

Reverse the Vote

Would you like to help defeat the Democrats in Congress who are foolish and arrogant enough to vote for ObamaCare, even though they represent districts or states won by John McCain in 2008?

"We have an app for that." <http://reversethevote.org/dems.html>

Support Our Troops

They're still fighting for us.

Soldiers' Angels

Wounded Warrior Project

Fisher House: help military families

Disabled American Veterans

Our Military

Be sure to read these superb pieces:

What would real health care reform look like? by Ronald Bailey

Health Care Mythology by Clifford Asness

Just Make Stuff Up by Victor Davis Hanson

100 Stimulus Projects: A Second Opinion by Sen. Tom Coburn

The State Despot by Mark Steyn

And here's what a **trillion dollars** looks like.

Who Will Be Responsible for the American Dead?

by David Horowitz, 30 Dec 2009

<http://frontpagemag.com/2009/12/30/who-will-be-responsible-for-the-american-dead-by-david-horowitz/>

GLSEN-ing Young Children

by Jeannie DeAngelis, 31 Dec 2009

...The Obama administration appointed an official to promote a safe school atmosphere whose agenda, in conjunction with liberal teachers' unions and professional educational organizations, overemphasizes and promotes the concerns of "1.51 percent of the total U.S. population ... or 4.3 total million Americans" classifying themselves as gay, lesbian, or bisexual. What the president declines to acknowledge is that 75% of American taxpayers closely identify with the Christianity Obama claims no longer represents the core of the nation's religious belief system. And tax dollars contributed by Christians make up budgets supporting schools preaching the gospel of homosexuality to innocent children.

Under the guise of tolerance, Kevin Jennings and left-wing educators are committed to transforming America's schools into hazard zones for children through the promotion of over-sexualized curricula and alternative lifestyles. Safe Schools Czar Kevin Jennings' unrelenting mission to support sexually conflicted homosexual youths justifies the inclusion of the politically correct gay agenda over sound programs of study. Explicitly X-rated, pornographic descriptions of sex acts between children as young as preschool age are peppered throughout academic curricula as a means of furthering a way of life and belief system most of the American population rejects outright.

In Jennings' 'safe schools, readings include radical literature like *Readings for Diversity and Social Justice: An Anthology on Racism, Anti-Semitism, Sexism, Heterosexism, Ableism, and Classism*, while Bibles are banned, religious imagery barred, Boy Scouts debased, and Christianity indefinitely expelled from school premises. Jennings' group GLSEN lauds the late Ruth Ellis, the longest living "out" African-American lesbian, as "one inspiring woman." Her image and life story are warmly welcomed in public schools across America, while Jesus and Scripture are not.

More: <http://jeannie-ology.com/?p=4915>

O's day of reckoning

by Ralph Peters, 31 Dec 2009

...Obama's threatened sanctions get even more laughable, since they'd target only Iran's power elite. Insiders in any dictatorship are those best able to duck the pain of sanctions. So Ahmadinejad can't get a visa for a Vegas vacation. That'll teach *him* a lesson.

Only comprehensive sanctions backed by a military blockade have any chance of working. Otherwise, as we've seen in North Korea, the well-connected continue to feast while the commoners faint from hunger. And there *won't* be a blockade, folks.

If sanctions weren't enough of a joke, we also have Obama's all-too-obvious reluctance to back the millions of Iranians struggling for freedom and democracy. Our president's empty remarks this week checked the block for nervous American leftists, but provided no useful support to Iranians risking their lives for basic rights.

What should this inept administration do? Provide clandestine, covert and overt support to Iran's freedom crusaders. And funnel money and arms to Baluchi, Kurdish, Azeri and Arab separatists willing to take on the Revolutionary Guard jihadis.

Meanwhile, a paradox arises from those courageous demonstrations in Iran: They really *do* threaten the monstrous regime of the mullahs—and that makes Iran's bully-boys even more likely to use nukes as soon as they get them. If Ahmadinejad and the turbaned tyrants sense that time's running out, they'll launch any nukes they have against Israel in a frantic attempt to kick-start Armageddon and entice the Hidden Imam to return...

...While Obama dithers, Israel may have to act. The Gulf will explode. Oil will be a bargain at \$400 a barrel. The global economy will freeze. And we'll be in the fight anyway. And then? Obama will interrupt another vacation to explain that those wicked Israelis didn't give his sanctions time to work. And it'll be Bush's fault, too...

Read it all: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/day_of_reckoning_hHNtbO7IbHnphV3rxxYZ8N

Afghan War Policy Fractured

by Tony Blankley, 30 Dec 2009

...There are three broad areas of "misunderstanding." First, Gen. Stanley McChrystal believes he is allowed to build up Afghan troop levels to 400,000. The president's objective is 230,000. With 400,000, we would be at about the minimal total troop level that the Army and Marine manual says is required to win a counterinsurgency war.

Second, the July 2011 drawdown (exit) date has lead military commanders to accelerate pace of operations in order to attain victory quicker, while White House sees it as intended to "narrow" the scope of operations. So ragged are the communications between the White House and the military that, according to the Post article: "a senior administration official said the National Security Council (in the White House) is discussing ways to increase monitoring of military and State Department activities in Afghanistan to prevent 'overreaching.'"

That is a more tactful way of saying that the president and his men do not trust the military chain of command (nor the secretary of state's communication chain) to accurately report to the president what they are doing...

More: <http://creators.com/opinion/tony-blankley/afghan-war-policy-fractured.html>

Obama's Security 'Breach'

Returning Gitmo's detainees to Yemen defies common sense.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 31 Dec 2009

...More broadly, the Administration's law enforcement mentality is also part of the problem. Its instinct is to attribute every terror incident to a misguided individual—"an isolated extremist," as the President initially said of Abdulmuttalab—as if al Qaeda sympathies require a membership card and monthly meetings. Hasan and Abdulmuttalab are charged with being jihadis bent on murder who were encouraged or facilitated by other jihadis. This is the way the terror threat is evolving, with virtual recruitment over the Web of radicalized individuals from sanctuaries that change as opportunities arise.

Stopping future attacks is going to require interrogation—and before criminal charges are filed. We need to learn who gave Abdulmuttalab the PETN explosive and whether there is some al Qaeda terrormaster coordinating similar attacks the way KSM coordinated the 9/11 hijackings. Yet the White House impulse is to indict any terrorist we capture under criminal charges and let him lawyer-up...

Read the rest: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703278604574624503147162222.html>

7,000 well-chosen words. Fascinating stuff, whether or not you agree with all of it.

Keeping America's Edge

by Jim Manzi, 28 Dec 2009 (Winter 2010 issue)

<http://nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/keeping-americas-edge>

Obama & Our Post-Modern Race Problem

The president always knew that his greatest appeal was not as a leader but as a cultural symbol.

by *Shelby Steele, 30 Dec 2009*

America still has a race problem, though not the one that conventional wisdom would suggest: the racism of whites toward blacks. Old fashioned white racism has lost its legitimacy in the world and become an almost universal disgrace. The essence of our new "post-modern" race problem can be seen in the parable of the emperor's new clothes...

Read on: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704254604574614540488450188.html>

Hold on to Your Boxers

What will the TSA demand from travelers next?

by *Jacob Sullum, 30 Dec 2009*

...The reaction to Abdulmutallab's fizzled bomb shows that the government continues to fetishistically focus on the details of the latest incident and impose conspicuous precautions without regard to whether the security payoff is worth the cost. Because Abdulmutallab used a blanket to conceal what he was doing, the TSA **told** airlines to ban the use of blankets during the last hour of flights to the United States. Also prohibited during the last hour: getting up from one's seat, "passenger access to carry-on baggage," and "personal belongings on the lap."

