.0%	39.6%

This, of course, backs the presumption of many news consumers that bias plays a key role in what media put out and hold back. In this case, a bias in favor of their own industry resulted in the burying of a study that places the industry in a bad light. But one of the study's main findings — that political coverage is colored with a distinctly liberal bias — has been documented for years, if not decades. As such, the Harvard findings aren't nearly as surprising as the source.

Read the rest: <http://www.ibdeditorials.com/IBDArticles.aspx?id=279503526320834>

It just kills them to see America succeed....

Look what the New York Times sees "fit to print" [on Page 19:](#)

Militant Group Is Out of Baghdad, U.S. Says

by *Damien Cave*, 8 Nov 2007

BAGHDAD, Nov. 7 — American forces have routed Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia, the Iraqi militant network, from every neighborhood of Baghdad, a top American general said today, allowing American troops involved in the "surge" to depart as planned.

Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr., commander of United States forces in Baghdad, also said that American troops had yet to clear some 13 percent of the city, including Sadr City and several other areas controlled by Shiite militias. But, he said, "there's just no question" that violence had declined since a spike in June. "Murder victims are down 80 percent from where they were at the peak," and attacks involving improvised bombs are down 70 percent, he said.

General Fil attributed the decline to improvements in the Iraqi security forces, a cease-fire ordered by the Shiite cleric Muktada al-Sadr, the disruption of financing for insurgents, and, most significant, Iraqis' rejection of "the rule of the gun."...

Read the rest: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/08/world/middleeast/08iraq.html?_r=1&ref=us&oref=slogin

Behind the Name

Muslim Council of Britain: A fifth column of immigrant ingrates bent on destroying their tolerant, clueless hosts and turning the island into another putrid Third World cesspool.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_Council_of_Britain

The Supply-Side Solution

If tax-cut strategies don't work, why are they so popular abroad?

by *Stephen Moore*, 9 Nov 2007

...Bigger deficits? After the second Bush tax cut of 2003, the budget deficit tumbled to \$163 billion in FY 2007 from \$401 billion in FY 2003.

Supply-side economics is also denounced as a flim-flam whose sole purpose is to give jumbo-sized tax handouts to corporations and high-income earners. Since so many upper-income and wealthy Americans are Democrats, however, it's not clear why Republicans would be so preoccupied with helping them.

In any case, the share of taxes paid by the top 1% and 5% income earners has consistently risen from 1980 through 2007, even as tax rates declined. Today the highest income tax rate is half what it was in the 1970s. Yet the share of taxes paid by the top 1% of income earners is twice (39%) today what it was then (19%).

Regardless of what one believes about the distributional effects of the Reagan and Bush tax cuts, there's no expunging the reality that the economic growth rate surged after each of these changes—just as they did in the 1960s after President Kennedy's tax rate cuts. Robert Rubin and others reply that the economy boomed in the 1990s too, after Bill Clinton raised taxes. But supply-siders never argued that *only* tax cuts matter. Trade matters. Sound money matters. Regulations matter. In the 1990s, monetary, trade and spending policies were all leaning in a pro-growth direction, possibly offsetting the negative impact of the Clinton tax rate hikes...

Read it all: <http://www.opinionjournal.com/extra/?id=110010844>

Democrats wake up to being the party of the rich

by Michael Franc, 5 Nov 2007

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/88cb8a8a-8b41-11dc-95f7-0000779fd2ac.html?nclick_check=1

"It will not do to leave a live dragon out of your plans if you live near one."

—J.R.R. Tolkien

The Autumn 2007 edition of City Journal has to be one of the greatest issues of any magazine ever. Mr. Dalrymple's essay has already been promoted here, and the other three are outstanding, too.

What the New Atheists Don't See, by Theodore Dalrymple

An Anglosphere Future, by Christopher Hitchens

The New Girl Order, by Kay S. Hymowitz

Cherry Garcia and the End of Socialized Medicine, by Peter W. Huber

But perhaps the best of all is this piece by André Glucksmann, a noted French philosopher who supports Western culture and its war against the jihadis. It's a beautifully written treatise on the evolution of warfare and terrorism from 1914 to the present moment. It's rare that ideas survive translation with this much fluidity, force, and even lyricism. Kudos to the translators, and also of course to M. Glucksmann.

From the H-Bomb to the Human Bomb

Modern terrorism seeks to combine the annihilating power of Hiroshima with the nihilistic gospel of Auschwitz.

by André Glucksmann, 22 Oct 2007 (Autumn issue)

http://www.city-journal.org/html/17_4_modern_terrorism.html

A breathtakingly comprehensive piece on the many players and possible outcomes of the crisis...

Al-Qaeda's

Grim possibilities for Pakistan.

by Stanley Kurtz, 5 Nov 2007

What is to become of Pakistan? In the wake of President Musharraf's declaration of a state of emergency, any number of grim scenarios are imaginable. Before spinning some of them out, consider this true and timely confession from Stephen P. Cohen, one of America's top Pakistan experts: "I don't know what's going to happen....I don't think any Pakistan expert knows what will happen even tomorrow."

Read it all: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=YzU2MTVIN2E2MmJmOWRjYjVkmjQ4ODI5NWRjZTJmOTU=>

The 'Torture' Fraud of the Left

by J. R. Dunn, 5 Nov 2007

...quite simply, in much of the debate over "torture", we're not talking about actual torture at all. We're talking about rough treatment, harshness, or coercion.

The American left has defined these upward until they mean the same thing as torture, all as a part of their efforts to undermine the War on Terror in general. The core of this stance is the assertion that a slap on the head, several days without sleep, or hearing Rage Against the Machine played at full volume is fully the equivalent of torture in the classic sense. (Well... maybe we should reconsider that last...)

Of course, it's no such thing. Torture is easily defined as physical assault carried out over a prolonged period against a victim under complete control and holding the possibility of permanent physical or psychic damage. Official legal terminology contains the proviso that torture consists of acts that "revolt the conscience" We can also add, by way of Dashiell Hammett, that such actions must have "threat of death behind them". If they contain these elements, they are torture. If not, they're something less. Not necessarily something justifiable or commendable, but not torture either. (Another method of judging these actions is to ask whether the activity would excite an individual like [Mengele](#) or [Yezhov](#).)

The left has succeeded, through a relentless media campaign (is there any other kind?) in obscuring this distinction. According to the latest criteria, torture is anything unpleasant that occurs to a prisoner while in American custody. (Overseas it's different. It's very, very difficult—almost impossible, in fact—for any developing or left-of-center regime to commit torture, no matter what they do to their prisoners. Unless, as in the rendition uproar, the U.S. is somehow involved.)

Read the rest: http://www.americanthinker.com/2007/11/the_torture_fraud_of_the_left.html

Douglas Farah is a former Washington Post correspondent. He covered Central American wars in 1980s; Caribbean and South American drug cartels in the 1990s; and civil wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia in 2000. His book *Merchant of Death* analyzes the secret international black market arms pipelines of Viktor Bout. Along with two colleagues, he's put together a fascinating report (in PDF format) on terrorist-front organizations operating in America.

The Muslim Brotherhood in the United States: A Brief History

by Douglas Farah, Ron Sandee, Josh Lefkowitz 26 Oct 2007

<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/nefahlf0807.pdf>

Racist. Xenophobe. These are just a couple of the epithets Europe's cultural elite like to hurl at critics of Islamic fundamentalism. Bruce Bawer reports on the character assassination of Hege Storhaug, author of the new book *Covered. Uncovered.* and a courageous advocate of freedom.

Norway's Very Own Ayaan Hirsi Ali

by Bruce Bawer, 2 Nov 2007

http://pajamasmedia.com/2007/11/meet_norways_answer_to_ayaan_h.php

A free market has not caused the housing market crisis, the wildfires in southern California, or the water shortages in the west. The actual cause is government interference with that free market. Taxpayers have been subsidizing a lot of foolish behavior that a truly free market would naturally control. Dr. Sowell explains.

Political "Solutions"

by Thomas Sowell, 30 Oct 2007

...In the San Francisco Bay Area, where housing prices are the highest in the nation, risky interest-only loans went from being 11 percent of all new mortgages in 2002 to being 66 percent of all new mortgages in 2005. Study after study has shown that housing prices are highest where government restrictions on building are the most severe. That is the ugly result of pretty words like "open space."...

...government preserves all the conditions for wildfires and subsidizes people who live in their path...

...As for water shortages, they are as endemic to California as wildfires. But when an economist hears about a shortage that persists for years, the first question that comes to mind is: Why doesn't the price rise until supply and demand are equal?

If you said, "the government," go to the head of the class...

Read it all: http://www.townhall.com/Columnists/ThomasSowell/2007/10/30/political_solutions

What would we do without **FIRE? A follow-up to "Brave Newark World" (Oct. 31).**

Victory at University of Delaware

University President Ends Mandatory Ideological Reeducation Program

FIRE Press Release *November 2, 2007*

NEWARK, Del., November 2, 2007—After an intense campaign led by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), the University of Delaware has dropped [an ideological reeducation program](#) that was referred to in the university's own materials as a "treatment" for students' incorrect attitudes and beliefs. The program's stated goal was for the approximately 7,000 students in Delaware's residence halls to adopt highly specific university-approved views on politics, race, sexuality, sociology, moral philosophy, and environmentalism. Following FIRE's campaign, which called the attention of the national media and the blogosphere to the Orwellian program, university President Patrick Harker terminated the program, effective immediately.

"FIRE applauds President Harker for recognizing the chilling nature of this program and ending it," FIRE President Greg Lukianoff said. "Under the First Amendment, state institutions have no right to impose mandatory ideological training on their students. We are thrilled that this unconscionable and invasive program is gone, but we will be keeping an eye on the University of Delaware to make sure future programs respect the individual right of conscience of its students."

Read the rest: <http://www.thefire.org/index.php/article/8597.html?PHPSESSID=4dfc834ed9636c06634b3a88b4a4ae91>

The Violent Oppression of Women in Islam

is a 9-minute video produced by the [David Horowitz Freedom Center](#) and narrated by [Nonie Darwish](#). It's been banned by the jihadi-lovers who run YouTube.

Like David and Nonie, we're proud to say that we hate jihadis. **Watch it here:**

http://link3.streamhoster.com/?u=seanruiz&p=%2FNational_Events%2F07-1022_IFAW%2F07-1023_VOOW_videol.wmv&odaid=3637

Another presentation connected with the David Horowitz Freedom Center is

Jimmy Carter's War Against the Jews

Watch it here: <http://www.terrorismawareness.org/jimmy-carters-war/>

Mr. McCarthy, who now heads the Center for Law & Counterterrorism at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, was the chief assistant U.S. attorney who led the 1995 terrorism prosecution against Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman and eleven others. He tells in detail how Executive branch Democrats have a record, both in word and in deed, that's much more permissive than the Republicans' on waterboarding and wiretapping.

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

On torture and executive power, Democrats sing a different tune when the president is ... a Democrat.

by Andrew C. McCarthy, 31 Oct 2007

<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=YjRlZDQ5NDdkYTViMzNlZmMyYWVlOTMxMTY3OGNmMjQ=>

The National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME), the main advocacy organization for multiculturalism, is holding its 17th annual national convention this week in Baltimore.

Was Ehrlich right about multiculturalism?

by Robert Holland, 30 Oct 2007

...School board members could start by attending one of the half- or full-day workshops on Halloween. Here are some of the choices from the NAME program:

"The Unbearable Whiteness of Being: Dismantling White Privilege and Supporting Anti-Racist Education in Our Classrooms and Schools." Taught by a professor from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, this session "is designed to

help educators identify and deconstruct their own white privilege and in so doing more deeply commit themselves to anti-racist teaching and critical multicultural teaching."

"Talking About Religious Oppression and Unpacking Christian Privilege." This session, taught by a team of professors, "will examine the dynamics of Christian privilege and oppression of minority religious groups and nonbelievers as constructed and maintained on three distinct levels: individual, institutional and societal. A historical and legal lecturette will be presented and participants will engage in interactive learning modules."

"Beyond Celebrating Diversity: Teaching Teachers How to be Critical Multicultural Educators." Taught by NAME regional director Paul Gorski, founder of the activist group EdChange, this session will start from the premise that multiculturalism's greatest danger "comes from educators who ostensibly support its goals, but whose work—cultural plunges, food fairs, etc.—reflects a compassionate conservative consciousness rather than social justice. This session focuses on preparing teachers, not for celebrating diversity, but for achieving justice in schools and society."

Workshops at NAME annual conventions (six of which I have attended since 1993) repeatedly advocate the teaching of "social justice." That term never seems to be defined, but its users simplify all American life as a saga of the oppressed vs. the oppressors. Skin color, national origin, gender, religion and sexual preference are among the qualities that put all individuals into one category or the other.

There is method in such vagueness. The great free-market economist Friedrich Hayek once observed that entire tomes on social justice never offer a definition. As Michael Novak elaborated in an article in the December 2000 edition of the journal *First Things*, the term becomes "an instrument of ideological intimidation for the purpose of gaining the power of legal coercion."...

Read it all: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bal-op.multicultural30oct30_0_6593186.print.story

An open-minded atheist appreciates religion, and punctures the pretensions of today's fashionable God-haters.

What the New Atheists Don't See

To regret religion is to regret Western civilization.

by *Theodore Dalrymple*, 29 Oct 2007 (*Autumn issue*)

http://www.city-journal.org/html/17_4_oh_to_be.html

Dr. Adams is a criminal justice professor at UNC-Wilmington, and author of *Welcome to the Ivory Tower of Babel: Confessions of a Conservative College Professor*. His website is <http://www.dradams.org/>

Brave Newark World

by *Mike S. Adams*, 31 Oct 2007

The University of Delaware has just become one of the most Orwellian campuses in America. Students in its residence halls are now being subjected to a re-education program that is actually dubbed—in the university's own tax-payer funded materials—as "treatment" for students who have incorrect attitudes and beliefs...

...It is not at all uncommon for a university to establish official views and try to force them on students in the residence hall environment. Students living in the university housing complexes are often required to attend training sessions, floor meetings, and one-on-one meetings with their Resident Assistants (RAs).

But, at Delaware, the RA who facilitates these meetings has already received his own training, including a "diversity facilitation training" session. There, he is taught that at "[a] racist is one who is both privileged and socialized on the basis of race by a white supremacist (racist) system. The term applies to all white people (i.e., people of European descent) living in the United States, regardless of class, gender, religion, culture or sexuality."

The Delaware RA is also taught that the term "reverse racism" is created by whites to deny their privilege. An official Delaware training manual says that "those in denial use the term reverse racism to refer to hostile behavior by people of color toward whites, and to affirmative action policies, which allegedly give 'preferential treatment' to people of color over whites." Then, after defining the term "reverse racism" the manual claims that "there is no such thing as 'reverse racism.'" Later, it says the non-existent term "reverse racism" is an example of "racism."

Lewis Carroll would have been proud...

Read the rest of the craziness: http://www.townhall.com/columnists/MikeSAdams/2007/10/31/brave_newark_world

Robert Spencer is director of Jihadwatch.org and the author of such books as *Islam Unveiled*; *Onward, Muslim Soldiers*; and *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam (and the Crusades)*. He crusades (yes!) tirelessly against Islamofascism, without ever descending to racial hatred or the other excesses of political fervor so common

among American leftists and West Asian jihadis. And yet the extremists who run Google have seen fit to attempt to muzzle him. Luckily, Guba.com has made his Dartmouth talk available (see link below, at the very end).

[Google Video removes video of Robert Spencer talk at Dartmouth](#)

The indefatigable Harrison Sonntag of Dartmouth notifies me that Google has removed the video of my talk at Dartmouth, with this explanation:

As set forth in the Terms & Conditions, Google Video is not required to host or display uploaded content. Google Video may refuse to host content that violates its policies, including: illegal content, , invasions of personal privacy, pornography or obscenity, hate or incitement of violence, graphic violence or other acts resulting in serious injury or death, violations of copyright. Please see our DMCA policy for more information. Please note that we also reserve the right to not show mature content to users with their safesearch activated. This includes content that would typically not be shown to users under 18 years of age. We may change these policies at any time without notice.

Of course, my speech was none of those things. It just caught the attention of someone who disagrees with it politically, and rather than engage in reasoned discussion or debate, or mount a rebuttal, he or she just made sure I would not be heard. The fascist thugs aren't just at **Emory**. Some of them apparently work for Google.

UPDATE: Charles at **LGF** kindly vouches for me:

I watched the video, and there was absolutely nothing in it that violated these terms of service. It was a calm, well-reasoned speech that contained nothing hateful, no incitement to violence, no invasion of privacy, no pornography or obscenity, and certainly no violation of copyright.

Thanks, Charles. I'm glad I decided to take out that bit about Paris Hilton, but obviously it didn't do any good anyway.

SECOND UPDATE: Harrison has now kindly made the video available here:

[http://www.guba.com/watch/3000095246?
duration_step=0&fields=8&filter_tiny=0&pp=6000&query=1077082&sb=0&set=5&sf=0&size_step=0&o=0&sample=11938
76322:de8be23a47565babff22c98c3e215e5670b89eb3](http://www.guba.com/watch/3000095246?duration_step=0&fields=8&filter_tiny=0&pp=6000&query=1077082&sb=0&set=5&sf=0&size_step=0&o=0&sample=1193876322:de8be23a47565babff22c98c3e215e5670b89eb3)

A brilliant essay on a very tough topic.

Torture Logic

Where to draw the line.

by Gabriel Schoenfeld, 26 Oct 2007

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/014/267nktqp.asp>

Leftist teachers hate God, and they want our children to hate Him, too:

The Atheist Indoctrination Project

by Dinesh D'Souza, 22 Oct 2007 Adapted from his new book, *What's So Great About Christianity?*

It seems atheists have developed a comprehensive strategy to win the minds of the next generation. The strategy can be described simply: let the religious people breed them, and we will educate them to despise their parents' beliefs. Many people think that the secularization of the minds of our young people is the inevitable consequence of learning and maturing. In fact, it is to a large degree orchestrated by teachers and professors to promote anti-religious agendas...

... Dawkins asks, "How much do we regard children as being the property of their parents? It's one thing to say people should be free to believe whatever they like, but should they be free to impose their beliefs on their children? Is there something to be said for society stepping in? What about bringing up children to believe manifest falsehoods? Isn't it always a form of child abuse to label children as possessors of beliefs that they are too young to have thought out?"...

...Psychologist Nicholas Humphrey argued in a recent lecture that just as Amnesty International works to liberate political prisoners around the world, secular teachers and professors should work to free children from the damaging influence of their parents' religious instruction. "Parents have no god-given license to enculturate their children in whatever ways they personally choose: no right to limit the horizons of their children's knowledge, to bring them up in an atmosphere of dogma and superstition, or to insist they follow the straight and narrow paths of their own faith."

Philosopher Richard Rorty argued that secular professors in the universities ought "to arrange things so that students who enter as bigoted, homophobic religious fundamentalists will leave college with views more like our own."...

Read it all: http://www.townhall.com/columnists/DineshDSouza/2007/10/22/the_atheist_indoctrination_project

Here's some real war reporting from a real journalist—one who's out there with the troops (and sometimes in battles) instead of standing on a hotel balcony or sitting at an air-conditioned news-desk. I was not really surprised to learn—from another source, not Mr. Yon—that he's a former Green Beret.

Inside the Surge

by Michael Yon, 28 Oct 2007

This week, the U.S. announced that military deaths in Iraq had fallen dramatically, to the lowest levels since March 2006, a sign that the surge of troops is working. Officers say increased cooperation from Iraqi civilians—who are tired of the terrorism and violence—has helped stem attacks.

This comes as no surprise to Michael Yon, a writer who has blogged from Iraq since 2004. Yon, who is supported by donations to his Web site (michaelyon-online.com), writes about his own observations on the ground this year, embedded with U.S. troops.

http://www.nypost.com/seven/10282007/postopinion/opedcolumnists/inside_the_surge.htm

<http://michaelyon-online.com/>

Steyn takes the egregious *Newsweek*—sorry, *Newsweek*—ponce Christopher Dickey, and fisks him within an inch of his life:

War, like life, is not a movie

by Mark Steyn, 28 Oct 2007

<http://www.oregister.com/opinion/one-iraq-dickey-1910470-reynolds-burt>

Should *Roe v Wade* get overturned some day (and of course it *should*), that won't make abortion illegal nationwide. A number of states, perhaps even a majority, will decide to keep it legal. So Democrats should control their overheated rhetoric on judges, and Evangelicals should relax a little about Rudy.

Supreme Control of Abortion Policy

by George Will, 26 Oct 2007

http://www.townhall.com/columnists/GeorgeWill/2007/10/28/supreme_control_of_abortion_policy

Students at University of Victoria...welcome the military to their campus!

<http://www.smalldeadanimals.com/archives/007299.html>

Like a slave, is an unborn child not a brother?

by Charles Moore, 27 Oct 2007

This week, I received an invitation to the opening of a new gallery in the Museum in Docklands, an offshoot of the Museum of London.

The gallery, which is in an old sugar warehouse, will be called "London, Sugar and Slavery". "Discover," says the invitation, "how the English sweet tooth, consumer boycotts and the Notting Hill Carnival are linked by one of the great crimes against humanity".

The opening of the gallery marks the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. The publicity material speaks of "obscene profits, horrific brutality" and how "the seeds of racism" were sown. It would be an understatement to say that the museum organisers regard slavery as a wholly evil thing.

On the same day as I opened my invitation, Dawn Primarolo, whose name sounds like a brand of margarine, but is actually the health minister, was telling the Commons Science and Technology Committee that there was no justification for lowering the limit for abortion below the current 24 weeks...

Read the rest:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml;jsessionid=YXVYP511RWYRROFIOMFSFGGAVCBO0IV0?xml=/opinion/2007/10/27/do2702.xml>

Media Research Center's 20th Anniversary Edition

October 22, 2007 (Vol. Twenty; No. 22)

The Media Research Center, headed by Brent Bozell III, is a wonderful organization that pioneered the monitoring of outrageous bias in the supposedly "objective" mainstream media. In 20 years they've pointed out thousands of agenda-driven slants and statements: some spoken with a sneer, some spoken without a clue. Here are just a few of the best (worst):

"I think liberalism lives — the notion that we don't have to stay where we are as a society, we have promises to keep, and it is liberalism, whether people like it or not, which has animated all the years of my life. What on Earth did conservatism ever accomplish for our country?" — **Charles Kuralt talking with Morley Safer on the CBS special, *One for the Road with Charles Kuralt*, May 4, 1994.**

"Sadly, many home remedies could damage a fetus instead of kill it."
— ***Newsweek* Senior Editor Melinda Beck on self-performed abortions, July 17, 1989 issue.**

"Supreme Court nominee David Souter wants the world to stop viewing him as a nerd. Senate Democrats want to know if, instead, Souter is a neanderthal — a mean-spirited conservative bent on wrecking constitutional protections for women, minorities, and accused criminals."
— **beginning of September 13, 1990 *USA Today* cover story by legal reporter Tony Mauro.**

"Greenpeace, the public interest organization, believes that the Iraqi death toll, civilian and military, during and after the war, may be as high as 198,000. Allied military dead are counted in the low hundreds. The disparity is huge and somewhat embarrassing."
— **NBC's John Chancellor a year after the first Gulf War ended, March 12, 1992 *Nightly News*.**

"Some people who hated Americans set out to kill a lot of us and they succeeded [on 9/11]....We're trying to protect ourselves with more weapons. We have to do it, I guess, but it might be better if we figured out how to behave as a nation in a way that wouldn't make so many people in the world want to kill us."
— **CBS's Andy Rooney on *60 Minutes*, September 10, 2006.**

"The Pentagon as a legitimate target?...As a journalist, I feel strongly that's something that I should not be taking a position on. I'm supposed to figure out what is and what is not, not what ought to be."
— **ABC News President David Westin at a Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism event on October 23, 2001 shown four days later on C-SPAN.**

"We all know that one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter and that Reuters upholds the principle that we do not use the word terrorist....To be frank, it adds little to call the attack on the World Trade Center a terrorist attack."
— **Steven Jukes, global head of news for Reuters News Service, in an internal memo cited by the *Washington Post's* Howard Kurtz in a September 24, 2001 article.**

"If she had lived, Mary Jo Kopechne would be 62 years old. Through his tireless work as a legislator, Edward Kennedy would have brought comfort to her in her old age."
— **Charles Pierce in a January 5, 2003 *Boston Globe Magazine* article. Kopechne drowned while trapped in Kennedy's submerged car off Chappaquiddick Island in July 1969, an accident Kennedy did not report for several hours.**

"You have made so many offensive comments over the years. Do you regret any of them?...You seem indifferent to suffering. Have you ever suffered yourself?" — **Two of the questions posed to *National Review* founder William F. Buckley by the *New York Times Magazine's* Deborah Solomon, July 11, 2004.**

Andrea Mitchell: "It is an iconic picture: American hostages, hands bound and blindfolded, being paraded outside the U.S. embassy in Tehran by their captors. But has one of those student radicals now become Iran's newly elected President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad?..." **Brian Williams:** "Andrea, what would it all matter if proven true? Someone brought up today the first several U.S. Presidents were certainly revolutionaries and might have been called terrorists at the time by the British Crown, after all." — ***NBC Nightly News*, June 30, 2005.**

CBS's Morley Safer: "You talk about a vision, and it's some kind of abstract, vague idea. Did his [Ronald Reagan's] vision include extraordinary deficits? Did his vision include cutting of the budgets for education and a back of the hand in terms of public education?" **Larry King:** "History will not be kind to him?" **Safer:** "No, I don't think history particularly will be kind....I don't think history has any reason to be kind to him."
— ***CNN's Larry King Live*, June 14, 2004.**

Host Tina Gulland: "I don't think I have any Jesse Helms defenders here. Nina?" **NPR's Nina Totenberg:** "Not me. I think

he ought to be worried about what's going on in the Good Lord's mind, because if there is retributive justice, he'll get AIDS from a transfusion, or one of his grandchildren will get it."

— Exchange on the July 8, 1995 *Inside Washington*, after Helms said the government spends too much on AIDS.

Here's the whole thing, including many video clips:

<http://www.mrc.org/notablequotables/bestof/20thnq/anniversaryEdition.asp>

Or, if you prefer, here's the text-only version:

<http://www.mrc.org/notablequotables/bestof/20thnq/20thAnniversary.doc>

You are going to LOVE this:

Leftspeak—Vol. I

by: *The Dick List Administrator, 21 Oct 2007*

Ever read a college admissions booklet or an article in the *New York Times* and found yourself completely baffled as to its meaning? Don't worry, you're not alone. The problem is elementary- you've never been taught **LEFTSPEAK**.

Leftspeak (not Spanish) is America's most important new language. It dominates our university system, and it pervades both our newsmedia and our entertainment industry. To put it mildly, you cannot pass a modern college course without mastering Leftspeak, nor can you function in the modern business world without being sued.

So what is Leftspeak? Leftspeak is a socialist-Marxist derivative of English that uses **carefully crafted euphemisms** to disguise and make palatable leftist dogma that are (and have always been) hugely unpopular among the American public. The following is Volume I of **The Dick List's Leftspeak Pocket Dictionary**.

Read it all: <http://dicklist.blogspot.com/2006/06/57-leftspeak-vol-i.html>

Robert Bork was an outstanding judge who, in 1987, was prevented from being confirmed as a U.S. Supreme Court justice by the lies and shrieks of God-hating, America-hating leftists like Teddy Kennedy and his fetus-murdering feminist followers.

The War for the Constitution

The anniversary of Robert Bork's failed nomination reminds us what's at stake in the coming election.

by *Gary L McDowell, 23 Oct 2007*

<http://www.opinionjournal.com/editorial/feature.html?id=110010770>

Krugman Veers to Left, Longs for a New New Deal

by *Caroline Baum, 25 Oct 2007*

...It will come as no surprise to regular readers of Krugman's twice weekly op-ed column that the root of all this evil is the Republican Party. Over the last 30 years, the GOP has been hijacked by "movement conservatives" whose policies (tax cuts, reduced regulation, attacks on labor unions) undermined the fabric of our society by favoring the elite minority at the expense of the middle- and lower-class majority...

...Krugman would just as soon soak the rich. For him, the way forward is the way back—to the New Deal. Franklin Roosevelt's policies created "a more equitable distribution of income" by, among other things, dictating wages to the private sector and taxing the wealthy, creating "a healthier climate for democracy," Krugman writes. That must be why centrally planned economies, with their promise of a classless society, have been such paragons of democracy! ...

...Krugman holds this model up as an ideal rather than as the disincentive to higher education that it is. His America finds a bigger and bigger role for government at a time when emerging economies of the former Soviet bloc, China and India are rejecting central planning in favor of the free market.

His failure to acknowledge this reality shows how far to the left he's swung. At times he comes close to espousing a classless society, putting him in the company of the 19th-century's utopian socialists. "Middle-class societies don't emerge automatically as an economy matures, they have to be created through political action," he writes.

This is neither obvious nor intuitive nor even historically correct. As a nation's economy matures from underdeveloped to developed through trade (Krugman's specialty), foreign investment, education, industrialization and competition, a middle-class society is precisely what emerges, unless political action (think corrupt African dictators) interferes. If what Krugman claims were true, then Karl Marx would be the model for today's emerging economies, not Adam Smith.

Read it all: http://bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601039&refer=columnist_baum&sid=a222tQa4ppDk

A very important article. It's fairly long, but it does incorporate a history of the movement; and, like most of Mr. Muravchik's work, it's arresting and well-written.

The Past, Present, and Future of Neoconservatism

by Joshua Muravchik, October 2007 issue

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm?id=10935>

A new attack on America's sovereignty

The UN's pernicious "Law of the Sea Treaty" (LOST) has been bouncing around since the early 1980s, when Ronald Reagan shot it down because it would hand over huge areas of our national sovereignty to the United Nations.

But it's back, and it has widespread support among professional pols, bureaucrats, and Navy brass in D.C., because nearly every one of them either (a) is a UN-loving, America-hating moonbat, or (b) hasn't read the damned thing, but hears that President Bush supports it.

Bush does, in fact, support it. But then, he supported the Wide Open Borders Bill of 2007 which we stopped on June 28. Just because he's a good man doesn't mean he always has a clue.

If you have a patriotic Senator, or know someone who does, please go to this site:

http://www.rejectlost.org/Home_Page.html

It has a sample letter that could be printed out and signed, and also a lot of facts that a person could use in writing his or her own original letter (which is always better).

I'm also taking the unusual step of printing today's column by Frank Gaffney in its entirety. It's that important. Below that column are links to several other recent op-eds on the subject.

—Don John

Call the White House

Comments: 202-456-1111

Switchboard: 202-456-1414

FAX: 202-456-2461

E-mail President Bush: comments@whitehouse.gov

E-mail Vice President Cheney: vice_president@whitehouse.gov

Phone your senator at the Capitol switchboard: (202) 224-3121.

A switchboard operator will connect you directly with the Senate office you request.

Write or e-mail your senator: http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/general/one_item_and_teasers/contacting.htm

Happy Birthday, U.N.

by Frank Gaffney, 23 Oct 2007

Proponents of the United Nation's Law of the Sea Treaty (LOST) came up with a brilliant idea. Led by the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, they hoped to celebrate Oct. 24 — also known as U.N. Day — by having that panel rubber-stamp LOST.

Fortunately, one of the Senate's most knowledgeable and determined opponents of the Treaty, Republican Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana, exercised his right to defer its consideration, from the committee business meeting scheduled for Wednesday to at least the next one. Whether this will amount to more than a fleeting stay-of-execution depends on how many other senators — and their constituents — become aware of the implications of making the day in this manner of the United Nations and affiliated organizations.

Mr. Vitter is certainly doing his part. He has asked for additional hearings before the Foreign Relations Committee, offering an opportunity for more witnesses to explain LOST's myriad shortcomings. He has also provided a powerful briefing to many of his colleagues, prompting others to take up the cause.

Another leading critic of the Treaty, Sen. Jim Inhofe, Oklahoma Republican, has asked for hearings before two committees on which he serves. Both the Armed Services and Environment and Public Works Committees would have their respective jurisdictions dramatically affected by LOST and the implementing legislation sure to follow from its ratification.

The same should certainly be occurring in at least six other committees. For example, the Finance Committee surely has an interest in the repercussions of LOST-established precedents for international taxation. The Judiciary Committee should consider how this accord will further the practice of subordinating domestic law to international jurisprudence.

The Intelligence Committee — whose Democratic Chairman Jay Rockefeller generally treats with extreme skepticism what Bush administration officials tell him — should obtain a "second opinion" on the latter's assurances that U.S. intelligence

will not be impaired by LOST.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs would have a two-fer, due (1) to the fact LOST may require, among other things, the compromise of sensitive information about domestic industries in the name of environmental regulation, and (2) the growing allegations of corruption and incompetence in LOST's utterly unaccountable International Seabed Authority.

The Energy and Natural Resources Committee should want to ascertain whether *any* American company is going to be willing to explore the ocean floors' resources if, as the price of doing so, they have to give sensitive data and technology to international competitors. The Commerce Committee should have its own concerns about the prospective compromise of U.S. technologies and the Treaty's other detrimental effects on our competitiveness (such as its socialist, redistributionist agenda, its imposition of the Luddite "precautionary principle" — which precludes innovation unless it can be proven harmless — and its adoption of European, rather than U.S., industrial standards).

What is certain is, if these committees fail to perform due diligence on the Law of the Sea Treaty, the United States could well soon find itself creating — and confronting — a United Nations on steroids.

LOST proponents tend to scoff at such a prospect. They point to the relatively small size of the Kingston, Jamaica-based international bureaucracy that has operated the International Seabed Authority in obscurity over the last 25 years. This is a deflection, as misleading as it is deliberate.

The truth is that the U.N. and its admirers are so keen on U.S. accession to the Law of the Sea Treaty precisely because it will transform that so-called "constitution of the seas" into an actual charter for a new supranational order. As with the United Nations, American membership will infuse millions of dollars into LOST agencies' budgets, as we pick up a quarter of the tab. Worse, the United States will lend legitimacy and real power to the Treaty's mandatory dispute resolution mechanisms by subjecting itself, its businesses and taxpayers to their jurisdiction.

We are on notice, moreover, that — once these U.N.-affiliated arbitral panels come to exercise authority over our affairs — the international plaintiffs bar will exploit these vehicles as mechanisms for doing just that. Some have indicated they intend to use LOST to impose the Kyoto Protocol. Others clearly envision suing the U.S. Navy to force it to conform to vast new environmental and other obligations under the Treaty. Still others have not specified their targets, instead urging restraint in filing such suits until the U.S. becomes a party, lest our ratification be jeopardized by prematurely revealing the true costs of this treaty.

It would be one thing if Americans were brought into the decision to make the U.N.'s day by subordinating our constitutional, representative form of government and our sovereignty to the dictates of international bureaucrats and the generally hostile nations who typically call their tune. Instead, the Senate's Democratic leadership seems determined to secure LOST's ratification by running silent, running deep — preventing needed hearings, silencing the critics and otherwise suppressing debate.

So far, among major presidential candidates, only the GOP's former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee has aligned himself squarely with Ronald Reagan in opposing the Law of the Sea Treaty. Unless the other candidates promptly join him, they will share responsibility for, and have to live with, the consequences of a U.N. on steroids.

<http://washingtontimes.com/article/20071023/COMMENTARY03/110230011/1012/commentary>

Permission Slip for the Sea *by Oliver North, 11 Oct 2007*

http://www.townhall.com/columnists/OliverNorth/2007/10/12/permission_slip_for_the_sea

U.S. LOST at sea? *by Admiral James Lyons, 5 Oct 2007*

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071005/COMMENTARY/110050029>

How Many Lawyers Does It Take to Sink the U.S. Navy?

Unfortunately, the Law of the Sea Treaty is no laughing matter. *by Jeremy Rabkin, 10 Sept 2007*

<http://weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/014/052guyna.asp>

Christian Foundation

by Dinesh D'Souza, 22 Oct 2007

We seem to be witnessing an aggressive attempt by leading atheists to portray religion in general, and Christianity in particular, as the bane of civilization. Finding the idea of God incompatible with science and reason, these atheists also fault Christianity with fostering a breed of fanaticism comparable to Islamic radicalism. The proposed solution: a completely secular society, liberated from Christian symbols and beliefs.

This critique, which comes from best-selling atheist books, academic tracts and a sophisticated network of atheist organizations and media, can be disputed on its own terms. What it misses, however, is the larger story of how Christianity has shaped the core institutions and values of the USA and the West. Christianity is responsible even for secular institutions such as democracy and science. It has fostered in our civilization values such as respect for human dignity, human rights and human equality that even secular people cherish.

Consider science. Although there have been many civilizations in history, modern science developed in only one: Western civilization. And why? Because science is based on an assumption that is, at root, faith-based and theological. That is the assumption that the universe is rational and follows laws that are discoverable through human reason...