Why the last hour? Because that's when Abdulmutallab tried to set off his bomb. Therefore that is what all terrorists will do...

More: <http://reason.com/archives/2009/12/30/hold-onto-your-boxers/print>

Pray for the good people of Iran.

Videos and photographs from the protests in Iran

December 26-29, 2009

<http://www.iranian.com/main/albums/taking-stand>

<http://shiro-khorshid-forever.blogspot.com/2009/12/various-videos-from-protests-in-iran.html>

<http://www.iranian.com/main/2009/dec/people-fight-back>

<http://www.iranian.com/main/albums/burning-rage>

<http://www.iranian.com/main/2009/dec/people-fighting-back-2>

<http://www.iranian.com/main/2009/dec/enghelab>

Detroit terror attack: A murderous ideology tolerated for too long

Telegraph editorial, 29 Dec 2009

Friday's attempt to blow up a transatlantic airliner by a British-educated Islamist was foiled by the bravery of its passengers and crew. We cannot assume that we will be lucky next time. And the indications are that there will be a next time...

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/6903728/Detroit-terror-attack-A-murderous-ideology-tolerated-for-too-long.html>

The trap of self-delusion

by *Ben Dror Yemini, 20 Apr 2007*

Israeli Arabs have become a hot topic all over the world. Their spokespeople, among whom are Jews and Israelis, appear in many forums, disseminating false accusations of the "apartheid" under which the Israeli Arabs are suffering. It is a strange apartheid. It is an apartheid in which the Arabs, which are a minority community, attain the highest achievements, both in comparison to similar communities in Europe and in comparison to the citizens of neighboring countries. The facts are below...

Continue: <http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/571/620.html>

The Tipping Point in Iran

The past six months show that the democratic movement is here to stay. That movement now needs a coherent plan and more structured leadership.

by Abbas Milani, 29 Dec 2009

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703278604574624302036557422.html>

Why the Filibuster Is More Essential Now Than Ever

by Jay Cost, 28 Dec 2009

Ezra Klein had a provocative column in Sunday's *Washington Post*, arguing that it's time to eliminate or substantially weaken the filibuster in the United States Senate... Klein cites a study from Barbara Sinclair showing that the filibuster is used much more frequently now—up from 8% of "major bills" to 70%. This is as sure a sign as any that reform is needed, that the two parties can't be allowed to succeed by using the politics of obstruction anymore.

Yet Klein's reasoning is imprecise. After all, the legislative process has not become "broken." It is largely the same process as it was decades ago. The real change has occurred within the two Senate parties. They are using the filibuster more aggressively in their quest for political success. This raises an important question that Klein leaves unaddressed: if the parties are more unrelentingly partisan now than in ages past, is it prudent to lower the barriers that prevent them from enacting sweeping policy changes?

On this question, I come down squarely in the negative. The increased use of the filibuster is not a consequence of Senate "dysfunction," but instead a desirable check upon it. Given this, it makes much more sense to leave the filibuster intact.

The following chart demonstrates that the two political parties have become substantially more polarized over the last 45 years. It uses the DW-Nominate methodology to track the ideological distribution of Democrats and Republicans in the Senate from the 89th Congress (1965-1967) to the 110th (2007-2009)...

The chart, and much more: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/horseraceblog/2009/12/why_the_filibuster_is_more_ess_1.html

Flying High

by Christopher Hitchens, 28 Dec 2009

...Why do we fail to detect or defeat the guilty, and why do we do so well at collective punishment of the innocent? The answer to the first question is: Because we can't—or won't. The answer to the second question is: Because we can. The fault here is not just with our endlessly incompetent security services, who give the benefit of the doubt to people who should have been arrested long ago or at least had their visas and travel rights revoked. It is also with a public opinion that sheepishly bleats to be made to "feel safe." The demand to satisfy that sad illusion can be met with relative ease if you pay enough people to stand around and stare significantly at the citizens' toothpaste. My impression as a frequent traveler is that intelligent Americans fail to protest at this inanity in case it is they who attract attention and end up on a no-fly list instead. Perfect...

...What nobody in authority thinks us grown-up enough to be told is this: We had better get used to being the civilians who are under a relentless and planned assault from the pledged supporters of a wicked theocratic ideology... Our civil aviation is only the most psychologically frightening symbol of a plethora of potential targets. The future murderers will generally not be from refugee camps or slums (though they are being indoctrinated every day in our prisons); they will frequently be from educated backgrounds, and they will often not be from overseas at all. They are already in our suburbs and even in our military. We can expect to take casualties. The battle will go on for the rest of our lives. Those who plan our destruction know what they want, and they are prepared to kill and die for it. Those who don't get the point prefer to whine about "endless war," accidentally speaking the truth about something of which the attempted Christmas bombing over Michigan was only a foretaste. While we fumble with bureaucracy and euphemism, they are flying high.

Read the rest: <http://www.slate.com/id/2239935/>

Preferring Liberals In Both Parties

Any Republican with the "courage" of his liberal convictions is a "maverick" to be saluted. Any Democrat or independent who dares question Obama's socialist agenda is a traitor.

by *L. Brent Bozell, 15 Dec 2009*

<http://www.mrc.org/bozellcolumns/columns/2009/20091217033012.aspx>

War Against the Wannabe Rich

Why attack the productive classes who want to be rich?

by *Victor Davis Hanson, 24 Dec 2009*

...A combined tax bite of 60 percent of his annual income would still leave Warren Buffett each year with millions. Yet the same rate could cripple a business owner making \$300,000 in annual income.

Often those in government claim that their higher tax proposals are simply targeting the affluent like themselves—proof of their own selflessness. President Obama, for example, has complained that the well-off like himself could afford to pay more. But unlike politicians in Washington, most upscale Americans in private enterprise do not receive free government perks and lavish pensions. Nor are they guaranteed lucrative post-political lobbying and speaking careers.

Focusing tax hikes on those who in some years make between \$200,000 and \$500,000 makes no sense in a recession for a variety of reasons. They are neither the speculators who caused the panic of 2008 nor the Washington politicians who are bankrupting the country.

Instead, most are small-business owners who hire the majority of the nation's employees. But faced with the talk of higher taxes, more regulations and hostile rhetoric, they will remain confused, and so retrench rather than expand.

With the proposed new income, payroll and health-care tax rates, along with increased state and local taxes, many business owners fear that 60 percent to 70 percent of their income will go to the government. That does not seem a good way to convince small businesses to hire more workers in hopes of greater rewards...

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=ZmViZTdjMjJjZmU1NmUzODc4OGY2N2NiM2ZmZDc=>

Blunders Demand Answers

by *Rep. Peter King (R-NY), 27 Dec 2009*

One thing is clear about the attempted terror attack on Christmas Day—we need answers.

There is obviously going to be a full-scale congressional investigation into how Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was allowed to board Flight 253 and head to the United States with plans to incinerate 300 innocent people.

Mere hours after it happened, I was told that this man was known to our government, and that there was a classified file on him that said he definitely was involved in terrorist activity. The exact words the authorities used when they told me were "terrorist nexus."...

Read on: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/national/blunders_demand_answers_LVnTGi3pjrABzoHTrjc1oK

Sir, this is an outrage! Why, Doctor Pachauri is no more corrupt than **Senator Christopher Dodd!**

The questions Dr. Pachauri still has to answer

At the least, Dr. Rajendra Pachauri's IPCC position as the world's "top climate official" has been earning a substantial income for TERI, the institute he runs.

by *Christopher Booker, 26 Dec 2009*

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/6890839/The-questions-Dr-Pachauri-still-has-to-answer.html>

Why Reform Will Cost Taxpayers More: Much More

by *Veronique de Rugy, 26 Dec 2009*

...Congress is telling us that the different healthcare bills it is considering will cost roughly \$900 billion over ten years and will somehow end up saving taxpayers' money in the long run. If history is our guide, this claim will not be correct as massive cost overruns are common in government.