Read the rest: <http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2007/10/a-christian-fou.html>

Nuke Nightmare

by Ralph Peters, 22 Oct 2007

On September 6, Israel struck a remote target in eastern Syria. The story didn't really break for weeks, and details are still emerging—but the consensus view is that Israeli aircraft attacked a secret nuclear facility. There's much more to it than that. The echoes of that strike resound far beyond the Middle East...

...The attack also put Iran on notice that neither Israel nor the United States means to tolerate nuclear weapons in the hands of rogue regimes in the Middle East. This was, to a great extent, an attack on a proxy target. Whether Iran's leaders are capable of rational analysis is another matter.

As a number of military analysts have pointed out, if Israeli aircraft were able to operate with impunity deep inside Syria, which fields state-of-the-art, Russian-supplied air defenses, it suggests a startling breakthrough in crippling an enemy's surveillance system and his command-and-control mechanisms.

Other states, such as Iran, that splurged on made-in-Russia air-defense systems must be panicking—while the Kremlin's generals have some explaining to do to Czar Vladimir.

If the Israelis did, indeed, employ next-level military technology, the obvious question is: Why tip off your enemies that you've got new, paradigm-shifting tools just to blow up a cluster of buildings under construction, when any serious threat remained years—probably a decade—away?

There's a gaping hole in the logic—unless that, too, was a signal to Tehran...

Read the rest: <http://www.nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?>

[url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/10222007/postopinion/opedcolumnists/nuke_nightmare.htm](http://www.nypost.com/seven/10222007/postopinion/opedcolumnists/nuke_nightmare.htm)

Here's a very interesting column by a Libertarian who used to also be a Republican. He says that today's Conservatives are ignoring the economic lessons of the past. Fair enough. But aren't today's open borders/anti-war Libertarians ignoring the military and political lessons of the past? Also, the piece includes a wonderful statement of principle by Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. Please note: he's also a lobbyist for the American Muslim Council.

The Republican Crackup

by Steven Greenhut, 21 Oct 2007

<http://www.ocreger.com/opinion/government-coalition-conservative-1899969-hunter-expand>

"England is rapidly becoming a place where the good are afraid of the bad and the bad are not afraid of anything."
—Peter Hitchens (Christopher's brother).

"I was being pursued not by bigots in white robes but by left-wing zealots draped in flowing sanctimony."
—Justice Clarence Thomas, of his 1991 confirmation hearings (a.k.a. "a high-tech lynching.")

MSM Twists, Distorts, and Lies About the Limbaugh Letter

Sat, Oct 20, 2007 at 9:27:35 am PDT

http://littlegreenfootballs.com/weblog/?entry=27603_MSM_Twists_Distorts_and_Lies_About_the_Limbaugh_Letter&only

Reuters Notices the Rush Limbaugh Story—Update: New York Times Blatantly Lies

Fri, Oct 19, 2007 at 7:02:30 pm PDT

http://littlegreenfootballs.com/weblog/?entry=27598_Reuters_Notices_the_Rush_Limbaugh_Story_-_Update-_New_York_Times_Blatantly_Lies&only

Charles points out Reuters' Freudian slip in referring to "the silent **minority** that does not agree with radicals whose preaching of jihad and rejection of other faiths often dominates the headlines."

Vatican Responds to Muslims' Letter

Fri, Oct 19, 2007 at 1:04:11 pm PDT

http://littlegreenfootballs.com/weblog/?entry=27593_Vatican_Responds_to_Muslims_Letter&only

The U.S. Is a Great Place to be Anti-American

by Gerard Baker, 19 Oct 2007

...There's another, more important aspect to the world's affection for those in America who are most critical of it. The Americans who win global approbation in Oslo or at the UN are not simply critics of current American policy. They want to construct an international system that will for ever prevent the US from pursuing its own objectives, a system designed to dilute, counterbalance and constrain America's ability to govern itself. They prefer a world in which American democracy is subordinated to a kind of global government, rule by a global elite, tasked to make decisions on everyone's behalf in the name of multilateralism.

Al Gore wants the US to give up its economic autonomy and submit to rule by binding international obligations to curb its carbon emissions. Some of the Democratic candidates for the presidency want to tie down the American Gulliver under a web of global treaties. The British Government, if recent speeches by ministers are to be believed, is now apparently seriously committed to the idea that only the UN has the legitimacy to determine how nations should behave. In other words, that a system that gives vetoes to China and Russia and honours the human rights contributions of countries such as Syria or North Korea should be accorded a full role in the promotion of the dignity of mankind.

There's a larger irony in all this. Even as the US demonstrates the openness of its own society, its unrivalled capacity for self-examination and self-correction, a free system based on the absolute authority of the rule of law, it is told it must submit itself to the views of Moscow, Beijing, and Brussels.

Fortunately, while the American system may be forgivingly tolerant of people with wild and dangerous ideas, it doesn't generally let them run the country.

Read the rest: http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/gerard_baker/article2689746.ece

Insofar as Al Gore has made any contribution to global peace, it's in persuading large swaths of a narcissistic Western world to busy itself with non-solutions to pseudo-crises to such a distracting degree that al-Qa'ida may wind up imposing the global caliphate without having to fire a shot.

—Mark Steyn, 15 Oct 2007

Transparent Political Cynicism Alert

Nancy Pelosi & Co. have found a new way to stab our troops in the back, by passing a resolution decrying Turkey's genocide of Armenians in 1916. Why now, and not some other time in the past 90 years? They hope Turkey will get angry enough cut off our crucial northern supply-route into Iraq.

Playing Politics With Genocide by Ralph Peters, 14 Oct 2007

...It's a brilliant ploy—the Dems get to stab our troops in the back, but lay the blame off on the Turks. They pretend they're responding to their Armenian-American constituents—while actually moving to placate MoveOn.org.

For the Democrats in Congress, it looks like a cost-free strategy. For our troops? When did the Dems give a damn about our troops? This resolution isn't a stand in favor of historical justice. It's an end-run that ducks behind the bench. It's one of the most cynical betrayals in our legislative history—of our troops, of Armenian-Americans, of the Kurds under threat from the Turkish military and of the people of Iraq...

Read the whole thing:

http://www.nypost.com/seven/10142007/postopinion/opedcolumnists/playing_politics_with_genocide.htm

Sanchez' Message

Posted by Ed Morrissey on October 13, 2007

It seems that half of the message retired General Richard Sanchez intended to deliver missed the cut at most newsrooms, and with most bloggers. Typical among the reports of his blistering oration is the [front-page treatment](#) given by the Washington

Post's Josh White, the entire first half of Sanchez' speech—found in its entirety [here](#)—gets reduced to a single paragraph at the end of the story. Why? Well, it turns out that Sanchez considered his first target the media itself, which he blames for a large part of the problems he sees in Iraq...

Gotta read it all: <http://www.captainsquartersblog.com/mt/archives/014731.php>

Fatuous Moral Idiocy Alert

I used to view Thomas Friedman as a centrist. Yes, he can be silly—at times, *very* silly. But from 2001 to 2004, he at least had a grasp of the issues and the stakes of our war against the Islamists. In the years since then, his views seem to have become clouded by the constant media-wash of defeatism and liberal prejudice that assaults not just New York Times employees, but everyone who watches TV news and reads Great Metropolitan Newspapers. The abject moral idiocy of this piece confirms it:

Who Will Succeed Al Gore? *by Thomas L. Friedman, 14 Oct 2007*

Seeing Al Gore so deservedly share the Nobel Peace Prize, it is impossible not to note the contrast in his leadership and that of George W. Bush....

It's not very long, but it is very stupid: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/14/opinion/14friedman.html?ref=opinion>

What has Al Gore done for world peace?

by Damian Thompson, 12 Oct 2007

... I think we need to declare an international smugness alert. The former US Vice-President has already taken over from Michael Moore as the most sanctimonious lardbutt Yank on the planet. Can you imagine what he'll be like now that the Norwegian Nobel committee has given him the prize? ...

...his 20-room, eight-bathroom mansion in Nashville sometimes uses twice the energy in one month that the average American household gets through in a year. The combined energy and gas bills for his estate came to nearly \$30,000 in 2006. Ah, say his defenders, but he uses rainwater to flush his lavatories. Is there enough rainwater in the world, I wonder?

There are so many reasons why Gore shouldn't have won the peace prize for his preachiness. Alas, it is too late to influence their decision, but I'd have liked to refer the judges to a ruling by Mr Justice Burton, a High Court judge who has criticised the Government for sending out An Inconvenient Truth to schools without a health warning. The reason? It's full of errors and unsubstantiated claims.

The judge is not saying that Gore's basic thesis is wrong (and nor am I). In a way, his findings are more damning than that.

Gore claims that the rises in carbon dioxide and temperature over 650,000 years show an "exact fit". That's wrong, says Mr Justice Burton: there is a connection, but not a precise correlation.

Gore predicts sea levels rising by up to 20ft in the near future. Not so, according to the judge: that will happen only after millions of years.

Those low-lying Pacific atolls that Gore claims have been evacuated? No evidence. Polar bears who drowned swimming to look for ice? Again, no evidence: four bears have drowned - but because of a storm...

Read the rest:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml;jsessionid=BYVTNMH40LUKZQFIQMGSEFWAVCBQWIV0?xml=/opinion/2007/10/12/do1202.xml>

Stop the Terror in Burma

President Bush is preparing further U.S. sanctions against the dictatorship.

by Laura Bush, 10 Oct 2007

...Gen. Than Shwe and his deputies are a friendless regime. They should step aside to make way for a unified Burma governed by legitimate leaders. The rest of the armed forces should not fear this transition—there is room for a professional military in a democratic Burma. In fact, one of Burma's military heroes was also a beloved champion of Burmese freedom: General Aung San, the late father of Aung San Suu Kyi.

As part of a peaceful transition process, the generals must immediately stop their terror campaigns against their own people. They must commit to a meaningful, unrestricted dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and other opposition leaders—including the demonstrating monks, the 88 Generation Students and members of Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party. The junta has taken a small, promising first step by appointing its deputy labor minister as a liaison to Ms. Suu Kyi. Now, the regime must release her—and all members of the political opposition—so they can meet and plan a strategy for Burma's transition to democracy...

Read it all: <http://www.opinionjournal.com/editorial/feature.html?id=110010713>

Hillary Talks About 'It'

Would she defend Rush Limbaugh's speech rights against the left?

by Daniel Henninger, 11 Oct 2007

...to my knowledge the right has no equivalent to "repressive tolerance," the aggressive theory of scorched-earth political argument laid out in the hothouse years of the 1960s by the late left-wing political philosopher Herbert Marcuse. Just last November, in an admiring essay for the Chronicle of Higher Education, the left polemicist Stanley Fish aptly summed up Marcuse's assertion that "liberal" notions of tolerance for political speech should be overturned.

The rationale for this notion is that standard tolerance is rigged against the left. In practice, tolerance extends only to the ideas and beliefs of the powerful, while it shuts out ideas on behalf of the weak or "marginalized"—the poor, minorities, women and the rest. Mr. Fish says liberals fail to see "the dark side of their favorite virtue."

Prof. Fish has an alternative to traditions of tolerance, and to anyone awash in American politics today it will sound familiar: "That is to say, and Marcuse says it, anything the right does is bad and should not be tolerated; anything the left does is good and should be welcomed." This would explain the emotional intensity and animosity in politics now: The other side no longer *deserves* minimal respect.

It's not enough to disagree with conservative viewpoints; one has to undermine and delegitimize them. Mock them. Put them beyond the pale. Incidentally, Marcuse, Fish and others on the left who want to "withdraw" tolerance from the speech and ideas of their opponents count centrist Democrats among them. That is what happened to Joe Lieberman...

Read the whole thing: <http://www.opinionjournal.com/columnists/dhenninger/?id=110010717>

The Democrats' Unhealthy Poster Child Abuse

by Michelle Malkin, 10 Oct 2007

...What is verifiable: The Frosts own a home in Baltimore purchased for \$55,000 16 years ago—and now worth an estimated \$300,000. That's a lot of equity. In addition, the children's father, Halsey Frost, owns commercial real estate and his own small business, but chose not to buy health insurance for himself and his wife, whom he hired as an employee. She now apparently works freelance at a medical publishing firm, which also reportedly doesn't offer insurance.

Gemma and Graeme both attend expensive private schools; the Frosts have two other school-age children. Reid's staff says Gemma and Graeme receive tuition breaks. But it's not clear when those scholarships were instituted and/or whether the other two receive tuition aid as well. Moreover, Frost's family comes from considerable means. The children's maternal grandfather was an engineering executive. Their paternal grandparents hail from affluent Bronxville, New York, where the grandfather is a prominent facilities management consultant and chairman of the municipal planning board.

In other words: The public trough is not Halsey Frost's last and only resort. The accident was horrible. The children deserve much sympathy and compassion. But this family made choices. Choices have consequences. Taxpayers of lesser means should not be forced to subsidize them...

Read it all: http://www.townhall.com/Columnists/MichelleMalkin/2007/10/10/the_democrats_unhealthy_poster_child_abuse

Bloggers Expose Lying Socialized Medicine Propaganda

The deceptive story of a prosperous family's *supposed* poverty and *supposed* health insurance woes.

"Brother, can you spare a CHIP?" by Mark Steyn, 7 Oct 2007

<http://corner.nationalreview.com/post/?q=MDAzYjY5OWVkbMmQxZTJmNTZlNDNjZTlhOGU3NjNlZDA=>

So Be It?

The dangers of defining "torture" down.

by Bret Stephens, 9 Oct 2007

It all but goes without saying that torture, properly defined and in nearly every circumstance, is wrong. But what do you make of the following statement, from a recent editorial in the Economist: "Dozens of plots may have been foiled and thousands of lives saved as a result of some of the unsavory practices now being employed in the name of fighting terrorism. Dropping such practices in order to preserve freedom may cost many lives. So be it?"

Read the rest: <http://www.opinionjournal.com/columnists/bstephens/?id=110010709>

The Right Judicial Litmus Test

Follow the Constitution, or not?

by Steven G. Calabresi, 7 Oct 2007

...the long-accepted rule for interpreting legal texts is to construe them to have the original public meaning that they had when they were enacted into law. This is the way we interpret statutes, contracts, wills and even old Supreme Court opinions.

No leftist ever says of *Roe v. Wade*: Let's let President Bush's lower-court judges construe that opinion in light of the "evolving standards of decency that mark the progress of a maturing society." Leftists and indeed all non-originalists would be utterly outraged if this were to happen.

In fact, much of the complaining by the left about the Supreme Court's decision last spring to uphold the federal partial-birth abortion statute was that it was *not* a faithful effort to apply the court's abortion precedents as they had previously been understood. Many on the left claimed this was a profound threat to the rule of law.

There is no good reason, however, to think that the rule of law requires us to follow newly minted Supreme Court precedent but not the Constitution. To the contrary, it is crystal clear that there will be many times when the exact opposite is the case.

The court's own power to decide constitutional questions derives only from the Constitution's status, together with treaties and federal statutes, as "the supreme law of the land." The Constitution's character as law makes it binding on the courts of law, including the Supreme Court. This is what empowers those courts to decide what the Constitution means.

Accordingly, the Supreme Court must have the duty and power to overrule its own unconstitutional precedents, just as it has the duty and power to disregard unconstitutional statutes and treaties. This authority is well established and indeed has been recognized since the earliest days of the republic.

This authority is also a practical necessity. Because the court is composed of human beings, it is inevitable that it will make mistakes. This includes big mistakes about the meaning of the Constitution that, left uncorrected, work a continuing, significant distortion on how our government functions. This is exactly what happened, for example, in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896), where the court upheld a law requiring segregated rail cars that violated the words of the 14th Amendment...

Read the whole thing: <http://www.opinionjournal.com/editorial/feature.html?id=110010702>

Two of the best essays ever written about our military.

If you read nothing else today, read them:

Modern Heroes

Our soldiers like what they do. They want our respect, not pity.

by Robert D. Kaplan, 4 Oct 2007

<http://www.opinionjournal.com/editorial/feature.html?id=110010686>

A Death in the Family

Having volunteered for Iraq, Mark Daily was killed in January by an I.E.D. Dismayed to learn that his pro-war articles helped persuade Daily to enlist, the author measures his words against a family's grief and a young man's sacrifice.

by Christopher Hitchens, 5 Oct 2007 (November issue)

<http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2007/11/hitchens200711>

Reagan Was Right, part 337:

'Star Wars' Indeed

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 3 Oct 2007

Perhaps you haven't heard, since the media would rather ignore the success of what they've derided since Ronald Reagan floated the idea 24 years ago, but America now has a working missile defense system.

<http://www.ibdeditorials.com/IBDArticles.aspx?id=276303853342016>

American Conservative (sic) hit bottom, starts digging

The paleocon rag founded in 2002 by Scott McConnell, Pat Buchanan, and Taki Theodoracopulos reaches a new low—even by its own low standards—with this vile turd of a cover-story:

Sycophant Savior

General Petraeus wins a battle in Washington—if not in Baghdad.
by Andrew Bacevich, 8 Oct 2007 issue

That says it all. But if you have a perverse desire to read this nonsense, go ahead:
http://www.amconmag.com/2007/2007_09_24/article2.html

Democracy Has Been Demoted

Burma's monks missed word that it is now out of favor.
by Daniel Henninger, 4 Oct 2007

During a respite in Europe last week, my contact with politics took two forms. The first was watching CNN International's constant coverage of Burma's Buddhist monks and some 100,000 other Burmese in the streets of Rangoon. Hour after hour, CNN ran the smuggled video of robed monks in the streets, while its news anchors in London conveyed with untiring tones of urgency that the world "was" "concerned" about Burma.

The second contact with politics--related to the first in Burma, I'd argue--was the inclination of one's European hosts to bring to the attention of American guests the U.S. government's unpopularity, which apparently extends like a dark fog from the Thames to the Danube. One host summed up the source of this ill wind in two words: "the neocons."

Ah yes, "the neocons." The phrase has become global shorthand for what the wise men of the world now agree was a very bad idea. This is that the U.S. would spread to the world's unfree people the idea described in the first sentence of the presumably neocon-inspired Bush Doctrine: "a single sustainable model for national success--freedom, democracy, and free enterprise."

In the U.S. and Europe, the notion of creating "a balance of power that favors human freedom" as a counterweight to terror networks is now routinely mocked as "a dream," "a fiasco" and "a failure." And as soon as the abominable Bush and the neocons are gone, their "oversold" democratic pipe dream will be replaced by an American foreign policy that is more "modest."