Take Medicare, for instance. In 1967, long-run forecasts estimated that Medicare would cost about \$12 billion by

1990. In reality, it cost \$110 billion that year. Today, it costs \$500 billion.

Moreover, based on Congressional Budget Office data, this chart below illustrates how long-term projections of Medicare spending have steadily increased, even in recent years and over short periods of time. In 2005 for example, CBO projected that Medicare would cost \$1.5 trillion in 2050. Two years later, in 2007, the same CBO projected that this cost would reach \$2.8 trillion. And in 2009, it projected that the cost would be \$3 trillion instead. In other words, this projected cost doubled in four years...

More: <http://www.american.com/archive/2009/december-2009/why-reform-will-cost-taxpayers-more-much-more>

Witnesses: At least 4 Iranian protesters killed

by Ali Akbar Dareini, 27 Dec 2009

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - Iranian security forces on Sunday killed at least four people, including a nephew of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi, during the fiercest clashes with anti-government protesters in months, opposition Web sites and witnesses said.

Amateur video footage purportedly from the center of Tehran showed an enraged crowd carrying away one of the casualties, chanting, "I'll kill, I'll kill the one who killed my brother." In several locations in the center of the capital, demonstrators fought back furiously against security forces, hurling stones and setting their motorcycles, cars and vans ablaze, according to video footage and pro-reform Web sites.

Demonstrations also took place in at least three other cities.

A close aide to Mousavi, a presidential contender in a disputed June election, said the 35-year-old nephew, Ali Mousavi, died of injuries in a Tehran hospital. The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because of fears of reprisals from the government...

Continue: http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9CROUU00&show_article=1

Cross the River, Burn the Bridge

Obamacare is the fast-track to a permanent left-of-center political culture.

by Mark Steyn, 26 Dec 2009

...Looking at the millions of Americans it leaves uninsured, and the millions it leaves with worse treatment and reduced access, and the millions it makes pay significantly more for their current health care, one can only marvel at Harry Reid's genius: government health care turns out to be all government and no health care. Adding up the zillions of new taxes and bureaucracies and regulations it imposes on the citizenry, one might almost think that was the only point of the exercise.

That's why I believe America's belated embrace of government health care is going to be far more expensive and disastrous than the Euro-Canadian models. Whatever one's philosophical objection to the Canadian health system, it is, broadly, fair: Unless you're a cabinet minister or a bigtime hockey player, you'll enjoy the same equality of crappiness and universal lack of access that everybody else does. But, even before it's up-and-running, Pelosi-Reid-Obamacare is an impenetrable thicket of contradictory boondoggles, shameless payoffs, and arbitrary shakedowns.

That's why Nebraska's grotesque zombie senator Ben Nelson is the perfect poster boy for the new arrangements...

...Think of the way almost every Big Government project bursts its bodice and winds up bigger and more bloated than its creators allegedly foresaw...

...The entire bill is a public option — because that's where it leads, remorselessly. The so-called "death panel" is not Page 2,721, Paragraph 19, Sub-section (d), but again the entire bill — because it inserts the power of the state between you and your doctor, and in effect assumes jurisdiction over your body...

The whole column: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=YjU5OTJmODE4MGM5YmNiZDEyZDU5ZWU3NThhYjdmNGY=>

The Government is having a hard time getting committed supporters into the streets.

On the Ropes

For the Iranian people, victory is near.

by Ramin Ahmadi, 26 Dec 2009

The military regime in Tehran is in its final days. The signs of an imminent collapse, perfectly traceable on the

Iranian streets, are evading the most prominent Washington experts. The slogans on the walls, the nighttime chorus of *Allah-o-akbar* on the rooftops, the crowds chanting "death to the dictator," all signaling a collective defiance despite the brutal backlash, and all reflecting a mass mobilization unseen since the 1979 revolution.

The recurring cycles of peaceful protests and state violence is part of a larger transformation sweeping through Iran. But in Washington, this magnificent collective action spurs only arrogant dismissal on the part of the Iran policy industry. Democratic revolutions have always been about idealism, selflessness and a passion for solidarity and freedom—all concepts entirely foreign to the pragmatic, conceitful, double-talking policy insiders...

Read on: <http://www.iranian.com/main/2009/dec/ropes>

A clear analysis of what's wrong—and what would actually change things for the better.

Markets, Not Mandates

What would real health care reform look like?

by *Ronald Bailey*, 23 Dec 2009 (Jan 2010 issue)

While congressional reform efforts screech and shudder along, let's take a moment to dream about *real* health care reform. Imagine a system that is genuinely transparent, competitive, and driven by consumers.

Right now, thanks to incentives built into the tax code, patients are locked into the health plans their employers choose. Consequently, most of us don't have a clue what our health insurance and health care cost. We have no way to reduce those costs and no incentive to do so even if we could. Worse yet, it's precisely when you need the system the most that it fails you. In the words of the Princeton economist Uwe Reinhardt, "when you're down on your luck, you're unemployed, you lose your insurance.... Only the devil could ever have invented such a system."...

Continue: <http://reason.com/archives/2009/12/23/markets-not-mandates>

National Organization for Irresponsible Women

by *Mona Charen*, 25 Dec 2009

...Additionally, the general directed that soldiers who become pregnant or impregnate others while deployed would be subject to courts martial. Uh-oh.

Cue the feminists. "How dare any government say we're going to impose any kind of punishment on women for getting pregnant," fumed Terry O'Neill, president of the National Organization for Women. "This is not the 1800s." Four Democratic senators dashed off a public letter. "We can think of no greater deterrent to women contemplating a military career than the image of a pregnant woman being severely punished simply for conceiving a child," protested Sens. Barbara Mikulski, Barbara Boxer, Jeanne Shaheen, and Kirsten Gillibrand. "This defies comprehension. As such, we urge you to immediately rescind this policy."...

...It's true that United States senators don't really have to do anything. But it would be nice if they thought of themselves as representing the interests of the nation from time to time, and not just as compliant mouthpieces for interest groups. Do any of these liberal senators ever lift their sights enough to recognize that an army is not a social-welfare agency?...

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=YjQ3NGY4MzdjZWRkNjYxNTkyYzFIZjM5NWlwOGU5YjE=>

Christmas is Not Negotiable

by *Walid Phares*, 25 Dec 2009

...As someone who has lived on two continents and evolved in many cultures, I feel I have a couple of points to make about this 2,000-year-old annual event, especially since celebrating this overwhelming feast is under attack by *Noelophobia* (I term I have coined). I must disclose, however, that my relationship with Christmas is also personal: I was born on its eve and thus had to deal with the reality that every Christmas baby knows all too well: You get only one present, you are forgotten that night, and you forget about your own birthday. So had I been egocentric, I would have joined the camp fighting Santa's day. On top of that, my parents named me "Walid," Arabic for "the newborn." There was little resistance I could offer. Christmas marginalized my own anniversary yet became somewhat a higher birthday with which I was associated.

Until I was 12, I thought that no one would mess with Christmas. Why would anyone do such a thing?...

Read on: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/12/christmas_is_not_negotiable.html

Voting Against Government-Run Health Care

by Senator Tom Coburn, 24 Dec 2009

This vote is indeed historic. This Congress will be remembered for its arrogance, corruption and stupidity... In the year of 2009, a Congress ignored the coming economic storm and impending bankruptcy of our entitlement programs and embarked on an ideological crusade to bring our nation as close to single-payer, government-run health care as possible. If this bill becomes law, future generations will rue this day and I will do everything in my power to work toward its repeal.