Read the rest; it's outstanding: <http://opinionjournal.com/columnists/dhenninger/?id=110010687>

The GOP Needs a Survival Instinct

by Tony Blankley, 3 Oct 2007

...So in this season of slow-motion GOP suicide, it is only logical that earlier this week, leaders of the party's social-conservative wing declared him not only unacceptable, but so unacceptable that they may run a third-party candidate if he gains the nomination. By doing so, they would assure the election of Hillary, who, notwithstanding anything she might say to get elected, surely will set in motion policies that will kill more unborn humans and advance more biblically prohibited policies than Rudy ever would. Moreover, she would appoint the most liberal judges she can find. Rudy would nominate the most conservative ones. I fail to see the moral high ground to which these divines claim to be climbing.

They also would be walking away from a coalition that, since 1981 (and particularly since 2001), has delivered a higher percentage of their agenda than it has to any other part of the conservative coalition. Fiscal conservatives received tax cuts but not spending cuts. Hawk conservatives received assertive foreign policy but bad management of it and a dangerous running down of the Army. But social conservatives received first-rate Supreme Court justices, a real effort at faith-based initiatives, constant rhetorical support for biblical values, and in fact, they have been denied nothing of consequence that brought them into politics. It would be an act of historic ingratitude to sabotage the GOP candidate at this point. It also would be a short path to undermining everything they have gained in national politics in the past quarter century.

Every faction within the GOP coalition should agree immediately to make no further demands of their party. Just as the liberals did in 1991 and 1992, the conservatives of 2007 and 2008 simply should let their strongest candidate campaign in a way most likely to gain victory. Every conservative principle thereby would be safer than if heavy demands yield a Hillary presidency. Given the grotesque irresponsibility of the national Democrats, keeping them out of the White House should be the first calling of every patriotic conservative.

Read the whole thing: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/tony-blankley/the-gop-needs-a-survival-instinct.html>

Return of "That'll Teach 'Em" Hillary

by Tom DeLay, 3 Oct 2007

...Moments after accusing everyone who had the temerity to actually believe her husband was lying about "that woman, Miss Lewinsky" of being part of a "vast right-wing conspiracy," First Lady Hillary Clinton growled to her beaming staff, "That'll teach them to [insert four letter word that is not "mess"] with us."

That's what we used to call the "Hillary charm." What Mrs. Clinton likes best is jugular-gouging political combat. Unfortunately, Americans usually like their bare-knuckle politics done with a wink and a smile, like her husband always did. Bill Clinton could kiss a baby, squeeze out a crocodile tear for some down-on-her-luck single mom, accuse Republicans of lynching-era racism, and tell a heart-warming story about some inner city education program in 30 seconds. His attacks were so padded with goopy, Oprah-style, self-actualization, so shadily subtle as to be almost subliminal. Hillary, of the spine-tingling *bwah-hah-hah* [phony campaign laugh](#) and the 1000-page socialized medicine scheme, well, she doesn't do subtle.

Because she can't hide her viciousness behind a mask of lip-biting insincerity, Hillary instead has erected a massive network of battle hardened operatives to do the "red in tooth and claw" bit for her. The effect is the same – suppress dissent, intimidate detractors, discredit opponents, and enforce, with fascistic efficiency, an iron code of loyalty among friends and docility among foes. It's really quite something.

Fortunately for all of us, so is Rush Limbaugh....

Read the rest: http://www.townhall.com/Columnists/TomDeLay/2007/10/03/the_return_of_thatl_teach_em_hillary

The Lost Resolution

In a sane world, the resolution that would be inspired by Rush's comments.

by Jackson Bauer, 3 Oct 2007

RESOLUTION

Condemning Unpatriotic Remarks Made By Senators Concerning Our Troops

...WHEREAS on May 5, 2004, Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts accused our troops of torturing prisoners in the same manner as Saddam Hussein, stating "Shamefully, we now learn that Saddam's torture chambers reopened under new management," and

WHEREAS on June 14, 2005, Senator Durbin of Illinois compared our troops to Nazis and genocidal maniacs, stating "If I didn't tell you that it was an FBI agent describing what Americans had done to prisoners in their control, you would most certainly believe this must have been done by Nazis, Soviets in their Gulags, or some mad regime, Pol Pot, or others that had no concern for human beings. Sadly that is not the case. This was the action of Americans in their treatment of their prisoners," and

WHEREAS on December 4, 2005, Senator Kerry of Massachusetts alleged that our troops were terrorizing Iraqi civilians, stating "There is no reason, Bob, that young American soldiers need to be going into the homes of Iraqis in the dead of night terrorizing kids and children, women...", and

WHEREAS In October, 2006, Senator Kerry of Massachusetts suggested that our troops were lazy and stupid, stating "You know education, if you make the most of it, you study hard, you do your homework, and you make an effort to be smart, you can do well. If you don't you get stuck in Iraq," and

WHEREAS on August 13, 2007, Senator Obama of Illinois accused our troops of reckless disregard for civilian life, stating "We've got to get the job done there and that requires us to have enough troops so that we're not just air-raiding villages and killing civilians, which is causing enormous problems there," and

WHEREAS on September 5, 2007, Senator Schumer of New York denigrated our troops as being inept and useless, stating "And let me be clear, the violence in Anbar has gone down despite the surge, not because of the surge. The inability of American soldiers to protect those tribes from Al Qaeda said to those tribes we have to fight Al Qaeda ourselves," and

WHEREAS on several occasions Senator Reid of Nevada has suggested that our troops are utter failures, stating, notwithstanding extant evidence to the contrary that "The war is lost," ...

Read it all: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=OThjMjEyZDkxZjllOWZiYzhIMDQzMzNhYWJmMGVhNTY=>

The Unspeakable American Culture

by Jonah Goldberg, 2 Oct 2007

...I've come around to the view that the culture war can best be understood as a conflict between two different kinds of patriotism. On the one hand, there are people who believe being an American is all about dissent and change, that the American idea is inseparable from "progress." America is certainly an idea, but it is not merely an idea. It is also a nation with a culture as real as France's or Mexico's. That's where the other patriots come in; they think patriotism is about preserving Americanness.

Yet the strangest and most ironic aspect of our national culture is that we have an aversion to talking about a national culture. Samuel Huntington, one of the country's premier social scientists, has become something of a pariah for constantly reminding people (in books such as *The Clash of Civilizations* and *Who Are We?*) that the United States is a nation, not just a government and a bunch of interest groups.

Many liberals hear talk of national culture and shout, "Nativist!" first and ask questions later, if at all. They believe it is a sign of their patriotism that they hold fast to the idea that we are a "nation of immigrants"—forgetting that we are also a nation of immigrants who became *Americans*...

Read the rest: http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-goldberg2oct02_0_823356.column?coll=la-opinion-rightrail

"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing that is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept free by the exertions of other men better than himself."

—John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)

Three views on our "private security contractors" in Iraq:

Outsourcing Conflict, by Robert D. Kaplan, 29 Sept 2007

<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200709u/kaplan-blackwater>

Trouble for Hire, by Ralph Peters, 30 Sept 2007

http://www.nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/09302007/postopinion/opedcolumnists/trouble_for_hire.htm

Trigger-Happy Journalists, by Ben Ryan, 1 Oct 2007

<http://opinionjournal.com/editorial/feature.html?id=110010676>

Sewer-side Chat

by Iowahawk, Sept 2007

EMILY PETERSON

Fellow students, distinguished faculty, and honored guests; I'm Emily Peterson of the Enormous State University Student Union, and I would like to welcome all to another exciting and educational installment of ESU's Distinguished Guest Lecture Series. Today we are honored to present the remarks of His Excellency Gromulak, Overlord Chieftan of the R'Qqharbian Cess-Mutants.

[raucous applause, cheering]

EMILY PETERSON

Before we begin, I would like to remind all of you of the audience ground rules. First, please turn off all cell phones and pagers. Second, expressions of intolerance—placards, demonstrations, coughing, or sudden movements of any kind—will not be tolerated. Third, His Excellency has requested that all non-mutant Wo-Mans in menses cycle conceal themselves beneath an R'Qqharbian Shroud of Disgrace, which are available in the ballroom lobby. Your cooperation in following these rules will ensure a learning environment of open free speech. I would also remind you that violators will be escorted from the hall. To present Mr. Gromulak, please welcome President Whitworth.

[smattered applause, hisses]

And if you think this piece is "hurtful to Muslims" so far, just read the rest:

<http://iowahawk.typepad.com/iowahawk/2007/09/sewer-side-chat.html>

Child of Chomsky

Last week, during an exchange of views with Andrew Breitbart about politics in the film industry, the Hollywood journalist David Ehrenstein made a very revealing statement:

"...I'm not so sure about the 'love my country' bit as I'm markedly disenchanted with the entire concept of all nation-states. Move an inch beyond language and culture and their meaning and purpose almost invariably mirrors that of the Crips and the Bloods."

This tells us all we need to know. Nowadays a great many among the *bien pensant* elite think that way, but refrain from trumpeting it to the world. By doing just that, Mr. Ehrenstein makes himself a poster-child for the moral and intellectual bankruptcy of transnational progressivism. He can be "markedly disenchanted" with anything he chooses. But when the Islamofascists come after his gay arse, who does he expect to defend him, the Crips and the Bloods?

—Don John

http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-op-dustup25sep25_0,817752.full.story

What Bill O'Reilly Really Told Me

by Juan Williams, 28 Sept 2007

...But this is an attempt to take down O'Reilly and dismiss anyone offering him support — me. This is along the lines of telling anyone who calls attention to the excesses of hip-hop culture a "self-hating" black man and skewering anyone who dares to say there is a crisis in black America because of the high dropout rates, high crime rates and high out-of-wedlock birth rates. That is what happened to another well-known Bill, Bill Cosby, after he spoke out about the self-destructive images and behavior in the black community.

The critics want to shut up Cosby, O'Reilly, me and anyone else who points out the crisis in black America. They want anyone who dares to speak publicly about problems in black America to fear being called a racist, if they are white, or a "Happy Negro" if they are black. They want silence so they can continue to make money by distorting black life and allowing black on black murder rates to climb along with the black dropout rate and the black poverty rate.

The critics want to paralyze efforts to help those locked in poverty and too often in a criminal culture where acceptance of drug use and violence becomes acceptable. They don't want black people to be known as Americans with a long distinguished history of patriotism, reverence for education and a willingness to fight for America's ideals — justice for all — despite the harsh facts of slavery and legal segregation.

They prefer to bash anyone who points out their tragic, mindless willingness to sell out the history and pride of black people to make a buck. But take this from the "Happy Negro." The critics are some Sad People.

Read the whole piece: <http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1666573,00.html>

JFK's no-good brother thinks "perceived gender identity" is key to national defense

<http://thehill.com/byron-york/kennedys-defense-priorities-2007-09-28.html>

Peggy Noonan, in the uncharacteristically glib piece below, doesn't understand that Ahmadinejad is much worse than Khrushchev and Castro combined. He is, in fact, incapable of conversation. His appearances at Columbia and the National Press Club proved it—but observers of world politics who are capable of being honest with themselves knew that years ago. In addition, Khrushchev and Castro spoke only at the U.N., and not as invited guests at major American institutions. And would the same people who invited Ahmadinejad in 2007 have invited P.W. Botha in the 1980s? Go ahead: try and say Yes with a straight face!

Suzanne Fields, in contrast, hits one out of the park.

—Don John

Hear, Hear

Americans should not fear talking—and listening—to those whose views we loathe.

by Peggy Noonan, 28 Sept 2007

<http://www.opinionjournal.com/columnists/pnoonan/?id=110010659>

The Frivolity of Evil

by Suzanne Fields, 27 September 2007

<http://www.creators.com/opinion/suzanne-fields/the-frivolity-of-evil.html>

"It is a paradoxical truth that tax rates are too high today, and tax revenues are too low, and the soundest way to raise the revenues in the long run is to cut the rates now."

—John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 1962

Our Crazy Health-Insurance System

by John Stossel September 26, 2007

...America's health-care problem is not that some people lack insurance—it's that 250 million Americans *do* have it...

...The system creates perverse incentives for everyone. Government mandates are good at doing things like that...

...Imagine if your car insurance covered oil changes and gasoline. You wouldn't care how much gas you used, and you wouldn't care what it cost. Mechanics would sell you \$100 oil changes. Prices would skyrocket.

That's how it works in health care. Patients don't ask how much a test or treatment will cost. They ask if their insurance covers it. They don't compare prices from different doctors and hospitals. (Prices do vary.) Why should they? They're not paying. (Although they do in hidden, indirect ways.)...

Read it all: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/john-stossel/our-crazy-health-insurance-system.html>

The Maestro's False Notes

by Robert Novak, 24 Sept 2007

...I have had enough contact with Greenspan to know the central banker in private is a political junkie, but I had no idea how deeply he was involved with the one Democratic president who appointed him: Bill Clinton...

...Greenspan's book ignores Reagan's tax-cutting supply-side movement as if it never happened. Seeing no inherent benefits from a lower tax burden, he accepts the Democratic deficit-reduction formula that a dollar of higher taxes is equivalent to a dollar of reduced spending...

..."The Age of Turbulence" lacks the confessional candor of the best memoirs, but it tells enough to leave intriguing questions for a future biographer. Why did three Republican presidents name a Federal Reserve chairman fundamentally opposed to the GOP's economic doctrine? Did Greenspan deceive them?

Read it all: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2007/09/the_maestros_false_notes.

Obama: Jena 6 Deserve Mantle of Rosa Parks

<http://www.scrappleface.com/?p=2696>

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's September 24 appearances at the National Press Club and Columbia University were a replay of something I was involved with many years ago. At that time, I was working on a local public affairs television show. The producer was a nice, smart, well-meaning liberal. She decided to book a Ku Klux Klansman for a half-hour, one-on-one interview, and to host it herself. The guest was a major figure in the Klan's national organization—virtually its head of public relations. The producer/host really thought that she'd show him up, simply because she had truth and justice on her side. But he took her to school, then for a ride, and then to the cleaners—you name it.

That's exactly what Ahmadinejad did on Monday to idiot liberals like Lee Bollinger, John Coatsworth, Greta Van Susteren, Clarence Page, and Eleanor Clift. They did ask him a (very) few toughly-worded questions, and then on each occasion allowed him to take off on a lengthy flight of propagandistic blather which had no connection to reality, but would play very well on Al Jazeera TV. And then none of them ever countered with a challenging follow-up question!

The Klansman and Ahmadinejad are both evil, dangerous clowns. But they have one other thing in common: they are skilled, experienced professionals. The idiot liberals are rank amateurs, and it showed.

—Don John

Squalid Mistake

by Arthur Herman, September 25, 2007

The left in this country concluded long ago that this is not a war between Islamic extremist fascism and Western civilization, but a fight between Islamic "militants" and President Bush. The events of 9/11 never changed the left/liberal view that the real menace to world peace is the Bush administration and what Sen. J. William Fulbright used to call "the arrogance of American power"—much as British leftists in the early '30s assumed that the real cause of war wasn't men like Hitler or Mussolini, but capitalism and arms merchants.

One of the signs outside yesterday's events summed this view up nicely: "We refuse to choose between Islamic fundamentalism and American imperialism."

In short, too many men and women at Columbia (and on other U.S. campuses) see the War on Terror as something that they are free to judge and criticize *as if it doesn't involve them*.

Just as President Bush has the right to make his case, so the reasoning goes (yet when was the last time an administration official was given a major public forum at Columbia?), fairness demands that Ahmadinejad have the same right.

The left assumes this neutral posture puts them in the middle and keeps them safe. In fact, it leaves them nowhere.

Read the whole thing: http://www.nypost.com/seven/09252007/postopinion/opedcolumnists/squalid_mistake.htm?page=0

Lesson in Absurdity

Editorial, 25 Sept 2007

http://www.nypost.com/seven/09252007/postopinion/editorials/lesson_in_absurdity.htm

Ahmadinejad Tasered at Columbia U.

<http://www.scrappleface.com/?p=2698>

The Poverty of Liberalism

by Roger Kimball, 23 Sept 2007

...President Bollinger's sophomoric conception of free speech is precisely the sort of supine intellectualism that, if consistently embraced, would make free speech impossible. President Bollinger primly lectures us that "It should never be thought that merely to listen to ideas we deplore in any way implies our endorsement of those ideas, or the weakness of our resolve to resist those ideas," etc. But he is quite wrong about that. By providing a madman like Ahmadinejad with a platform at Columbia University, President Bollinger has in effect welcomed him into the community of candid reasoners. He has granted him a patent of legitimacy that no amount of "dialogue and reason" can dissipate. In this case, "listening" is indeed tantamount to an endorsement. It reduces free speech to a species of political capitulation and renders dialogue indistinguishable from a suicide pact...

...The spectacle of these left-wing academics repudiating men like Larry Summers and Donald Rumsfeld even as they abase themselves scrambling to find excuses for welcoming a fanatic like Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to the halls of a great American University is disgusting. I think again of Bagehot's observation that "History is strewn with the wrecks of nations which have gained a little progressiveness at the cost of a great deal of hard manliness, and have thus prepared themselves for destruction as soon as the movements of the world gave a chance for it." Are we really willing to let ourselves--our ideals, our way of life--be carelessly traduced by a rancid leftism so enfeebled that it can no longer distinguish between free speech and suicide? We are even now in the process of answer that question. How we answer it will determine a lot more than the issue of who gets to speak on American college campuses.

Read it all: <http://www.newcriterion.com/weblog/2007/09/poverty-of-liberalism.html>

Illegal aliens and the Fourteenth Amendment.

What 'Subject to the jurisdiction thereof' really means

by P.A. Madison, 22 Sept 2007

http://www.federalistblog.us/2007/09/revisiting_subject_to_the_jurisdiction/

Pope Benedict speaks out for religious liberty

21 Sept 2007

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/worldnews.html?in_article_id=483202&in_page_id=1811

<http://www.oecumene.radiovaticana.org/en1/Articolo.asp?c=156413>

http://littlegreenfootballs.com/weblog/?entry=27155_Pope_Speaks_Out_About_Islamic_Repression&only

Meanwhile, al-Associated Press ignores any hint that His Holiness was chiding Muslims:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jaUw5Mnm7ZagGFbrCWGrB9RwX0Iw>



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/cjd/1418632004>

From the photographer, Dean Shaddock: "This was captured as I collected my things from airport security (Detroit Metro Concourse A). I think of it as something like a Rorschach test. Is an elderly Catholic nun being frisked by a Muslim security agent the celebration of blind justice? Or is it simply an admission of absurdity?"