This bill will ration care, cut Medicare, increase premiums, fund abortion and bury our children in debt... Only the most condescending politician can believe it is appropriate to force Americans to pay for other people's abortions and to coerce medical professional to take the lives of unborn children...

...The experience of government-run health care in the United States and around the world shows that access to a government program is not access to health care. Forty percent of doctors restrict access to Medicaid patients. Medicare already rations care and denies medical claims at twice the rate of private insurers. Nations like the United Kingdom with government run health care routinely ration care based on cost, and Canadians flock to the United States to escape waiting lines. Neither nation, incidentally, has managed to control costs as promised.

Our health care system needs to be reformed not because government's role has been too small but because it has been too big...

More: <http://www.okmahnewsleader.com/content.aspx?module=ContentItem&ID=161049&MemberID=1578>

Time for a Climate Change Plan B

by Nigel Lawson, 22 Dec 2009

The world's political leaders, not least President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Gordon Brown, are in a state of severe, almost clinical, denial...

...Far from achieving a major step forward, Copenhagen—predictably—achieved precisely nothing. The nearest thing to a commitment was the promise by the developed world to pay the developing world \$30 billion of "climate aid" over the next three years, rising to \$100 billion a year from 2020. Not only is that (perhaps fortunately) not legally binding, but there is no agreement whatsoever about which countries it will go to, in which amounts, and on what conditions.

The reasons for the complete and utter failure of Copenhagen are both fundamental and irresolvable. The first is that the economic cost of decarbonizing the world's economies is massive, and of at least the same order of magnitude as any benefits it may conceivably bring in terms of a cooler world in the next century...

...Despite the overwhelming evidence of the Copenhagen debacle, it is not going to be easy to get our leaders to move to plan B. There is no doubt that calling a halt to the high-profile climate-change traveling circus risks causing a severe conference-deprivation trauma among the participants. If there has to be a small public investment in counseling, it would be money well spent.

Full column: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704107604574607793378860698.html>

Pagan Propaganda: The Other Attack on Christmas

by Selwyn Duke, 24 Dec 2009

http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/12/pagan_propaganda_the_other_att.html

In Loco Parentis

by Dymphna, 24 Dec 2009

...Every child has wondered at one time or another, "who will take care of me if something happens to my parents?" Kids know they're dependent on adults to survive. For them the question is not yet academic.

Recently *The Scientific American* published a study addressed to this very question: which is better for the motherless (okay, "parentless") child, an orphanage or a foster home? Before looking at their findings, I'll present my own

experience with foster homes and orphanages, both as a child and later as an adult social worker. If the personal part isn't of interest, just skip to the section about the study's findings.

I've given lots of thought to foster homes and orphanages. They loomed large in my childhood from the age of two until I reached ten. I didn't know that I was to encounter these places again in my adult work life...

Fascinating: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2009/12/in-loco-parentis.html#readfurther>

Too Many Democrats in Washington

by Peter Ferrara, 23 Dec 2009

...Democrat apologists want to shout down anyone who calls their historic legislation a government takeover of health care. That is because that label is so devastatingly accurate in explaining the true nature of the bill.

Under the legislation, the government will be telling insurers exactly what benefits they have to cover, who they must cover, and what they can charge. The government even redistributes income among insurers under a new "risk adjustment" policy.

Moreover, the government will be telling doctors and hospitals what medical treatments will work for their patients and what won't under so-called "comparative effectiveness," as if faraway bureaucrats in Washington who don't even know you would know this better than your own doctor, who most intimately does know you. The government will be telling doctors and hospitals what medical treatments are worth the cost under so-called "cost-effectiveness." And the government will be telling doctors and hospitals what their compensation will be for the health services they provide for you, under so-called "pay for performance." They may even tell the doctors and hospitals what the total budget for your care can be under "capitation" or "global budgeting," regardless of how sick you are and what care you may need.

The government will tell you what health insurance benefits you must buy, whether you want those benefits or not, and whether you can use them or not. This will include all the costly, politically correct benefits, such as drug rehab, mental health benefits, maternity benefits for single males and grandmothers, and low deductibles and co-pays with all the wrong incentives. The Democrats say this is not socialized medicine. But what is left that is not socialized?...

...During last year's campaign, President Obama pledged a health reform plan that would reduce health insurance costs by \$2,500 per year per family. If health insurance costs soar under his plan instead, wouldn't it be reasonable to ask him to resign for defrauding his way into office?...

Read the whole thing: <http://spectator.org/archives/2009/12/23/too-many-democrats-in-washingt>

Give Me Liberty, or Give Me Obamacare

by Jeffrey H. Anderson, 23 Dec 2009

...At its core, what Obamacare really means is a loss of freedom.

Obamacare would significantly diminish Americans' freedom to control the fruits of their own labors and to spend them as they choose and as they think best. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) reports that American taxpayers would be on the hook for approximately \$2.5 trillion for Obamacare in its real first ten years in operation (2014 to 2023) — about triple the false number of \$871 billion that the Democrats are spreading. As the CBO conveys, \$871 billion only covers the cost of insurance coverage expansions, which is only a portion of the bill. Furthermore, less than 2 percent of the costs for what the Democrats are calling the bill's "first-ten-year costs" would hit prior to the fifth year of that period. So the Democrats are really giving the six-year costs — for insurance coverage expansions alone — and calling them the ten-year costs for the whole bill. Either the Democrats know this and are being deliberately deceitful, or else they don't understand their own bill and are in over their heads even more than it appears.

In exchange for our significantly reduced freedom to contract with others in the manner of our own choosing, and our significantly reduced freedom to control the fruits of our own labor, one would hope that we would at least enjoy a corresponding drop in health-care costs. Instead, the Office of the Chief Actuary at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) says that health-care costs under Obamacare would rise in relation to current law, becoming 21 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) by the end of 2019 in comparison to 17 percent today. Remember when President Obama said that we couldn't continue spending 17 percent of our GDP on health care?...

More: <http://healthcare.nationalreview.com/post/?q=Mjc5ZmM4ODk4MWZhZTA5NDlhY2JkODE3ZTQ1ZmZmZWY=>



Obama's Latest Health Care Lie

by Matt Welch, 22 Dec 2009

That would be in remarks the president made yesterday:

The Congressional Budget Office now reports that this bill will reduce our deficit by \$132 billion over the first decade, and by as much as \$1.3 trillion in the decade after that. So I just want to be clear, for all those who are continually carping about how this is somehow a big spending government bill, this cuts our deficit by \$132 billion the first 10 years, and by over a trillion in the second. That argument that opponents are making against this bill does not hold water.

There are actually multiple lies and deceptions in this paragraph, beginning with the verb "reports" to describe what the Congressional Budget Office does...

Read on: <http://reason.com/blog/2009/12/22/obamas-latest-health-care-lie>

Intolerant Muslims (pardon the redundancy) continue to persecute and kill their Christian countrymen.

Not all tidings are of great joy

by Jeff Jacoby, 23 Dec 2009

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/12/23/not_all_tidings_are_of_great_joy?mode=PF

It's A Wonderful Bill

by Iowhawk, 22 Dec 2009 (with deep apologies to Frank Capra)

Scene 14: Christmas Eve, inside Bedford Falls Town Hall. Senator George Bailey confronts an angry mob of constituents protesting his vote on the new health care bill.

MAN #1

Come on Bailey, you can't hide forever! Let us in! ...

Continue: <http://iowahawk.typepad.com/iowahawk/2009/12/its-a-wonderful-bill.html>

Target Practice

Time to shoot some "cans."