Petition: Stand by the Mission

<http://victorycaucus.com/standbythemission>

The two longish pieces below are outstanding. The centrist Orson Scott Card presents an array of fascinating facts about WW2, and acute analysis of our present war.

David Horowitz has written an eloquent, cogent reply to the oft-repeated lies of the Left—specifically, in this case, the calumnies spread by the idiot android Al Gore in his ridiculous tome *The Assault on Reason*. Much of this ground has been covered before, many times. But since the Left persists in playing an endless Moral Equivalency Fugue of "Bush lied/illegal war/Zionism/Saddam's sovereignty/blood for oil/torture/Halliburton/imperialism," then the Right has the right to counter it with an equally long fugue called The Truth.

Learning from History

by Orson Scott Card, 3 June 2007

<http://www.omery.org/essays/warwatch/2007-06-03-1.html>

Why We Went to War in Iraq

by David Horowitz, 29 June 2007

<http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/Read.aspx?GUID=4BE67C8A-101F-4BDB-8BE7-855DBF1AD099>

25 Senate Democrats Support "Betray Us"—including Hillary

by Ed Morrissey, 20 Sept 2007

The Senate passed the Jon Cornyn amendment condemning the MoveOn.org ad that called General David Petraeus a liar and potential traitor, [72-25](#). All 25 Senators who voted in support of these smears against an American military commander that they unanimously promoted to four stars came from the Democratic Party. It includes two declared presidential candidates and the top leadership of the Senate Democratic Caucus.

Those who voted to support MoveOn's smear:

Akaka (D-HI), Bingaman (D-NM), Boxer (D-CA), Brown (D-OH), Byrd (D-WV), Clinton (D-NY), Dodd (D-CT), Durbin (D-IL), Feingold (D-WI), Harkin (D-IA), Inouye (D-HI), Kennedy (D-MA), Kerry (D-MA), Lautenberg (D-NJ), Levin (D-MI), Menendez (D-NJ), Murray (D-WA), Reed (D-RI), Reid (D-NV), Rockefeller (D-WV), Sanders (I-VT), Schumer (D-NY), Stabenow (D-MI), Whitehouse (D-RI), Wyden (D-OR)

Read the rest: <http://www.captainsquartersblog.com/mt/archives/013457.php>

Hot Air.com shows Jack Murtha confronted about Haditha accusations

18 Sept 2007

Here's video of Rep. Jack Murtha being directly confronted over repeatedly accusing the Haditha Marines of murdering Iraqis ["in cold blood."](#) The man confronting Murtha is Jason Mattera, of [Young America's Foundation](#). You may remember Jason for his [eloquent statement regarding CAIR's attempt to silence Robert Spencer](#).

<http://hotair.com/archives/2007/09/18/hot-air-tv-rep-jack-murtha-confronted-about-haditha-accusations/>

"To the progressive mind, the very concept of 'the enemy' is obsolescent: there are no enemies, just friends whose grievances we haven't yet accommodated."

—Mark Steyn, *America Alone*, 2006

"We are not fighting so that you will offer us something. We are fighting to eliminate you."

—Hussein Massawi, ex-Hezbollah leader

"One of the most noble things you can do is kill the enemy."

—Maj. Douglas A. Zembiec (Fallujah, 2004)

Anbar Awakens Part II: Hell is Over

by Michael Totten, 18 Sept 2007

This is the second in a two-part series.

Check it out. The photos of hopeful, peaceful Iraqis are great:

<http://www.michaeltotten.com/archives/001517.html>

Former IDF officer Yoni Tidi on what Israel did in Syria, and why

Hugh Hewitt Show, 17 Sept 2007

YT: What we did on the 6th of September is we inserted elite ground troops into Syria on the eastern side of Syria near the Euphrates River in a region that's called Deir Ez-Zour, and these elite units on the ground assisted a flight of F-15s in destroying two locations in Syria. One location, which nobody is talking about anymore, was a major weapons depot of weapons that had been shipped from Iran to Syria, for then trans-shipment into Lebanon to Hezbollah, which included long range missiles that could hit the whole state of Israel. And the second location was a facility that was storing equipment that had arrived in Syria on the 3rd of September from North Korea that was nuclear weapons components.

HH: Now what kind of components would they be sending through to Syria, on their way to Iran, I assume?

YT: No, on their way to Syria.

HH: What is... Syria doesn't have a program, do they?

YT: Syria's trying to jump start a program.

HH: Now first of all, tell us your sources for this stuff.

YT: Guys I used to work with.

Read the rest:

<http://hughhewitt.townhall.com/talkradio/transcripts/Transcript.aspx?ContentGuid=66c6885b-851b-45e3-9dce-b6b464a77afc>

Bashing Bush with Greenspan

The pedantic economist speaks plainly about his support for the Iraq war—and liberals misquote him.

by Jonah Goldberg, 18 Sept 2007

...Greenspan wrote that the Iraq war was "largely about oil," according to an excerpt in the Washington Post on Saturday. The statement quickly raced around the globe, with headlines like this one from Britain's Daily Telegraph: "Iraq was about oil—Greenspan attacks U.S. motivation for war." The Independent began its own editorial by

declaring: "The credibility of President George Bush's policy on Iraq has suffered another devastating blow. It is all the more powerful for having come not from a political enemy but from someone who was showered with plaudits by the administration." The quoted phrase ran through the Sunday news shows and the blogosphere like a bad intestinal virus...

...We should clear the air about something. Greenspan claims that the quote was taken out of context. Greenspan called the Post—Bob Woodward, no less—to say that, in fact, he didn't think the White House was motivated by oil. Rather, *he* was. A Post story Monday explained that Greenspan had long favored Saddam Hussein's ouster because the Iraqi dictator was a threat to the Strait of Hormuz, through which much of the world's oil passes every day. Hussein could have sent the price of oil way past \$100 a barrel, which would have inflicted chaos on the global economy.

In other words, Greenspan favored the war on the grounds that it would stabilize the flow of oil, even though that wasn't the war's political underpinning. "I was not saying that that's the administration's motive," Greenspan told Woodward, "I'm just saying that if somebody asked me, 'Are we fortunate in taking out Saddam?' I would say it was essential."

Read it all: <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-goldberg18sep18,0,6583630.column?coll=la-opinion-righttrail>

We Haven't Won in Iraq, but al Qaida Has Lost

by Jack Kelly, 18 Sept 2007

Honoring Ahmed Shah Massoud (1953-2001) and Sheikh Abdul Sattar Abu Risha (1972-2007).

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2007/09/we_havent_won_in_iraq_but_al_q.html

Iraq veteran from N.Y. urges Clinton, Schumer and Congress to choose victory

by Sgt. Jeff Nuding, 16 Sept 2007

http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2007/09/16/2007-09-16_iraq_veteran_from_ny_urges_clinton_schum.html

Looking for love in all the wrong places

by Mark Steyn, 16 Sept 2007

...9/11, said Gov. Patrick, "was a mean and nasty and bitter attack on the United States."...9/11, he continued, "was also a failure of human beings to understand each other, to learn to love each other."...

...We should beware anyone who seeks to explain 9/11 by using the words "each other"...

...Unfortunately, the obsolescent 1970s multiculti love-groove inclinations of society at large are harder to dislodge. If you'll forgive such judgmental categorizations, this isn't about "them," it's about "us." The long-term survival of any society depends on what proportion of its citizens thinks as Gov. Patrick does. Islamism is an opportunist enemy but you can't blame them for seeing the opportunity: In that sense, they understand us far more clearly than Gov. Patrick understands them...

...in an excellent jest on Western illusions, Fritz was converted to Islam while attending the *Multi-Kultur-Haus*— the Multicultural House. It was, in fact, avowedly unicultural – an Islamic center run by a jihadist imam...

...that's one of the benefits of a multicultural world: There are so many fascinating diverse cultures, and most of them look best reduced to rubble strewn with body parts...

...Why do radical imams seek to convert young Canadian, British and even American men and women in their late teens and twenties? Because they understand that when you raise a generation in the great wobbling blancmange of Deval Patrick-style cultural relativism – nothing is any better or any worse than anything else; if people are "mean and nasty" to us, it's only because we didn't sing enough Barney the Dinosaur songs at them – in such a world a certain percentage of its youth will have a great gaping hole where their sense of identity should be. And into that hole you can pour something fierce and primal and implacable...

Read the whole thing: <http://www.ocreger.com/opinion/patrick-gov-fritz-1846085-love-massachusetts>

This is a terrific piece: what some (but not I) would call a "must read."—Don John

Defeat at Any Price

Why Petraeus's testimony was a nightmare for the Democrats.

by David Gelernter, 15 Sept 2007 (Sept 24 issue)

...The issue isn't tactics—doesn't concern the draw-down that the administration has forecast and General Petraeus has now discussed, or how this draw-down should work, or how specific such talk ought to be. The issue is deeper. It's time for Americans to ask some big questions. *Do leading Democrats want America to win this war? Have they ever?*

Of course not—and not because they are traitors. To leading Democrats such as Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, Al Gore and John Edwards, *America would be better off if she lost*. And this has been true from the start.

To rephrase the question: Why did Harry Reid announce months ago that the war was lost when it wasn't, and everyone knew it wasn't? The wish is father to the deed. He was envisioning the world of his dreams.

The Democrats' embrace of defeat is inspired by no base desire to see Americans killed or American resources wasted. But let's be honest about it, and invite the Democrats to be honest too.

Appeasement, pacifism, globalism: Those are the Big Three principles of the Democratic left. Each one has been defended by serious people; all are philosophically plausible, or at least arguable. But they are unpopular (especially the first two) with the U.S. public, and so the Democrats rarely make their views plain. We must infer their ideas from their (usually) guarded public statements....

Read it all: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/014/117vzffl.asp>

Creating Activists At Ed School

by John Leo, 12 Sept 2007

In 1997, the National Association of Social Work (NASW) altered its ethics code, ruling that all social workers must promote social justice "from local to global level." This call for mandatory advocacy raised the question: what kind of political action did the highly liberal field of social work have in mind? The answer wasn't long in coming. The Council on Social Work Education, the national accreditor of social work education programs, says candidates must fight "oppression," and sees American society as pervaded by the "global interconnections of oppression." Now aspiring social workers must commit themselves, usually in writing, to a culturally left agenda, often including diversity programs, state-sponsored redistribution of income, and a readiness to combat heterosexism, ableism, and classism.

This was all too much for the National Association of Scholars. The NAS has just released a six-month study of social work education, examining the ten largest programs at public universities for which information was available. The report, "The Scandal of Social Work Education," says these programs "have lost sight of the difference between instruction and indoctrination to a scandalous extent. They have, for the most part, adopted an official ideological line, closing off debate on many questions that serious students of public policy would admit to be open to the play of contending viewpoints."....

Read it all: <http://www.mindingthecampus.com/originals/2007/09/post.html>

Summary of the NAS study:

http://www.nas.org/nas-initiatives/CSWE-initiative/soswe_scandal/executive_summary_soswe.htm

The entire study, in PDF format:

http://www.nas.org/nas-initiatives/CSWE-initiative/soswe_scandal/scandal_soc-work-ed_11sep07.pdf

Silence far from golden when a Prez wanna-be is afraid to talk the talk

by Michael Goodwin, 16 Sept 2007

...something is lost—say, credibility—when the candidate can't be bothered to answer tough questions or gives the impression she's afraid of them. For somebody who has a good shot of being President, it's time to start acting like one.

In that spirit, here are a few sample questions this inquiring mind wants to ask:

How many conversations have you had with con man Norman Hsu?

Where do you think he got the gazillions he gave Democrats?

What, if any, policies did he support or favors did he seek?

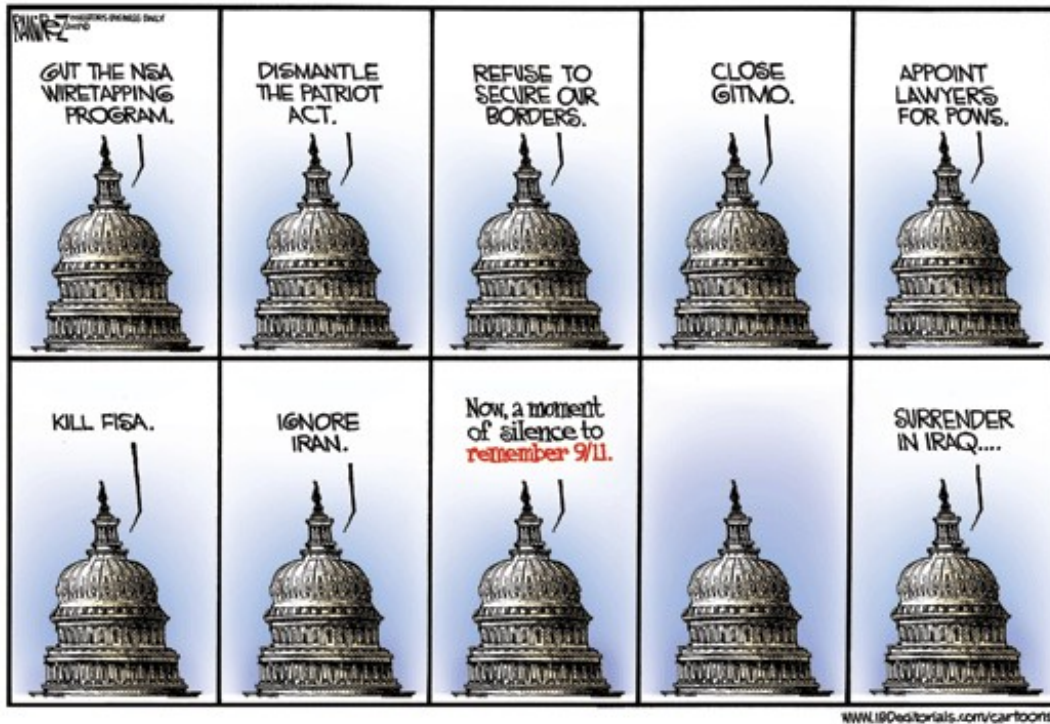
On Iraq, why did you say the troop surge was working in August, yet suggest Petraeus was lying about its gains?

You say you will bring the troops home and you voted to cut off funding, but also said you believe America needs to keep a force in Iraq to fight terrorists. Explain the contradiction.

What is your plan to defeat Al Qaeda in Iraq and elsewhere?

Read the whole thing:

http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2007/09/16/2007-09-16_silence_far_from_golden_when_a_prez_wann.html



by Michael Ramirez, 12 Sept 2007 Hat tip: Jim K.
<http://www.ibdeditorials.com/IMAGES/CARTOONS/toon091207.gif>

A quick history lesson: America is no Rome

The tired analogy of imperial decline and fall
 by Gerard Baker, 14 Sept 2007

...if America is to emerge from Iraq with a renewed sense of its global role, you shouldn't really debate the motives of those who lead US forces there. Because in the end what they are doing is deeply honourable – fighting to destroy an enemy that delights in killing women and children; rebuilding a nation ruined by rapine and savagery; trying to bridge sectarian divides that have caused more misery in the world than the US could manage if it lasted a thousand years.

It is helpful to think about Iraq this way. Imagine if the US had never been there; and that this sectarian strife had broken out in any case – as, one day it surely would, given the hatreds engendered by a thousand years of Muslim history and the efforts of Saddam Hussein.

What would we in the West think about it? What would we think of as our responsibilities? There would be some who would want to wash their hands of it. There would be others who would think that UN resolutions and diplomatic initiatives would be enough to salve our consciences if not to stop the slaughter.

But many of us surely would think we should do something about it – as we did in the Balkans more than a decade ago – and as, infamously, we failed to do in Africa at the same time. And we would know that, for all our high ideals and our soaring rhetoric, there would be only one country with the historical commitment to make massive sacrifices in the defence of the lives and liberty of others, the leadership to mobilise efforts to relieve the suffering and, above all, the economic and military wherewithal to make it happen.

That's the only really workable analogy between the US and Rome. When Rome fell, the world went dark for the best part of a millennium. America may not be an empire. But whatever it is, for the sake of humanity, pray it lasts at least as long as Rome.

Read it all: http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/gerard_baker/article2448867.ece

"To me, 'bipartisan foreign policy' means a mutual effort, under our indispensable two-party system, to unite our official voice at the water's edge so that America speaks with maximum authority against those who would divide and conquer us and the free world.... In a word, it simply seeks *national security ahead of partisan advantage*."
 —Sen. Arthur Vandenberg (R-MI), 1947

Three Idiots in the House

All of them rely heavily on pompous, self-righteous pacifist posturing and worn-out Vietnam templates.

Robert Wexler, U.S. House (D-FL). Sept 10, 2007: "We've heard a lot today about America's credibility...How many more men and women will (be) sacrificed to protect our so-called credibility?"

<http://hughewitt.townhall.com/blog/g/cea3e07e-6962-4731-b2c9-02d953345f68>

Loretta Sanchez, U.S. House (D-CA). On 10 Sept 2007, implied that Gen. Petraeus was liar—and cited an ABC News/BBC poll (!) as 'evidence' against the surge. If there's one thing worse than an idiot in Congress, it's an idiot dripping with condescension toward a man she's not even worthy to look at.

<http://hughewitt.townhall.com/blog/g/87d0752b-a17e-4b7b-b3a9-ab6761f7b565>

And of course the king himself, **Dennis Kucinich** (D-OH). A Cleveland Plain Dealer [editorial](#) says: "His 12-point [Iraq withdrawal plan](#) includes nonexistent U.N. peacekeepers and U.S. and British reparations. His outreach to Middle Eastern leaders involves pretending that Iran's threats against Israel were mistranslations, and then making a 'peace' trip to Syria this month that amounted to a propaganda coup for Syrian President Bashar Assad. Kucinich used the opportunity to bash President Bush's policies and praise Assad on Syrian television. (Excerpts from that interview can be viewed at <http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/1550.htm>.)

Kucinich then told the Associated Press in Lebanon that he'd ruled out a visit to Iraq because he didn't want to 'bless' the 'illegal occupation.' Instead, he 'blessed' a government that harbors terrorists and is under a U.N. cloud for possible involvement in the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri."

Our New National Divide

by Owen West, 12 Sept 2007

...Those who have battled the enemy up close have always been more heavily invested in the cause. What's different is that in past wars, the nation was tied to its soldiers and had a familial barometer. Today most Americans have never met a Gold Star family, let alone shaken the hand of a fallen soldier. The military community is increasingly insulated even as the burden of global war swells. Within it there are those who drift in and out of the fight according to orders. But there is also a group that is distinctive—those who join the military to hunt the enemy for a living, and for the rest of us. Doug Zembiec was such a man.

When he first returned from Iraq, Zembiec relinquished command to his friend Maj. Ray Mendoza. Though they came from different backgrounds, like all of our warrior elite they shared an overwhelming martial calling. Doug was an all-American wrestler at Navy. Ray was the top heavyweight wrestler at Ohio State and an Olympic alternate. Their Marines used to joke that if the pair ever fought it would be like the movie "Clash of the Titans."

A year later, on Nov. 14, 2005, Mendoza was leading his company in an attack near the Syrian border when he was struck down. He was the only man killed in his company. I received an email from a lieutenant in his battalion that read, "It was leadership from the front but it's crushing."

Zembiec, who had returned to Iraq for another tour of duty, wrote to Mendoza's two young children. The note was upbeat, blunt and unapologetic. "Your father reminds us there are men willing to fight for people that they don't even know," he wrote. "Even now, as I write this letter in Iraq, I will honor him on the field of battle by slaying as many of our enemies as possible, and fight until our mission is accomplished."

Men who carry rifles for a living do not seek reward outside the guild. The most cherished gift an infantryman receives is a nod from his peers. When Zembiec, "The Lion of Fallujah," fell this May 11 while commanding a raid on insurgent forces in Baghdad, the loss was symbolic of all those men whom the rest of us aspired to be in combat: fearless guardians of our fellow soldiers and our nation...

Go ahead, read the whole piece without emotion. I dare you.

<http://www.opinionjournal.com/extra/?id=110010592>

Indoctrination in the Classroom

by Mark Bauerlein, 12 Sept 2001

...Professor Kilmer worries that a student who "**is resistant to feminist theories and ideas**" may sit in her class as a "plant," someone to incriminate her and send her upstairs for punishment. That's how she interprets uncongenial students, and it's an astounding conversion.

In her class, any student who contests feminist notions falls under a cloud of suspicion. The ordinary run of skeptics, obstructionists, gadflies, wiseacres, and sulkers that show up in almost every undergraduate classroom is recast as an ideological cadre. If a student in a marketing class were to dispute the morality of the whole endeavor, no doubt liberal professors would salute him as a noble dissenter. But when he criticizes feminism, he violates a trust. He doesn't just pose intellectual disagreement. He transgresses classroom protocol...

Read it all; it's terrific: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2007/09/teaching_as_indoctrination.html

Anbar Awakens Part I: The Battle of Ramadi

by Michael Totten, 10 Sept 2007

<http://www.michaeltotten.com/archives/001514.html>

Has MoveOn Betrayed the Democratic Party?

The meaning of the "General Betray Us" ad.

by Byron York, 10 Sept 2007

<http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=NGVINTM2NzgwN2Q1Yjk3Zjk5NTlmNGI3OGMxNmFmM2M=>

Moveon.org hits the bottom

posted by Paul Mirengoff, 10 Sept 2007

<http://powerlineblog.com/archives/2007/09/018424.php>

Report to Congress on the Status of Iraq

by Gen. David Petraeus, 10 Sept 2007

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/10/AR2007091001102_pf.html

No terrorism, just war?

by Mark Steyn, 9 Sept 2007

...The law firm Motley Rice, diversifying from its traditional lucrative class-action hunting grounds of tobacco, asbestos and lead paint, is promising to put on the witness stand everybody who "allowed the events of 9/11 to happen." And they mean everybody – American Airlines, United, Boeing, the airport authorities, the security firms – everybody, that is, except the guys who did it.

According to the Times, many of the bereaved are angry and determined that their loved one's death should have meaning. Yet the meaning they're after surely strikes our enemies not just as extremely odd but as one more reason why they'll win. You launch an act of war, and the victims respond with a lawsuit against their own countrymen.

But that's the American way: Almost every news story boils down to somebody standing in front of a microphone and announcing that he's retained counsel. Last week, it was Larry Craig. Next week, it'll be the survivors of Ahmadinejad's nuclear test in Westchester County. As Andrew McCarthy pointed out, a legalistic culture invariably misses the forest for the trees. Sen. Craig should know that what matters is not whether an artful lawyer can get him off on a technicality but whether the public thinks he trawls for anonymous sex in public bathrooms. Likewise, those 9/11 families should know that, if you want your child's death that morning to have meaning, what matters is not whether you hound Boeing into admitting liability but whether you insist that the movement that murdered your daughter is hunted down and the sustaining ideological virus that led thousands of others to dance up and down in the streets cheering her death is expunged from the earth...

Read it all: <http://www.ocreger.com/opinion/war-morning-state-1841733-security-week>

'America the Ugly'

Six years after 9/11, it's notable how little the politics of the left have changed.

by Norman Podhoretz, 11 Sept 2007

In the immediate aftermath of the attacks on us that took place on this very day six years ago, several younger commentators proclaimed the birth of an entirely new era in American history. What Dec. 7, 1941, had done to the old isolationism, they announced, Sept. 11, 2001, had done to the Vietnam syndrome. It was politically dead, and the cultural fallout of that war—all the damaging changes wrought by the 1960s and '70s—would now follow it into the grave...

...Having broken ranks with the left in the late '60s precisely because I was repelled by the "negative faith in America the ugly" that had come to pervade it, I naturally welcomed this new patriotic mood with open arms. It seemed to me a sign of greater intellectual sanity and moral health, and I fervently hoped that it would last.

But I could not fully share the heady confidence of my younger political friends that the change was permanent, and that nothing in American politics and American culture would ever be the same again. As a veteran of the political and cultural wars of the '60s, I knew from my own scars that no matter how small and insignificant a group the anti-Americans of the left might for the moment look to the naked eye, they had it in them to rise and grow again...

Read the rest: <http://opinionjournal.com/extra/?id=110010589>

What's in a name?

World War IV: The Long Struggle Against Islamofascism, by Norman Podhoretz; Doubleday, 240 pages, \$24.95.
Reviewed by Mark Steyn (*New Criterion*, September 2007)

...The book, after all, is not primarily concerned with the enemy so much as with the instinct of all the most critical institutions in our society to recoil even from the very concept of "the enemy." From the first chapter—"The 9/11 Blame Game"—to the penultimate—"Defeatism on the Right"—the author is preoccupied not with this or that jihadist branch office or nuclearizing Muslim dictatorship, but with "isolationists," "liberal internationalists," "realists," "the mainstream media," and other features of the home front. I used to think that these were simply speed bumps en route to the real battlefield, but as the years go by I've moved closer to Podhoretz's view—that they're far more central to what is not so much a "long struggle against Islamofascism" but a long struggle to muster the will to wage a long struggle, *any* long struggle, against anyone...

Read it all: <http://newcriterion.com:81/archives/26/09/whats-in-a-name/>

Osama bin Olbermann's video rant

September 9, 2007

Much of Osama bin Laden's recent video could have been written by MoveOn.org, the Kos Kidz, or other Satanic leftists. Some observers think it was actually written by [Adam Gadahn](#), who after all is only a step removed from Kos and MoveOn types.

Osama spouts anti-capitalist, anti-Christian talking points; buys into global warming hysteria (including the Kyoto treaty!); questions everything Christendom has ever done, and blames America for each and every one of the world's current problems. He even recommends Noam Chomsky and Michael Scheuer—by name! It's true that OBL hasn't yet endorsed abortion "rights," gay marriage, or embryonic stem cell research. But he did want Terri Schiavo to die. In fact, he wants us ALL to die.

Here are some interesting takes on the story:

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/contentions/index.php/schoenfeld/898>

<http://gatewaypundit.blogspot.com/2007/09/osama-bin-laden-keith-olberman-same.html>

<http://hotair.com/archives/2007/09/07/us-intel-new-osama-tape-is-authentic-and-recently-produced/>

<http://newsbusters.org/blogs/noel-sheppard/2007/09/08/nyt-s-david-brooks-bin-laden-sounds-like-lefty-blogger>

http://littlegreenfootballs.com/weblog/?entry=26958_Osama_Bin_Laden-_A_Chomsky_Fan&only

Read the full transcript (PDF format): <http://abcnews.go.com/images/Politics/transcript2.pdf>

Or let Hugh Hewitt read it to you: <http://hughhewitt.townhall.com/TalkRadio/Show.aspx?RadioShowID=5&ContentGuid=ec286e32-bb07-4ee1-af34-16ecabe6f2b6>

Listening In

Congress, wiretapping and Ma Bell.

Editorial, 8 Sept 2007

When the German government announced arrests this week in a terrorist plot against American and German targets inside Germany, one telling detail got little notice: Two of the suspects were identified, in part, based on telephone conversations intercepted by American intelligence...

...If they lack the votes, liberals are already working on a Plan B, which is to try to scare U.S. telecommunications companies from cooperating with the NSA. This would be accomplished by denying them immunity from civil lawsuits. Verizon and AT&T are among the companies already sued, and they face billions of dollars in potential liability.

The Protect America Act that passed last month gave the phone companies protection from civil liability for the six-month duration of the law, but it offered no protection for their earlier cooperation in the aftermath of 9/11. The White House

requested such retrospective immunity, but it was blocked by Democrats. A cynic might conclude this is one more example of Democrats doing the bidding of their tort lawyer financiers. But let's assume their motives aren't that ugly.

That still leaves Democrats tacitly endorsing a strategy of using lawsuits to gut the wiretapping program. Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell has said that the potential liabilities are of an order of magnitude sufficient to bankrupt some of our biggest telcos. And even if the suits are ultimately deemed meritless in court, they could well involve sufficient costs to make the companies wary of cooperating in the future. It has already been reported that at least some phone companies are contemplating suing the government to block the enforcement of any wiretapping law that does not immunize them. That's how seriously they take the liability risk.

Read the rest: <http://www.opinionjournal.com/weekend/hottopic/?id=110010578>

A little-reported win for the good guys:

Lebanese cheer victorious troops, but military warns war on terror continuing

Associated Press, 4 Sept 2007

BEIRUT—Thousands of Lebanese on Tuesday lined roads and cheered troops triumphant after crushing al-Qaida-inspired Islamic militants in a three-month-long battle that became the country's worst internal fighting since the 1975-90 civil war. But military leaders warned that the war on terror is not yet over and asked the international community to help arm the country's military...

Defense Minister Elias Murr told reporters that a total of 222 Fatah Islam militants had been killed and 202 captured. The army lost 163 soldiers in the fighting which erupted May 20 and ended Sunday with the army's final assault after the militants attempted a breakout from Nahr el-Bared.

At least 20 civilians were also killed in the three-month standoff that had forced the camp's more than 30,000 refugees to flee. The dead included Fatah Islam leader Shaker al-Absi, whose wife has identified his body at a hospital morgue but an official confirmation of his death is awaiting DNA test results.

Pro-government factions have accused Fatah Islam of being a client of Syrian military intelligence assigned to spread chaos in Lebanon. But military officers on Tuesday reiterated claims that the group is linked with al-Qaida.

"Al-Qaida was in constant contact with Fatah Islam," said Brig. Gen. George Khoury, Lebanon's military intelligence chief. "Fatah Islam was totally linked to al-Qaida," he added without elaborating. Khoury also said that large quantities of weapons and ammunition, including machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and explosives have been seized in the fighting. Despite Fatah Islam's collapse here, "we shall continue the war on terror," he said.

Read it all: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/09/04/africa/ME-GEN-Lebanon-Fatah-Islam.php>

What really happened to the Crescent City: told by a New Orleans native who ran for mayor in 1970.

New Orleans—An Autopsy

by Ben C. Toledano, September 2007 issue of Commentary

<http://www.classicalmusicguide.com/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?p=178416&sid=23d5962d4f40aae1fdc0c42f517d2a01>

The Peace Racket

by Bruce Bawer, 2 Sept 2007

"If you want peace, prepare for war," counseled the Roman general Flavius Vegetius Renatus more than 1,600 years ago, echoing the sage advice given nine centuries earlier by the Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu. But in a film I saw recently at Oslo's Nobel Peace Center, this ancient wisdom was turned on its head: "If you want peace," it said, "prepare for peace."

This purports to be wise counsel, a motto for the millennium. In reality, it's wishful thinking that doesn't follow logically from the history of war, the real lesson of which is the one that Sun Tzu and Vegetius taught: Conflict happens, power matters, and it's better to be strong than to be weak. Human history has demonstrated repeatedly that you're safer if your enemies know you'll stand up for yourself than if you're proudly outspoken about your defenselessness or your unwillingness to fight. Yet this truth is denied not only by the Nobel Peace Center film but by the fast-growing, troubling movement that the center symbolizes and promotes....

Read the whole thing: http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-op-bawer2sep02_0,2697346.story?coll=la-opinion-righttrail

Congress will soon be revisiting, yet again, the Law of the Sea Treaty ("LOST"). The U.S. Navy, oil and gas companies, environmentalists, and the State Department all want it ratified. It also has the support of many senators, including Richard Lugar (RINO-IN). **But the treaty would seriously undermine U.S. sovereignty and security—which is why President Reagan rejected it in 1983.** UN weasels and other transnationalists have been making minor cosmetic changes over the years, to make it more palatable—but it's still a bucket of turds. Here's what Frank Gaffney had to say about it in early 2005:

Protect U.S. sovereignty: Sink the Law of the Sea

<http://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/Home.aspx?SID=66&SubCategoryID=44>

Republicans can become the heroes on two hitherto Democrat issues: equal pay and flex-time.

What Women Want

How the GOP can woo the ladies.

by Kimberley A. Strassel, 31 Aug 2007

<http://www.opinionjournal.com/columnists/kstrasselpw/?id=110010543>

"I was forced to fictionalize things that were actually real." —Brian DePalma, director of fake films about supposed American atrocities in Vietnam (*Casualties of War*, 1989) and Iraq (*Redacted*, 2007).

http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=entertainmentNews&storyid=2007-08-31T150344Z_01_L31903844_RTRUKOC_0_US-VENICE-IRAQ.xml&src=rss&rpc=22&sp=true

Here's a fascinating summary of five years of media bias about Iraq.

It contains more than 100 links to original sources.

The Big Picture(s) by Karl, 29 Aug 2007

<http://proteinwisdom.com/?p=9678>

"Why should humans get priority over other forms of life?"

—Jeff Hoffman, environmental attorney

How can we expect people like this to support their country, when they don't even support their SPECIES?

But no one has ever been more loyal to his country than Sirik Matak (1914-1975):

The Left Shudders

And Bush leads.

by William Kristol, 26 Aug 2007 (Sept 3 issue)

Like a pig in muck, the left loves to wallow in Vietnam. But only in their "Vietnam." Not in the real Vietnam war. Not in the Vietnam war of 1963-68, the disastrous years where policy was shaped by the best and brightest of American liberalism. Not in the Vietnam war of 1969-73, when Richard Nixon and General Creighton Abrams managed to adjust our strategy, defeat the enemy, and draw down American troops all at once—an achievement affirmed and rewarded by the American electorate in November 1972. Not in the Vietnam of early 1975, when the Democratic Congress insisted on cutting off assistance to our allies in South Vietnam and Cambodia, thereby inviting the armies of the North and the Khmer Rouge to attack. And not in the defeats of April 1975. As the American left celebrated from New York to Hollywood, in Phnom Penh former Cambodian prime minister Sirik Matak wrote to John Gunther Dean, the American ambassador, turning down his offer of evacuation:

Dear Excellency and Friend:

I thank you very sincerely for your letter and for your offer to transport me towards freedom. I cannot, alas, leave in such a cowardly fashion. As for you, and in particular for your great country, I never believed for a moment that you would have this sentiment of abandoning a people which has chosen liberty. You have refused us your protection, and we can do nothing about it. You leave, and my wish is that you and your country will find happiness under this sky. But, mark it well, that if I shall die here on the spot and in my country that I love, it is no matter, because we all are born and must die. I have only committed this mistake of believing in you, the Americans.

Please accept, Excellency and dear friend, my faithful and friendly sentiments.

S/Sirik Matak

The Khmer Rouge took Phnom Penh a few days later. Sirik Matak was executed: shot in the stomach, he was left without medical help and took three days to die. Between 1 and 2 million Cambodians were murdered by the Khmer Rouge in the next three years. Next door, tens of thousands of Vietnamese were killed, and many more imprisoned. Hundreds of thousands braved the South China Sea to reach freedom...

Read the whole column: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/014/016tnyms.asp>

Lizardoids Refute Hitchens piece 'A Blunder Too Far for Bush'

Kulthur, Darleen, Yanqui in Europe, Wanumba, et al. challenge Christopher Hitchens—and Charles Johnson, too!

25 Aug 2007

See comments #17, 18, 23, 24, 27, 69, 84, and 88.

http://littlegreenfootballs.com/weblog/?entry=26812_Hitchens-_A_Blunder_Too_Far_for_Bush—comments

Iraq Vets Respond to the 'New York Times seven'

by David Bellavia, Pete Hegseth, Michael Baumann, Carl Hartmann, David Thul, Knox Nunnally, and Joe Worley

24 Aug 2007

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/014/006bzlfl.asp>

The Horror! The Horror!

The paranoid style of the American left.

by Noemie Emery, 25 Aug 2007 (Sept 3 issue)

...[quoting Naomi Wolf] "Beneath our very noses, George Bush and his administration are using time-tested tactics to close down an open society. It is time for us to be willing to think the unthinkable....that it can happen here."

Well, this explains many things. It explains why poor Cindy Sheehan is now sitting in prison; why Bush critics like CIA retiree Valerie Plame have been ostracized by the corporate media and are wasting away in anonymity; why no critic of Bush can get a hearing, why no book complaining about him can ever get published, and why our multiplexes are filled with one pro-Bush propaganda movie after another, glorifying the Iraq war and rallying the nation behind its leader.

Meanwhile, back on planet Earth, Cindy Sheehan is running for Congress; Valerie Plame is rich and famous; the young Republican "thugs" made all of one appearance seven years ago—chanting "Let us in!" when Miami-Dade County vote counters planned to move to a small inner room with no observers present; and press censorship is now so far-reaching that you can't even expose a legal, effective, and top-secret plan to trace terrorists without getting a Pulitzer Prize...

...Here are some other choice fancies that the Party of Reason believes:

* Global warming causes both hot and cold weather, just as elections are stolen when the Democrats lose them, but are stolen too when they win.

* A country in which dissent is a flourishing industry is on the brink of a great fascist crackdown, as you can tell by all the books written attacking the president, the plays put on that call him an idiot, and the movies that call for his death.