<http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2009/dec/22/illegal-immigrant-to-walk-to-dc-to-petition-to/>

There Ain't No Such Thing As a Free Lumpectomy

The folly of a "right to health care."

by Jacob Sullum, 23 Dec 2009

... While liberty rights such as freedom of speech or freedom of contract require others to refrain from acting in certain ways, “welfare rights” such as the purported entitlement to health care (or to food, clothing, or shelter) require others to perform certain actions. They represent a legally enforceable claim on other people's resources. Taxpayers must cover the cost of subsidies; insurers and medical professionals must provide their services on terms dictated by the government.

A right to health care thus requires the government to infringe on people's liberty rights by commandeering their talents, labor, and earnings. And since new subsidies will only exacerbate the disconnect between payment and consumption that drives health care inflation, such interference is bound to increase as the government struggles to control ever-escalating spending. Rising costs will also encourage the government to repeatedly redefine the right to health care, deciding exactly which treatments it includes.

If health care is a fundamental right, equality under the law would seem to require that everyone have the same level of care, regardless of their resources. That principle was illustrated by the **case** of Debbie Hirst, a British woman with metastasized breast cancer who in 2007 was denied access to a commonly used drug on the grounds that it was too expensive...

Read it all: <http://reason.com/archives/2009/12/23/there-aint-no-such-thing-as-a>

A Candle for Iran?

by Paul Kengor, 23 Dec 2009

...I concluded those articles by emphasizing the need by Obama to employ the bully pulpit of the presidency to consistently encourage this vital groundswell of freedom in Iran. I noted that Reagan in particular had done precisely that in places like Poland in the 1980s—with grand historical results. For Obama, this means not simply reacting to occasional incidents in Iran—if and when they rarely present themselves—but to be proactive, to be creative, to regularly call out the tyrants and encourage the dissidents. Obama must do this if he wants to push the freedom tide—and yes, if he wants to change the status quo in a dungeon like Iran, which for thirty years now has been the world's worst terrorist state.

If I may, I'd like to offer a specific example from the Reagan playbook. It happened 28 years ago—Christmastime—this week. You will not hear about in our public schools and liberal universities. That's a loss for liberals, too. They're missing a moving lesson that their guy—President Obama—could benefit from considerably...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/12/a_candle_for_iran.html

Why Does Interpol Need Immunity from American Law?

by Andrew C. McCarthy, 23 Dec 2009

You just can't make up how brazen this crowd is. One week ago, President Obama quietly signed an executive order that makes an international police force immune from the restraints of American law...

Read on: <http://corner.nationalreview.com/post/?q=MGY3MTI4YTRjZmYwMGU1ZjZhOGJmNmQ0NmJiZDNmMDY=>

And *another* unconstitutional thing...

Harry Reid Turns Insurance Into a Public Utility

The health bill creates a massive cash crunch and then bankruptcies for many insurers.

by Richard Epstein, 23 Dec 2009

...One common talking point of proponents of the Reid bill is that competitive markets don't really do a very good job of reining in costs. Indeed, the most common justification for the public option was to supply real competition to the private sector. Now that the option has vanished, the alternative regulatory technique is brute regulatory force. The argument seems to be that price controls alone can force out the waste and inefficiency that are posited to be the hallmark of private markets.

By this twisted logic, rent control is the perfect path to efficient competitive markets. Unfortunately, here no insurer can simply cut back on services provided given the minimum standards. And if it raises rates, the rebates cut ever more deeply during the next period. So essentially, there is no viable option for these firms either on the state exchange or off it.

The economic chaos that is likely to follow the disruption of private insurance health-care markets draws no attention from its Democratic supporters. Oddly enough, it has also been overlooked by the opponents of the bill who are so appalled

by this hydra-headed monster that they don't have the patience to parse its mind-numbing provision.

Perhaps that indifference will end if the Supreme Court takes a hard look at this new adventure into rate regulation...

Read the rest: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704304504574610040924143158.html>

Please donate to

Disabled American Veterans

They sacrificed a lot for us. We can sacrifice a little for them, at the very least!

<http://www.dav.org/donate/Default.aspx>

(hat tip: Tony C.)

Read all about the cynical back-room deals and payoffs.

On health-care bill, Democratic senators are in states of denial

by Dana Milbank, 22 Dec 2009

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/21/AR2009122102861.html>

Senator DeMint (R-SC) has uncovered some disturbing shenanigans and anti-repeal clauses.

The process of passing Health Care

by Megan McArdle, 22 Dec 2009

http://meganmcardle.theatlantic.com/archives/2009/12/the_process_of_passing_health.php

Build-A-Climate-Scare: Why You Should Boycott Build-A-Bear

by Maura Flynn, 22 Dec 2009

<http://biggovernment.com/2009/12/22/build-a-climate-scare-why-you-should-boycott-build-a-bear/>

Is this U.S. justice?

by Jonathan Gurwitz, 20 Dec 2009

...Let's assume for the moment that Abed is telling the truth, that he is not simply following an al-Qaida training manual's well-known instructions for detainees to "insist on proving that torture was inflicted on them" and "complain of mistreatment." Abed isn't even claiming he was waterboarded. This is war, for God's sake, not a debutante ball.

The irony is that if the SEALs had killed Abed in the operation as SEAL snipers did when they shot three Somali pirates last spring, they'd be recognized as the heroes that they are. But because Abed is alive, he's able to exploit a foolhardy effort to turn the war against brutal terrorists into a white glove legal operation.

That effort includes Attorney General Eric Holder's appointment of a special prosecutor to go after members of the U.S. intelligence community who participated in enhanced interrogations of a handful of hardened terrorists, 9-11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed among them. And it includes the Obama administration's decision to try Mohammed and some other detainees in the federal court system rather than before military tribunals, giving them the same constitutional rights as the U.S. citizens they murdered.

Critics, myself included, warned that this legalization of the war against al-Qaida and other terrorist groups creates a process that effectively gives illegal combatants Miranda rights. The charges against the SEALs represent a logical progression of that process.

When members of U.S. special operations forces — the best of the best who have volunteered to shoulder the burden of war — have to worry that their own government will prosecute them based on the accusations of terrorists, the American people and American interests are endangered. McCabe, Huertas and Keefe are on trial for their military lives. Meanwhile, a nation and its leaders sleep in heavenly peace.

More: http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/columnists/jonathan_gurwitz/Is_this_US_justice.html

Mind you, the laws that will inflict these horrors on America aren't supposed to take effect until 2013. They can be effectively nullified by electing a Republican Congress and (above all) a Republican president.

American Patients, Get Ready to Wait

by Sally C. Pipes, 22 Dec 2009

...The Canadian Medical Association pegs the annual cost of waiting for care including total joint replacement surgery, cataract surgery, coronary artery bypass graft surgery, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans at nearly \$15 billion. The government's narrow focus on keeping spending down ignores these real costs.

Worse, an incredible 16 percent of the population—five million people—is waiting to get a primary care doctor...Canadians waited 16.1 weeks from the time their general practitioner referred them to a specialist until they actually received treatment in 2009...In the United States, the average wait to see an orthopedic specialist is 16.8 **days**...Canadians wait 17.1 **weeks** for the same appointment...It takes 4.6 weeks to get a CT scan and 8.9 weeks for an MRI. Even the Canadian government now finds this intolerable...

More: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2009/12/22/american_patients_get_ready_to_wait_99646.html

Our human rights culture has now become a tyranny

The [British] Supreme Court this week effectively made the Jewish religion illegal.

by Charles Moore, 18 Dec 2009

...When you set out general principles about equal treatment for all, regardless of race, religion, sex, age etc, people will tend to agree with them. It is a liberal principle that all are equal before the law, and a Christian principle that all are equal in the sight of God.