* When exit polls indicate a different result from the actual vote count, the polls are correct and the vote count is fraudulent, a fact covered up by journalists who are (a) Democrats by something close to a nine-to-one ratio; and (b) dying to uncover a huge government scandal, so that they too can be famous like Woodward and Bernstein, make millions of dollars, and be played in the movies by Hollywood stars.

* That the Presidents Bush, from Yale and a long line of Yankees, who made the careers of the first black secretaries of state ever named in this country, are secretly longing to bring back the South of 1859.

* And, that the Republican party, whose frontrunners are a once-divorced actor (just like Ronald Reagan), a Mormon from Massachusetts by way of Michigan, and a thrice-married Italian Catholic from the streets of Brooklyn, is a shrunken husk of a regional faction, punitive, narrow, and wholly obsessed with extreme social mores, relying on extralegal repression to perpetuate itself in power. To the more intense members of the reality faction, all of this makes perfect sense...

...Over and over, they do what they claim their opponents are doing, want to do, or have done: make vast leaps of faith on almost no evidence, get carried away on large waves of emotion, build towering edifices on small collections of factoids, omit, deny, or denounce all contrary evidence, build fantastical schemes which they project on the enemy, put two and two together and get 384. People are entitled to say what they want, but it takes something other than reason to look at raging debates and discern in them fascistic oppression, to look at large Republican losses (wholly in line with a sixth-year election) and see massive fraud on the part of the losers, to look at today's South and see John Calhoun's, to draft both the Bushes (and the entire

Republican party) into the Confederate Army, 150 years after the fact. Facts on the ground have no effect on their fantasies, which exist in a realm of their own...

Read the whole thing: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/014/024nesep.asp>

All in a Day's Deception at the Good Old NYT:

New York Times spins straw from gold

by Randall Hoven, 21 Aug 2007

The *New York Times* wants you to believe that Americans are getting poorer, that our average incomes are below what they were in 2000...

...In simple terms, there was no decrease in income at all. In fact, there was a healthy increase. The NYT simply spins a story about average household size into a class warfare story...

...The *New York Times* is guilty of deception while sticking to the facts. That's an art form it has worked long and hard to master.

Read the actual facts: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2007/08/new_york_times_spins_straw_fro.html

That sort of lying is standard operating procedure at the NYT. But it reminds us particularly of something they did ten years ago with an immigration study whose findings didn't fit the leftist mindset:

...In summer 1997, there was a brief rallying of reformers when the National Academy of Sciences released a report on immigration that confirmed all the main economic conclusions of Borjas and Brimelow. No great economic gains were claimed for it, and large fiscal costs were cited. This was such a defeat for the immiphiliacs that the *New York Times* was compelled to report it under the misleading headline: "ACADEMY'S REPORT SAYS IMMIGRATION BENEFITS THE U.S.—no huge costs are cited."

—from John O'Sullivan's excellent article of 30 July 2007:

Getting Immigration Right: How conservatives blocked the open-borders establishment.

http://www.amconmag.com/2007/2007_07_30/cover.html

"If family unification were important to Elvira Arellano, she should have stayed in Mexico with her family."

—Debra Saunders, 21 Aug 2007

http://www.townhall.com/columnists/DebraJSaunders/2007/08/21/arellanos_overdue_departure

This is a very long piece, printing out to 7 1/2 pages in Times New Roman 10, with narrow margins. But it's a wonderful read: very well-written, and covering an enormous range of serious political concerns, both local and global. It is an essay for the ages. I guarantee that you'll be delighted to have read it.

The Day Reality Hit Home

by Andrew Anthony, 19 Aug 2007

The writer Andrew Anthony was a committed member of the liberal left—until the attacks of 11 September, 2001. A veteran of CND and Nicaraguan solidarity campaigns, he was astonished at the liberal left's anti-American reaction. And so he began to question other basic assumptions about race, crime and terror—a political journey he charts here, in these exclusive extracts from his compelling new book.

Read it here: <http://observer.guardian.co.uk/print/0,,330595508-102280,00.html>

Scientists hail 'frozen smoke' as material that will change world

by Abul Taher, 19 Aug 2007

...A miracle material for the 21st century could protect your home against bomb blasts, mop up oil spillages and even help man to fly to Mars...

...Aerogel is nicknamed "frozen smoke" and is made by extracting water from a silica gel, then replacing it with gas such as carbon dioxide. The result is a substance that is capable of insulating against extreme temperatures and of absorbing pollutants such as crude oil. It was invented by an American chemist for a bet in 1931, but early versions were so brittle and costly that it was largely consigned to laboratories. It was not until a decade ago that NASA started taking an interest in the substance and putting it to a more practical use.

In 1999 the space agency fitted its Stardust space probe with a mitt packed full of aerogel to catch the dust from a comet's tail. It returned with a rich collection of samples last year. In 2002 Aspen Aerogel, a company created by NASA, produced a stronger and more flexible version of the gel. It is now being used to develop an insulated lining in space suits for the first manned mission to Mars, scheduled for 2018....

...Although aerogel is classed as a solid, 99% of the substance is made up of gas, which gives it a cloudy appearance. Scientists say that because it has so many millions of pores and ridges, if one cubic centimetre of aerogel were unravelled it would fill an area the size of a football field. Its nano-sized pores can not only collect pollutants like a sponge but they also act as air pockets...

Read the rest: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/science/article2284349.ece>

Speaking of sanctuary, where's ours?

by Mark Steyn, 19 Aug 2007

...Jose Carranza is an "undocumented" immigrant. His criminal career did not begin with the triple murder he's alleged to have committed, nor with the barroom assault from earlier this year, nor with the 31 counts of aggravated sexual assault relating to the rape of a 5-year-old child, for which Mr. Carranza had been released on bail. (His \$50,000 bail on the assault charge and \$150,000 bail on the child-rape charges have now been revoked.) No, Mr. Carranza's criminal career in the United States began when he decided to live in this country unlawfully. Jose Carranza isn't exactly a member of an exclusive club. Violent crime committed by fine upstanding members of the Undocumented-American community is now a routine feature of American life.

But who cares? In 2002, as the "Washington Sniper" piled up his body count, "experts" lined up to tell the media that he was most likely an "angry white male," a "macho hunter" or an "icy loner." When the icy loner turned out to be a black Muslim named Muhammad accompanied by an illegal immigrant from Jamaica, the only angry white males around were the lads in America's newsrooms who were noticeably reluctant to abandon their thesis...

Read the whole thing: <http://www.oregister.com/opinion/newark-illegal-new-1813357-carranza-one>

Talking to Iran

by Michael A. Ledeen, 18 Aug 2007

For some time now, the chattering classes have debated whether the United States should negotiate with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Both sides have endowed the very act of negotiating with near-mythic power.

The advocates suggest that "good relations" may emerge, while opponents warn it is somehow playing into the mullahs' hands. Both seem to believe that the three recent talks in Baghdad are historically significant, since they are said to be a departure from past practice.

That claim is false. Every administration since Ayatollah Khomeini's seizure of power in 1979 has negotiated with the Iranians. Nothing positive has ever come of it, but most every president has come to believe that a "grand bargain" with Tehran can somehow be reached, if only we negotiate well enough.

Washington diplomats have steadfastly refused to see the Iranian regime for what it is: a relentless enemy that seeks to dominate or destroy us. This blindness afflicted the first American negotiators shortly after the 1979 revolution, and has been chronic ever since, even though Iran declared war on us in that year and has waged it ever since.

Read the rest: http://online.wsj.com/public/article_print/SB118739533381601535.html

The Times Prints Reprehensible "General Betraeus" Op-Ed

written by a nasty lady-moonbat, one Sarah Baxter, 19 Aug 2007

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/iraq/article2284289.ece?Submitted=true>

Fortunately, a lot of patriotic Americans read it, and went to the "Have Your Say" box to give this weaselette the beating she deserved. Some of the best:

Let's get the facts out, Larry Korb has been a critic of the war since its inception. Sarah, as for your "unnamed" recently retired general, war has never been uncontroversial. President Abraham Lincoln had to fire (retire) numerous generals during the Civil War before victory. **Michael W., Minneapolis, MN – USA**

Oh dear. You're only a couple of years away from the headline Who Lost America? Actually, the time to ask is now, but you won't. Meantime, perhaps you'll have a go at: Britain? Who Needs It? Good luck with your 'country.' **fred , los angeles**

The left is going over the cliff. This is total desperation from a party that has become shallow, power hungry, and not to be taken seriously. Are there any adults left in today's democrat party? Oh my, how sad. **Albert, Nashville, TN, USA**

"Odierno said last Friday that plans were under way to reduce troops to presurge levels by August 2008. By then the US presidential election will be only three months away and the White House is hoping to take some of the political sting out of the war." What is an attempt to make this look like political calculation on the part of the Republicans is instead a very revealing admission. If we were able to reduce troop strength by then, it would be because the surge worked and the Iraqi's can supply their own security. The liberals, of course, can't permit that so they are desperately trying to shift the "surge is not working" chant to "don't trust Petraeus". They still hope to stop the surge before it's success is too broadspread to ignore.

Michael Bardell, Alpharetta, U.S./Georgia

Petraeus "the most political General since MacArthur"? Have any of you guys ever heard of Wesley Clark? **Ron Roth, Granite City, Il.,**

Lawrence Korb, a defence official under Ronald Reagan...who said the surge would be a disaster. Now look at his assessment. And Lawrence Korb who helped craft Reagan's enabling policies towards Iran. Reagan's team was fumbling around in the dark in the 1980's trying to find the light switch then the door. They thought leaving Beirut would have no effect. People gave that advice like Collin Powell and Korb now have the audacity to armchair general while they are on the payroll of Hillary's foreign policy think tank. Why would you go to him for an opinion? He should keep his mouth shut about the mideast. His cynical "realist" strategies failed. He created the mess Patreaus is fixing. **Steve, Seattle, USA/washington**

Ah well..an interesting take here, demonizing an American General who is attempting to fight against our common enemies. I understand the mentality here. If I were a Brit and not quite comfortable with the way my navy (and, my army, in a matter of weeks) was running for the hills and abandoning its long time ally, I suppose I too would be writing articles like this one as a sop to my conscience. Some of them may actually believe it. The funny thing is, while many in the UK are pre-occupied with isolationism and appeasement , their own country is in grave danger from within and without. That becomes more clear every day. It was one of your greatest men who said, in similar times, that an appeasor is one who thinks the crocodile will eat him last. While many of my countrymen have pretty much written off Britain, I remain confident that deep down, the spark remains that once brought Britain the admiration of the free world. I suppose we'll see, cousins. **Robert, Los Angeles, California. USA**

This rant is ridiculous. There hasn't even been a report on progress yet. But Europeans and the far left in America are so invested in surrender and defeat that they are absolutely terrified that something positive might happen. It is evil. Period.

Erick Blair, Los Angeles, USA

The only Americans who doubt General Petraeus are the ones who have invested their entire political future in defeating the American effort in Iraq. One of the best American Generals, Petraeus' new strategy is working, the USA is starting to win, and the Democratic Party in America is panicking. So what do they do? Character assassination of the military leader of the next greatest generation of Americans. Progressive Liberal Socialists want power so badly in America, they will aid a foreign enemy in defeating their own country. The United States needs to have a national discussion about the definition of treason.

Davecatbone, Cincinnati, Ohio

Oh goody, let's set the table with some wonderful kool aid. Everybody ready for the Democrats version of a report, before it is given? **Tim R, ketchum, idaho**

Interesting how most of the press constantly bombard people with a certain party line, then cite polls that a large percentage of people agree with the same party line. No doubt General Petraeus has an ego and is ambitious. No one becomes a four-star general without those attributes. But that no more diminishes his accomplishments and his loyalty to his country than it did those of General MacArthur. General Petraeus is a man of honor and integrity, and so is Ambassador Crocker. Desperate Democrats, who seek political victory over all else, will do everything they can to denigrate these two men now that they know what they're going to hear is not what they want. God forbid that any policy of the hated Bush administration might be going well. **Tom, Austin, Texas**

So, here we go. The media, desperate for the U.S. to lose in Iraq, starts up the drumbeat of anticipating what Petraeus will say and rejecting his presentation before it is made. The safest prediction in the world is that we'll see a lot more articles like this one. **David, Wichita, United States**

Just look at the headline. It could just as easily read "Germans rape sheep." After all, at least one German has in fact raped a sheep (just read about it in "odd news") therefore it is perfectly acceptable, according to Sarah Baxter, to headline an article implying ALL Germans are sheep molesters. Right Sarah? I mean, I learned this by watching you you know. **EasyLiving, Denver, Colorado**

What garbage journalism. Cute nickname you made up for the general though. **q-bert, Kashmir**

Nothing like being a competent US commander and given the responsibility to lead our troops in battle, only to have the Congress that confirmed you and wished you "God Speed" desert you before the ink was dry. Now we have 'retired general' calling you a traitor—what the hell has this country turned into? Who are these retired generals? Why are they hiding behind the "press" with their confidential source nonsense. I wonder if any of these retired generals would say this crap to his face? **Steve, Newburyport, MA**

What do they mean a "Recently retired General" calling him Gen."Betraeus"? What kind of Democratic crap is that. Name the General or retract the saying. The Democrats are afraid of what Crocker/Petraeus have to say, and the good reports coming out of Iraq. Their No.2 man in the house already said so. That "Recently Retired General" wouldn't be that Clinton synchophant Gen. Clark would it?? What a clown act. **Ron Moore, Harbor Springs, Michigan USA**

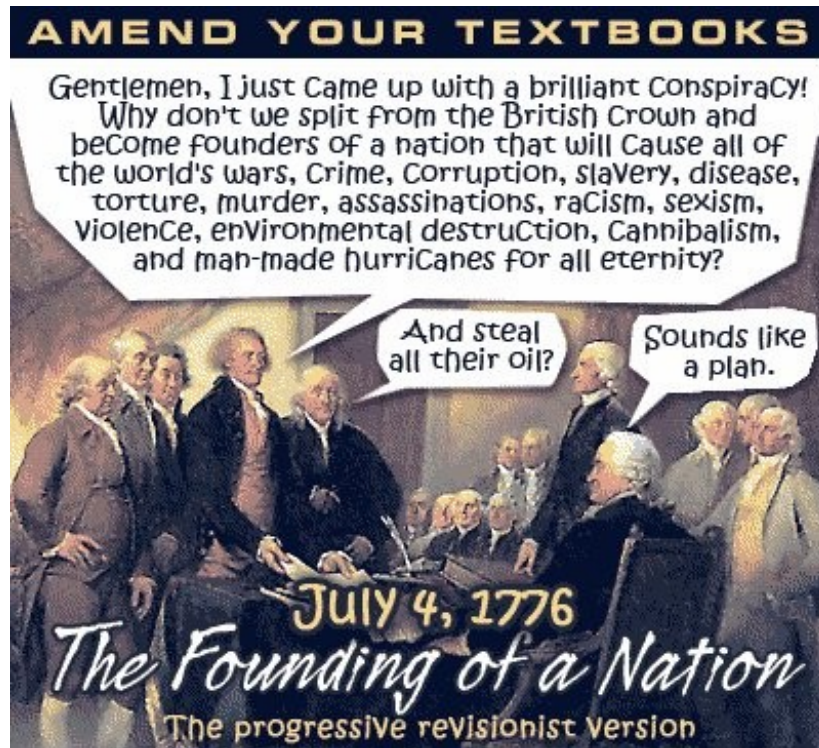
Why did you fail to identify the so called recently retired general who called Petraeus General Betraeus? **Wayne Trieschmann, Zachary, USA/LA**

Ms. Baxter's steady drone of defeatism is becoming quite droll. **Lew Waters, Vancouver, Wa./USA**

"Betraeus"? How contemptible from our so-called Allies. **Vince P, Chicago, IL**

"They had solved with astonishing ease and unduplicated success two problems which had heretofore baffled the capacity of the most enlightened nations. They had contrived a system of federal government which prodigiously increased national power and yet respected local liberties and authorities, and they had founded it on a principle of equality without surrendering the securities of property or freedom."

—Lord Acton (1834-1902) speaking of America's founding fathers.



from the side-splitting political humor site, **The People's Cube**

<http://www.thepeoplescube.com/>

Hat tip: Tony C.

Democrats' Disgrace

by Tony Blankley, 15 Aug 2007

...The Democrats, after spending the winter, spring and early summer frantically calling to get out of Iraq as fast as their little feet could carry them, are now, as autumn approaches, demonstrating their Olympic-class backpedaling skills...

...The leadership of the Democratic Party has, by their public words this spring, disgraced themselves for a generation. Republicans have the right—and the duty—to engrave in the public mind the springtime Democratic perfidy and cowardice in the face of the enemy.

This spring and early summer: Sen. Harry Reid said the war is lost, Gov. Richardson said that on his first day in the Oval Office he would order our troops to leave Iraq immediately (even if it meant throwing down their weapons on the way out), Hillary bragged that if Bush doesn't end the war, she would do so immediately upon her arriving in the Oval Office (God preserve us), Sen. Obama took pride of place in his adamant opposition to, and immediate departure from, the Iraq war.

Gen. Patton also observed, "Americans love a winner and will not tolerate a loser." That is as true today as it was six decades ago. (This is the great misread of the American public by the current Democratic Party. We Americans are only sentimental about dogs [we have three in our own family]—not about human losers. We love kick-a__ football players—unless they hurt a dog—and then we righteously send them to hell—where they belong.)

The public must not be permitted to forget these cowardly public statements by the Democrats. It is the job of the Republicans this fall and winter to remorselessly and repeatedly remind the public of what the Democrats were saying this spring. In that disgrace lies the potential for well deserved Democratic Party defeat next November.

Read it all: <http://jewishworldreview.com/0807/blankley081507.php3>

Dead Men Farming

by John Stossel, 15 Aug 2007

By now you've probably heard that a new Government Accountability Office (GAO) report [states](#): From 1999 through 2005, the USDA "paid \$1.1 billion in farm payments in the names of 172,801 deceased individuals. ... 40 percent went to those who had been dead for three or more years, and 19 percent to those dead for seven or more years."

One dead farmer got more than \$400,000 during those years. And they say you can't take it with you.

Defending the USDA, the GAO adds, "The complex nature of some farming operations—such as entities embedded within other entities—can make it difficult for USDA to avoid making payments to deceased individuals."

Exactly. The agricultural section of the U.S. code is nearly 1,800 pages.

There's an easy way to avoid such absurdities: Abolish all farm subsidies.

Why are taxpayers forced to pay farmers \$25 billion a year? Sure, farmers face droughts and floods, but that's been true since Moses' day. They can't say they weren't put on notice that farming has risks. Running a restaurant or a software company entails risks, too, but we don't guarantee their continued operation. Those businesses and America are stronger for it....