But when you frame endless laws according to these universal principles, you run into difficulties. It may be "discriminatory" for a Jewish/Catholic/Muslim school to prefer to employ Jewish/Catholic/Muslim teachers, but isn't it also reasonable? Isn't it fair and natural that a religious school should be free to prefer to admit children from the relevant faith, in order to maintain the ethos which is so important to its success as a school? By what morality are such things wrong?

The human rights culture which now dominates our law believes in its own morality. It sets itself above the varied experience of civilisation, and above the idea of independent nations. It decides that rights can be codified for everyone and can be applied everywhere. It is not a coincidence that our highest court has just changed its name from the House of Lords to the Supreme Court: it considers itself supreme indeed. This "human-rights" morality is much more coercive than it purports to be...

Fascinating thoughts on the culture-wars:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/charlesmoore/6840557/Our-human-rights-culture-has-now-become-a-tyranny.html>

Now that Christmas is almost here:

an insightful column from 4 weeks ago, on what's wrong with the way we celebrate it.

The Gift of Not Giving

by George Will, 25 Nov 2009

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/25/AR2009112502653.html>

Change Nobody Believes In

A bill so reckless that it has to be rammed through on a partisan vote on Christmas eve.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 21 Dec 2009

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704398304574598130440164954.html>

Democrats Break Ground

by Philip Klein, 21 Dec 2009

...The point isn't that this one piece of legislation, on its own, will impose a Canadian-style, government-run health care system on the United States immediately. The point is that Democrats are putting infrastructure in place that will allow them to implement a government-run system over time.

By voting in the middle of the night to block a Republican filibuster attempt, Democrats took a big step toward passing health legislation, which is now expected to pass the Senate on Christmas Eve. To be sure, they'll still encounter a number of obstacles before President Obama can sign it into law...

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2009/12/21/democrats-break-ground>

Passing health reform could be a nightmare for Obama

by Robert Samuelson, 21 Dec 2009

Barack Obama's quest for historic health-care legislation has turned into a parody of leadership. We usually associate presidential leadership with the pursuit of goals that, though initially unpopular, serve America's long-term interests. Obama has reversed this. He's championing increasingly unpopular legislation that threatens the country's long-term interests. "This isn't about me," he likes to say, "I have great health insurance." But of course, it is about him: about the legacy he covets as the president who achieved "universal" health insurance. He'll be disappointed.

Even if Congress passes legislation—a good bet—the finished product will fall far short of Obama's extravagant promises. It will not cover everyone. It will not control costs. It will worsen the budget outlook. It will lead to higher taxes. It will disrupt how, or whether, companies provide insurance for their workers. As the real-life (as opposed to rhetorical) consequences unfold, they will rebut Obama's claim that he has "solved" the health-care problem. His reputation will suffer.

It already has...

Continue: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/20/AR2009122002127.html>

The Left is always determined to eradicate essential democratic concepts from our culture.

There'll be nowhere to run from the new world government

'Global' thinking won't necessarily solve the world's problems.

by Janet Daley, 20 Dec 2009

There is scope for debate—and innumerable newspaper quizzes—about who was the most influential public figure of the year, or which the most significant event. But there can be little doubt which word won the prize for most important adjective. 2009 was the year in which "global" swept the rest of the political lexicon into obscurity. There were "global crises" and "global challenges," the only possible resolution to which lay in "global solutions" necessitating "global agreements." Gordon Brown actually suggested something called a "global alliance" in response to climate change. (Would this be an alliance against the Axis of Extra-Terrestrials?)

Some of this was sheer hokum: when uttered by Gordon Brown, the word "global," as in "global economic crisis," meant: "It's not my fault." To the extent that the word had intelligible meaning, it also had political ramifications that were scarcely examined by those who bandied it about with such ponderous self-importance. The mere utterance of it was assumed to sweep away any consideration of what was once assumed to be the most basic principle of modern democracy: that elected national governments are responsible to their own people—that the right to govern derives from the consent of the electorate...

Be sure to read the whole essay:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/janetdaley/6845967/There'll-be-nowhere-to-run-from-the-new-world-government.html>

A logical, not-too-violent remedy for this recurring problem.

Oil Follies—and a Gentle Suggestion

by Dafydd, 18 Dec 2009

Today, Iran sent troops into Iraqi territory and seized one of Iraq's oil wells...

More: http://biglizards.net/blog/archives/2009/12/oil_follies_and.html

Abolishing Marriage in Washington, D.C.

by J. Kenneth Blackwell, 20 Dec 2009

...If love and commitment make a marriage, why cannot brothers and sisters marry? Or fathers and daughters? What the District Council has done is to open the door to polygamy, to incest. There is no basis in law or logic for denying such persons their desire for so-called marriage equality.

The reason I call this measure counterfeit marriage is because these false marriage bills have the same effect on true marriage that counterfeiting money has on real money. Secret Service Agents are trained to spot counterfeit money. They can't follow all the possible forms of counterfeiting, so they're trained to know real money when they see it. In a similar way, the voters know real marriage when they see it.

Abraham Lincoln once posed a question: Suppose we agree to call a horse's tail a leg; then how many legs does a horse have? His hearers answered five. No, said Lincoln, our agreeing to call a tail a leg does not make it a leg. Similarly, the District Council's action in calling something marriage cannot make it marriage.

Why is this so serious? It's important because marriage is social justice for the poor. Every social science indicator we have shows that children raised by a mother and father who are married have the best prospects in life. If we really care about health, education, and welfare, we cannot destroy marriage...

...Counterfeit marriage will also constitute a grave threat to religious liberty and the rights of conscience. Think you're immune? You will be forced to accept these counterfeit marriages in hundreds of ways—if you're an employer, if you're an employee, if your church is like the Catholic Church and provides vital social services to many of the neediest. You'll have to go along or be ostracized, called a bigot. This is truly dangerous to us all...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/12/abolishing_marriage_in_washing.html

The Ugly Truth about the Insurance Mandate

Obama proposes to become the tax collector for the corporate-welfare state.

National Review editorial, 18 Dec 2009

For Democrats, the Holy Grail of health care has always been "universal coverage." The words have flowed effortlessly out of their mouths so often that most of them probably long ago stopped thinking about what it would mean in practice if their dream were ever really implemented.

Well, now they — and we — know. The ugly truth is that "universal coverage," Obama-style, is a burdensome "individual mandate." The federal government is not offering the American public something new and better that they couldn't already get on their own. It is handing down a punitive tax on anyone who dares to allocate their limited resources to things other than one-size-fits-all health insurance...

Continue: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=NGEzYmI0NmM4NjkxY2ZjNjBhZmVINmY3Y2RiMzk5Mzg=>

A \$2.5 Trillion Self-Contradiction

Obamacare is a classic case of bait and switch.

by Deroy Murdock, 18 Dec 2009

...In fact, the Congressional Budget Office concluded that under Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's bill, "average premiums per policy in the non-group market in 2016 would be roughly \$5,800 for single policies and \$15,200 for family policies under the proposal, compared with roughly \$5,500 for single policies and \$13,100 for family policies under current law."

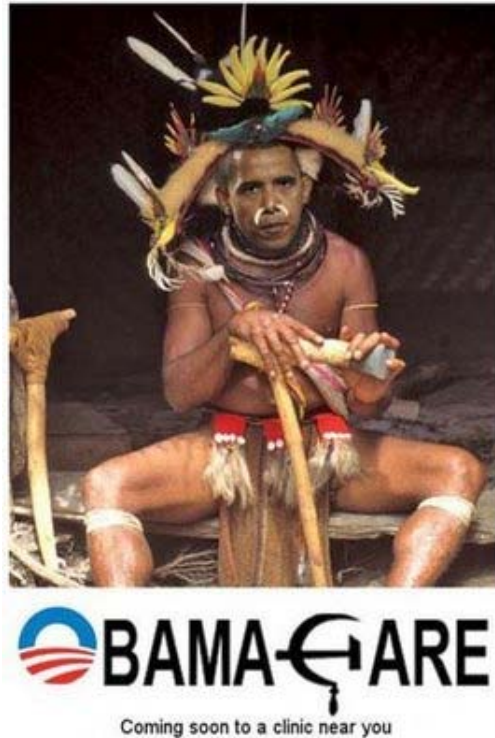
Among companies, the Small Business Coalition for Affordable Health Care believes that the status quo would trump Reid's bill. "Unfortunately, with its new taxes, mandates, growth in government programs, and overall price tag, [Reid's measure] costs too much and delivers too little."

As for government costs, the Health and Human Services Department's chief actuary analyzed Reid's legislation. Compared to doing nothing, Richard Foster estimated that "total national health expenditures under this bill would increase by an estimated total of \$234 billion (0.7 percent)" between 2010 and 2019. U.S. health spending would grow from 16 percent of GDP to 20.9 percent. Bye bye, cost containment...

...Pat Roberts (R-KS) said on the Senate floor December 9 that this bill "taxes you if you have health insurance. It taxes you if you do not have health insurance." Citing Congress's Joint Committee on Taxation, Roberts explained that "73 million individuals and families or 43 percent of all tax returns under \$200,000 will, on average, see their taxes increase under this bill."...

...While taxes on health insurers, drug companies, and medical-device manufacturers would start in 2010, Americans would not enjoy health reform's reputed benefits until 2014. Thus, **Obamacare is like calling 911, except that the ambulance shows up four months late.** The lives that Obamacare so urgently must save presumably will keep expiring until the middle of Obama's second term—or his successor's first...

The rest: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=MDdjNTU3YzlkM2UxMDhkNDk3MTg5MWQxZjUyMTA2NGM=>



The Health Care Bill Is Political Suicide

by Sean Trende, 19 Dec 2009

Health reform is shuffling toward its endgame, and even though the bill's popularity resembles George Bush's circa 2007, Democrats seem determined to push the bill through. Browse through **certain liberal blogs**, or listen to Democratic leadership speeches, and you'll read the same justification again and again: However bad passing this bill might be, politically speaking, not passing it would be much, much worse.

I've been skeptical of this line of argument for quite some time. This summer, I showed that **Democrats from Republican-leaning districts who supported President Clinton's agenda fared significantly worse in the 1994 midterm election than those who did not.** It seems almost certain that an additional vote for Clinton's then-wildly-unpopular healthcare bill would not have helped these Democrats any; passing ClintonCare almost certainly would have made 1994 even worse for the Democrats. Likewise, after taking tough votes on the stimulus package and cap-and-trade, it seemed unlikely that a vote on the then-mildly-unpopular health care bill would help Congressional Democrats.

Nothing has changed my mind since then. Rather, as events have unfolded I've become increasingly convinced that there is little political upside for Democrats in passing this bill, and much, much downside. For one thing, the "failure is not an option" argument makes little sense at a very basic level...

More: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2009/12/19/the_health_care_bill_is_political_suicide_99590.html

The Rot At Duke—And Beyond

Much of academia appears to have a disregard of due process and a bias against white males.

by Stuart Taylor Jr., 19 Dec 2009

You might think that a university whose students were victims of the most notorious fraudulent rape claim in recent history, and whose professors—88 of them—signed an ad implicitly presuming guilt, and whose president came close to doing the same would have learned some lessons.

The facts are otherwise. They also suggest that Duke University's ugly abuse in 2006 and 2007 of its now-exonerated

lacrosse players—white males accused by a black stripper and hounded by a mob hewing to political correctness—reflects a disregard of due process and a bias against white males that infect much of academia.

In September, far from taking pains to protect its students from false rape charges, Duke adopted a revised "sexual misconduct" policy that makes a mockery of due process and may well foster more false rape charges by rigging the disciplinary rules against the accused.

Meanwhile, none of the 88 guilt-presuming professors has publicly apologized. (Duke's president, Richard Brodhead, did—but too little and too late.) Many of the faculty signers—a majority of whom are white—have expressed pride in their rush to judgment. None was dismissed, demoted, or publicly rebuked...

More: http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/print_friendly.php?ID=or_20091219_1261

Laughing at the Left

by Quin Hillyer, 18 Dec 2009

If the consequences for this great nation of ours weren't so serious and the policies preferred by the left weren't so dangerous, one would really laugh, almost uncontrollably, at the beliefs and (il)logic of American liberals. Based on things they have actually said or done, here are some of the things they really, truly seem to believe...

Read it all: <http://spectator.org/archives/2009/12/18/laughing-at-the-left>

(Hat tip: Tom L.)

How global warming and cooling actually occur.

The Cloud Mystery

Henrik Svensmark et al., 8 March 2009

video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKoUwttE0BA>

The Battleground Poll and the Battle for America

by Bruce Walker, 18 Dec 2009

Good news for conservatives in the latest Battleground Poll. The political implications are profound, if the already-energized conservative base takes even more initiative...

Read on: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/12/the_battleground_poll_and_the.html

Global Wealth Can Heal the Planet

Free-market nations are better at protecting their environments than statist regimes.

by Jonah Goldberg, 18 Dec 2009

...So consider instead Diane Francis, a ballyhooed Canadian pundit. In a recent *Financial Post* column, Francis wrote that the "'inconvenient truth' overhanging the U.N.'s Copenhagen conference is not that the climate is warming or cooling, but that humans are overpopulating the world." She insists that "the only way to reverse the disastrous global birthrate" is to implement a "planetary law, such as China's one-child policy."

Population control has always been at the heart of the progressive project, so it's no surprise that it's in fashion once again. But Francis's proposal is particularly disgusting, not least because Francis has two children. I think the hypocrisy charge is overused in political debate these days, but when you tout a totalitarian police state's population policy of, among other things, forced abortions, you might try harder to practice what you preach. Think globally, act locally and all that.

But Francis's argument is also stunningly stupid, as are virtually all of the complaints about capitalism being the root of the problem. The historical record is clear: Democratic free-market nations are better at protecting their environments than statist regimes for the simple reason that they can afford to. West Germany's environment was far cleaner than East Germany's. I'd much sooner drink the tap water in South Korea than North Korea.

Mugabe rails against capitalism as if he has a better idea of how to run things. That's almost funny given that Mugabe has destroyed what was once a great cause for hope in Africa, in large part by abandoning capitalism and democracy. Zimbabwe now has the highest inflation rate in the world and one of the lowest life expectancies...



(from RushLimbaugh.com)

Three Undemocratic Temptations

by Tony Blankley, 18 Dec 2009

As the Democrats in Congress approach the end of a frustrating first year's legislative effort, their leaders and the White House are being tempted by three possible shortcuts around the regular lawmaking process...

...What a shocking abrogation of representative government. This is not a matter of policy; it is a matter of constitutional process. Even our friends at the left-wing Daily Kos condemned this as "particularly galling" and favorably quoted the "strong opposition" statement of the progressive Campaign for America's Future, as do I:

"Those supporting this circumvention of the normal process have stated openly the desire to avoid political accountability. Americans — seniors, women, working families, people with disabilities, young adults, children, people of color, veterans, communities of faith and others — expect their elected representatives to be responsible and accountable for shaping such significant, far-reaching legislation."