Read the rest: <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=21954>

Somewhat biased coverage by al-Associated Press. But they accidentally include the main facts, like his fingerprints on Al-Qaida documents and "some 300,000 FBI wiretap intercepts collected from 1993 to 2001."

Padilla Convicted of Terrorism Support

by Curt Anderson, 16 Aug 2007

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20070816/D8R2CR080.html>

Daily Treasonweasel response:

GUILTY: American Martyr to "War on Terror" Padilla

...This man was tortured to the point of being mentally incapable of mounting a proper defence...What a travesty of justice, what a farce of a trial. Everything points to a coming police state and woe unto all dissenters, both here and everywhere.

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2007/8/16/143144/958>

Don John's response:

Let the Kos kids be next! Round 'em all up, so we can put underpants on their tiny little heads!

Victor Davis Hanson on the *Hugh Hewitt Show*

13 Aug 2007

...I think everybody who's for the war or against the war agrees on one thing. **This is the finest American army that we've fielded in the history of this country...**

...We really need to start doing some things beyond talking, and if that is **going into Iranian airspace, or buzzing Iranians, or even starting to forget where the border is and taking out some of these training camps**, we need to do that and send a message, because they're a paper tiger. They really are.

<http://hughhewitt.townhall.com/talkradio/transcripts/Transcript.aspx?ContentGuid=5c9ebf47-99c1-496a-91a0-94b8893f4e81>

How do biased media liberals get that way? Antony Jay was one, and he tells us how:

Confessions of a BBC Liberal

The BBC has finally come clean about its bias, says a former editor, who wrote *Yes, Minister*.

by Antony Jay, 12 Aug 2007

You will LOVE this: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article2240427.ece>

Warm-Mongers and Cheeseburger Imperialists

by Mark Steyn, 12 August 2007

...But because it's the world's first nonimperial superpower the world has had to concoct a thesis that America is a threat not merely to this or that nation state but to the entire planet, and not because of conventional great-power designs but because – even scarier – of its "consumption," its very way of life. Those Cokes and cheeseburgers detested by discriminating London novelists are devastating the planet in ways that straightforward genocidal conquerors like Hitler and Stalin could only have dreamed of. The construct of this fantasy is very revealing about how unthreatening America is...

...Pvt. Beauchamp came pre-dehumanized. Indeed, he was writing Iraq atrocity fantasies on his blog back in Germany. It might be truer to say he was "dehumanized" by American media coverage...

...As Pogo said, way back in the 1971 Earth Day edition of a then-famous comic strip, "We have met the enemy, and he is us." Even when we don't do anything: In the post-imperial age, powerful nations no longer have to invade and kill. Simply by

driving a Chevy Suburban, we can make the oceans rise and wipe the distant Maldivian Islands off the face of the Earth. This is a kind of malignant narcissism so ingrained it's now taught in our grade schools. Which may be why, even when the New Republic's diarist goes to Iraq and meets the real enemy, he still assumes it's us.

Read it all: http://www.ocregister.com/ocregister/opinion/nationalcolumns/article_1804986.php

Savage attacked by officials pushing immigrant bailout

August 10, 2007

San Francisco city officials are trying to force taxpayers to pay for immigrants' green cards and citizenship – and to bolster their case for the new tax, they've introduced a resolution condemning national radio talk-show host Michael Savage for what they call his "defamatory language against immigrants."...

...Condemning the "defamatory language used by radio personality Michael Savage against immigrants," Sandoval's resolution is apparently in response to Savage's July 5 broadcast, when the talker commented on a group of students who had announced they were fasting in support of changes in immigration policy. "I would say, let them fast until they starve to death," quipped Savage, "then that solves the problem."...

Read it all, including *Examiner* readers supporting Savage:

<http://www.worldnetdaily.com/staticarticles/article57096.html>

Wall Street: "a mere correction of too-loose credit"—or a whole lot more?

Bagehot's Playbook for Bernanke by Irwin M. Stelzer, 11 Aug 2007

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/013/986ukmey.asp>

Five Myths About Jittery Markets by Adam Lashinsky, 12 Aug 2007

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/09/AR2007080901542.html>

Blogger Finds Y2K Bug in NASA Climate Data

Years of bad data corrected; 1998 no longer the warmest year on record.

by Michael Asher, 9 Aug 2007

...NASA has now silently released [corrected figures](#), and the changes are truly astounding. The warmest year on record is now 1934. 1998 (long trumpeted by the media as record-breaking) moves to second place. 1921 takes third. In fact, 5 of the 10 warmest years on record now all occur before World War II. Anthony Watts has put the new data in chart form, along with a more detailed [summary](#) of the events.

The effect of the correction on *global* temperatures is minor (some 1-2% less warming than originally thought), but the effect on the U.S. global warming propaganda machine could be huge.

Then again—maybe not. I strongly suspect this story will receive little to no attention from the mainstream media.

Read it all: <http://www.dailytech.com/Blogger+finds+Y2K+bug+in+NASA+Climate+Data/article8383.htm>

Baghdad Raid Night

by Michael J. Totten

"We want to use you as bait," Sergeant Eduardo Ojeda from Los Angeles, California, told me before I embedded with his unit on what was shaping up to be a night raid.

"Excellent," I said. "That's why I'm here." This is what passes for black Army humor in Baghdad.

Read the rest: <http://www.michaeltotten.com/archives/001499.html>

Two views of Wall Street's recent troubles:

BEARISH: The US Housing Bust is a Big Deal by Desmond Lachman, 10 Aug 2007

<http://www.tcsdaily.com/article.aspx?id=080907B>

BULLISH: Will Main Street Bail Out Wall Street? by Lawrence Kudlow, 10 August 2007

<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=OTU5ZmZkZWnkZTU2NTUwMjhhdjYyYjYyMDFmY2Q=>

Bankrolling Iran

The World Bank's Largess Is Undermining the U.N. and the West

by Rep. Mark Kir (R-IL), 10 Aug 2007

...As Iran's Atomic Energy Organization moves toward its announced goal of operating 50,000 uranium enrichment centrifuges in Natanz, the World Bank is funding nine government projects in Iran totaling \$1.35 billion—one of which operates in Isfahan, where Iran's nuclear program is headquartered.

While the World Bank is part of the U.N. family, the bank's board is disconnected from the policies of key U.N. agencies—especially the Security Council and the IAEA. The United States remains the top investor in the World Bank, contributing \$950 million in 2006 and \$940 million this year. In June the House of Representatives approved another \$950 million. Meanwhile, the bank will disburse \$220 million to Iran this year, with more than \$870 million in the pipeline for 2008, 2009 and 2010...

...Furthermore, the bank's investment in Iran stands in stark contrast to its work in Iraq. Iraq was a founding member of the World Bank in 1945, yet it took the bank 2 1/2 years after the fall of Saddam Hussein to approve one development project. To date, the board has approved only four projects, totaling \$399 million, for the new Iraqi government—and little of that money has been spent...

Read it all: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/09/AR2007080901929.html>

"The quickest way of ending a war is to lose it." —George Orwell

Propaganda Redux

Take it from this old KGB hand: The left is abetting America's enemies with its intemperate attacks on President Bush.

by Ion Mihai Pacepa, 7 Aug 2007

...as someone who escaped from communist Romania—with two death sentences on his head—in order to become a citizen of this great country, I have a hard time understanding why some of our top political leaders can dare in a time of war to call our commander in chief a "liar," a "deceiver" and a "fraud."...

...The communist effort to generate hatred for the American president began soon after President Truman set up NATO and propelled the three Western occupation forces to unite their zones to form a new West German nation. We were tasked to take advantage of the reawakened patriotic feelings stirring in the European countries that had been subjugated by the Nazis, in order to shift their hatred for Hitler over into hatred for Truman—the leader of the new "occupation power." Western Europe was still grateful to the U.S. for having restored its freedom, but it had strong leftist movements that we secretly financed. They were like putty in our hands...

...Competition is indeed the engine that has driven the American dream forward, but unity in time of war has made America the leader of the world. During World War II, 405,399 Americans died to defeat Nazism, but their country of immigrants remained sturdily united. The U.S. held national elections during the war, but those running for office entertained no thought of damaging America's international prestige in their quest for personal victory. Republican challenger Thomas Dewey declined to criticize President Roosevelt's war policy. At the end of that war, a united America rebuilt its vanquished enemies. It took seven years to turn Nazi Germany and imperial Japan into democracies, but that effort generated an unprecedented technological explosion and 50 years of unmatched prosperity for us all.

Now we are again at war. It is not the president's war. It is America's war, authorized by 296 House members and 76 senators. I do not intend to join the armchair experts on the Iraq war. I do not know how we should handle this war, and they don't know either. But I do know that if America's political leaders, Democrat and Republican, join together as they did during World War II, America will win. Otherwise, terrorism will win. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi predicted just before being killed: "We fight today in Iraq, tomorrow in the land of the Holy Places, and after there in the West."...

... During these years I have lived here under five presidents—some better than others—but I have always felt that I was living in paradise. My American citizenship has given me a feeling of pride, hope and security that is surpassed only by the joy of simply being alive...

Read the whole column: <http://opinionjournal.com/editorial/feature.html?id=110010438>

"Ever since John Kerry sat in front of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and accused American soldiers of wantonly razing villages 'in fashion reminiscent of Genghis Khan,' the Left has embraced a small cadre of self-loathing soldiers and soldier wannabes willing to sell their deadened souls for the anti-war cause."

—Michelle Malkin, 8 Aug 2007

Let Wisconsin Experiment with Socialized Medicine

by John Stossel, 8 Aug 2007

...America needs "Healthy Wisconsin." The fall of the Soviet Union deprived us of the biggest example of how socialism works. We need laboratories of failure to demonstrate what socialism is like. All we have now is Cuba, Venezuela, North Korea, the U.S. Post Office, and state motor-vehicle departments.

It's not enough. Wisconsin can show the other 49 states what "universal" coverage is like.

I feel bad for the people in Wisconsin. They already suffer from little job creation, and the Packers aren't winning, but it's better to experiment with one state than all of America.

Read it all: <http://www.creators.com/print/opinion/john-stossel/let-wisconsin-experiment-with-socialized-medicine.html>

It's not the imperial *presidency*, it's the imperial *judiciary*, stupid!

Too much FISA oversight?

Forcing the president to obtain a court order to tap communications between foreigners may violate the Constitution.

by David B. Rivkin Jr. and Lee A. Casey, 8 Aug 2007

http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-rivkin8aug08_0_3135800_story?coll=la-news-comment-opinions

FISA: Don't Mend It, End It

The Left's deafening silence won't obscure that judges shouldn't be managing our national security.

by Andrew C. McCarthy, 7 Aug 2007

<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=ZDFmNzVkZGNINDNiYWnkZGZlZDdkODJkY2VkZjM3ZmY=>

I would have been willing to bet that a Boston College philosophy prof would be a moonbat.

Was I wrong!

Pvt. Beauchamp: Proud of Being Ashamed?

by Paul McNellis, S.J. 6 Aug 2007

...Here, finally, is the master narrative sought by TNR. Because war "degrades every part of you," soldiers can't be expected to make normal moral decisions. Bad behavior? The war made them do it. See what the bad war does to good people? It turns former camp counselors into sociopaths.

But no self-respecting soldier wants TNR's bogus absolution. Soldiers pride themselves on being held to a higher standard than the rest of us, and to deny them the dignity of being moral agents renders meaningless the distinction between a dishonorable discharge and a Bronze Star. If soldiers no longer merit praise or blame, just sympathy, their service becomes meaningless....

...As Newsweek's Evan Thomas said of the press coverage of the Duke lacrosse team, "The narrative was right, but the facts were wrong." Similarly, Mr. Foer has his narrative—"the morally and emotionally distorting effects of war"—but the facts keep getting in the way. TNR now admits that the disturbing behavior Beauchamp claimed he engaged in actually occurred in Kuwait, before he had seen a single day of combat. So now the story is about the "morally and emotionally distorting effects of..." Well, of what, exactly? Of merely being member of the U.S. Army? Is that the new narrative?

This also explains why Beauchamp's "confession of shame" sounds so contrived. It is contrived. Beauchamp imagined how he would feel if he had done the things he described in the pages of TNR. What he describes is not shame but moral smugness...

Read the entire piece: <http://www.democracy-project.com/archives/003421.html>

"It's in the nature of government to do things worse, and slower."

—Mark Steyn, *America Alone*, 2006

How to Keep Our Bridges Safe

Private investors can manage critical transportation infrastructure.

by Steven Malanga, 5 Aug 2007

Read it all: <http://www.opinionjournal.com/extra/?id=110010429>

The Crumbling of America

Our precious infrastructure inheritance and how we're squandering it

by Nicole Gelinas, 3 August 2007

...It's easy to see how this happened. If the fifties were the decade of infrastructure, the sixties were the decade of entitlements and social services—and the sixties haven't ended...

Read it all: <http://www.city-journal.org/html/eon2007-08-03ng.html>

Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz is a wealthy Saudi scumbag terrorist financier. His money has enabled him to suppress freedom of the press—not just in his own backward culture, but in Britain and America.

The Vanishing Jihad Exposés

by Mark Steyn, 5 Aug 2007

<http://www.ocreger.com/opinion/mark-steyn-jihad-1797347-exposs-column>

The Turn: Defeatists in Retreat

by William Kristol, 5 Aug 2007 (Aug 13 issue)

...For the Iraq war's opponents, July began as a month of hope. It ended in retreat. It began with Democratic unity in proclaiming the inevitability of American defeat. It ended with respected military analysts—Democrats, no less!—reporting that the situation on the ground had improved, and that the war might be winnable. It began with a plan for a series of votes in Congress that were supposed to stampede nervous Republicans against the continued prosecution of the war. It ended with the GOP spine stiffened, no antiwar legislation passed, and the Democratic Congress adjourning in disarray, with approval ratings lower than President Bush's. It began with Democratic presidential candidates competing in their antiwar pandering. It ended with them having second thoughts—with Barack Obama, losing ground to Hillary Clinton because he seemed naive about real world threats, frantically suggesting that he would invade Pakistan.

July also began with the liberal media disparaging the troops. It ended with the liberal media in retreat. The *New Republic* had to acknowledge that its pseudonymous soldier's account of an incident purportedly showing the dehumanizing effects of the Iraq conflict was a lie: It had taken place in Kuwait (if it happened at all), before this imaginative private ever saw the horrors of war. The *New York Times* was so shocked to discover in late July that public opinion hadn't continued to move against the war that it redid a poll. The answer didn't change...

Read the whole beautiful thing: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/013/950rsadr.asp>

Victory Caucus website re-designed and re-launched

It's got excellent news coverage of the war, plus maps, "metrics," and ways citizens can help.

Check it out: <http://victorycaucus.com/>

Gingrich Goes Moonbat

Newt Gingrich claims to be a conservative. But here's **something he said** on August 2, 2007: "We've been engaged in a phony war. The only people who have been taking this seriously are the combat military. We have to take this seriously. We used to be a serious country. When we got attacked at Pearl Harbor, we took on Imperial Japan, Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. We beat all three in less than four years. We're about to enter the seventh year of this phony war against ... [terrorist groups], and we're losing....None of you should believe we are winning this war. There is no evidence that we are winning this war."

How do these rash, cynical, defeatist statements differ from those of Democrats and moonbats? Mr. Gingrich is no longer a serious political leader.

Ban Ki-Moonbat on "global warming": you gotta believe

U.N. Chief's Tepid Sense of Urgency

by Debra Saunders, 31 July 2007

...Unlike Ban, I know many scientists who don't think the science is conclusive as to whether global warming is caused by man. But if the tipping point is near, you'd think Ban would talk as tough on China as he does with George W. Bush. According to the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, China's coal-fired plants are increasing their emissions annually by double the total emissions growth of all the world's industrialized economies combined. China's about to be Hertz, and Ban's focused on Avis.

"Given the emissions growth rate of China, if the United States drops its emissions 25 percent over the next 20 years, it simply won't be noticed," Cato's Michaels noted. "Everyone who's looked at this knows that." Everyone, perhaps except the U.N. secretary-general.

Greenhouse gases will have the same effect, whether they emanate from San Francisco or Shanghai. But politics, not science, keeps the focus on Bush, not Beijing.

You see, Bush had the audacity to refuse to support Kyoto. If he had been all lip service, like President Clinton—if Bush had signed the treaty but not asked the Senate to ratify it, while U.S. greenhouse gas emissions rose to 14 percent higher than 1990 levels when he left office—then the vaunted international community would approve.

Science is supposed to be about results, but global warming is about belief. President Clinton is good because he said he believed. If you say you believe, you don't have to deliver.

If global warming is facing the tipping point, then the United Nations should lean on China. Believers shouldn't put their politics—United States a must, China a maybe—before the planet...

Read it all: <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/07/31/ED89R9SIE2.DTL&type=politics>

"On the 4th plane, they didn't follow the 1970s hijack rituals. On Flight 93, they used their cell phones, discovered that FAA regulations weren't going to save them, and then acted as free men, rising up against the terrorists and, at the cost of their own lives, preventing that flight carrying on to its target in Washington. **On a morning when big government failed, the only good news came from private individuals.**"

—Mark Steyn, *America Alone*, 2006

One CAIR Lawyer Pulls Back; Another Pushes The Envelope

August 1, 2007

CAIR's infamous "flying imams" are no longer suing the passengers who reported their provocatively suspicious actions. But they're still going ahead with a lawsuit against the police and the airline. Their lawyer said CAIR's decision had "absolutely nothing to do" with Congress's inclusion last week, of language in a homeland security bill which would give immunity from lawsuits to people who report suspicious behavior.

<http://www.startribune.com/462/story/1337876.html>

http://littlegreenfootballs.com/weblog/?entry=26494_Non-Flying_Imams_Drop_John_Doe_Suits&only

On another front, though, the Council on American-Islamic Relations is being a lot more aggressive. Their lawyer, Joseph E. Sandler Esq., just happens to be general counsel for the Democratic National Committee. And he's written a nasty letter to Young America's Foundation (YAF), threatening them with legal action if they hold an event with Robert Spencer.

Mr. Spencer is director of Jihadwatch.org and is the author of *Islam Unveiled; Onward, Muslim Soldiers; and The Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam and the Crusades*.

YAF's response should make us all proud of those young Americans:

"CAIR can go to Hell and they can take their 72 virgins with them."

<http://hotair.com/archives/2007/08/01/breaking-cair-threatens-young-americas-foundation-seeks-to-stifle-robert-spencer/>

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