Amen, my brothers and sisters of the left. The day that either of us loves our constitutional process less than we would love to see some particular policy enacted — that's the day democracy dies in America...

Read it all: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/12/18/three-undemocratic-temptations-by-tony-blankley/>

Stem Cell Promises vs. Stem Cell Results

by Joseph Ashby, 17 Dec 2009

In early December, the Obama administration approved 33 new embryonic stem cell lines (WaPo story [here](#)). For the left, embryonic testing has become a secular version of touching the hem of Christ's garment—the instant, miraculous, and consequence-free cure to all ailments. With \$21 million of our tax dollars in funding, and potentially billions more to follow, the "first wave" of testing has begun.

Meanwhile, the advances in non-embryonic (or adult) stem cell research continue to pile up. The latest news coming from the UK's Daily Mail...

Continue: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2009/12/stem_cell_promises_vs_stem_cel.html

The Health Bill Is Scary

Government guidelines would likely have forbidden the test I used to discover Sheila's cancer.

by Sen. Tom Coburn, 16 Dec 2009

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703514404574588842779569168.html>

Free Speech on Trial

by Robert Spencer, 16 Dec 2009

Free speech goes on trial in the Netherlands on January 20, when Dutch politician Geert Wilders appears before the Amsterdam District Court on charges of having "intentionally offended a group of people, i.e. Muslims, based on their religion," as well as having incited to hatred and discrimination.

What did Wilders do to warrant such charges? He told the truth about the global jihad and Islamic supremacism, and their roots in Islamic texts and teachings, in his film *Fitna* and elsewhere. But nowadays truth-telling is at such a premium that those who still dare to engage in it are threatened, harassed and prosecuted...

...The action against Wilders is taking place, moreover, against the backdrop of the 57-government Organization of the Islamic Conference's ongoing efforts at the United Nations to silence speech that they deem critical of Islam — including "defamation of Islam" that goes under the "pretext" of "freedom of expression, counter terrorism or national security."...

...The stakes are so high in the Wilders case also because the OIC has a new, powerful ally as it moves against the freedom of speech. In October the Obama Administration actually co-sponsored an anti-free speech resolution at the United Nations. Approved by the U.N. Human Rights Council, the resolution, cosponsored by the U.S. and Egypt, calls on states to condemn and criminalize "any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence."

Echoing Obama's stated determination to combat "negative stereotyping of Islam" in the United States, the resolution also condemns "negative stereotyping of religions and racial groups." This is, of course, an oblique reference to accurate reporting about the jihad doctrine and Islamic supremacism — for such reporting, and not actual negative stereotyping or hateful language at all, is always the focus of OIC complaints... For the first time, an American President has bowed to the OIC's demands and taken cognizance of that "responsibility."...

More: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/12/16/free-speech-on-trial-by-robert-spencer/>

Obama says government will go bankrupt unless health care reform is passed

by Rick Moran, 17 Dec 2009

This is pretty much the topper in deceit and fear mongering...

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2009/12/obama_says_government_will_go.html

Mr. Scruton rarely disappoints. This is a gem.

Totalitarian Sentimentality

by Roger Scruton, 9 Dec 2009

...The USA has descended from its special position as the principled guardian of Western civilization and joined the club of sentimentalists who have until now depended on American power. In the administration of President Obama we see the very same totalitarian sentimentality that has been at work in Europe, and which has replaced civil society with the state, the family with the adoption agency, work with welfare, and patriotic duty with universal "rights." The lesson of postwar Europe is that it is easy to flaunt compassion, but harder to bear the cost of it. Far preferable to the hard life in which disciplined teaching, costly charity, and responsible attachment are the ruling principles is the life of sentimental display, in which others are encouraged to admire you for virtues you do not possess. This life of phony compassion is a life of transferred costs. Liberals who wax lyrical on the sufferings of the poor do not, on the whole, give their time and money to helping those less fortunate than themselves. On the contrary, they campaign for the state to assume the burden. The inevitable result of their sentimental approach to suffering is the expansion of the state and the increase in its power both to tax us and to control our lives.

As the state takes charge of our needs, and relieves people of the burdens that should rightly be theirs — the burdens that come from charity and neighborliness — serious feeling retreats. In place of it comes an aggressive sentimentality that seeks to dominate the public square. I call this sentimentality "totalitarian" since — like totalitarian government — it seeks out opposition and carefully extinguishes it, in all the places where opposition might form. Its goal is to "solve" our social problems, by imposing burdens on responsible citizens, and lifting burdens from the "victims," who have a "right" to state support. The result is to replace old social problems, which might have been relieved by private charity, with the new and intransigent problems fostered by the state...

The full essay: <http://spectator.org/archives/2009/12/09/totalitarian-sentimentality>

Climategate goes SERIAL: now the Russians confirm that UK climate scientists manipulated data to exaggerate global warming

by James Delingpole, 16 Dec 2009

Climategate just got much, much bigger. And all thanks to the Russians who, with perfect timing, dropped this bombshell just as the world's leaders are gathering in Copenhagen to discuss ways of carbon-taxing us all back to the dark ages...

More: <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100020126/climategate-goes-serial-now-the-russians-confirm-that-uk-climate-scientists-manipulated-data-to-exaggerate-global-warming/>

Democrats want to do away with the Senate

by Noemie Emery, 15 Dec 2009

In recent months, a narrative has emerged on the Left regarding the cause of the health care debacle: It's all the fault of the United States Senate, a perverse, bizarre and dysfunctional body, which ought to be phased out or killed...

Read on: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/Democrats-want-to-do-away-with-the-Senate-8659425-79335772.html>

How Likely Is Hyperinflation?

Have central bank and government reactions to the crisis created a large danger for the future?

by Peter Bernholz, 15 Dec 2009

During the past several months, concerns have risen that the expansionary policies of the U.S. government and the Federal Reserve System to counter the present crisis are creating the danger of a substantial future inflation. Some speak even of a hyperinflation, that is, of a rate of inflation exceeding 50 percent per month. People believing in the latter scenario base their concerns on results I presented in *Monetary Regimes and Inflation: History, Economic and Political Relationships*, which shows that all hyperinflations were caused by huge government deficits. By analyzing many historical examples, I illustrated how hyperinflations resulted whenever 40 percent or more of government expenditures were financed by money creation. Since it is expected that about 42 percent of U.S. expenditures will be financed by credits this year, some fear the emergence of hyperinflation in the United States. Consequently we face the interesting question of whether a very high U.S. inflation with a corresponding fall of exchange rates has to be expected...

More: <http://www.american.com/archive/2009/december-2009/how-likely-is-hyperinflation>

Conservatives Rally Against Health Bill

C-Span, 15 Dec 2009

A coalition of conservative groups gathered for a rally on Capitol Hill to express opposition to the health care legislation under consideration in the U.S. Senate. Among the many speakers were Rep. **Michelle Bachmann** (MN), Senators **Tom Coburn** (OK), **Jim DeMint** (SC), **Johnny Isakson** (GA), and **Richard Burr** (NC), and radio talk show host **Laura Ingraham** (at 49:00).

Watch: <http://cspan.org/Watch/Media/2009/12/15/HP/R/27262/Conservatives+Rally+Against+Health+Bill.aspx>

Climate Change Is Natural: 100 Reasons Why

Daily Express, 15 Dec 2009

Here are the 100 reasons, released in a dossier issued by the European Foundation, why climate change is natural and not man-made: <http://www.dailyexpress.co.uk/posts/view/146138>

Yes, there is Santa

He's no liberal myth.

by *Michael Graham*, 15 Dec 2009

...If you thought the "fire never melted steel" crowd was nuts, check out the new study from the bipartisan Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. They find that liberals and Democrats are far more likely to believe in ghosts, psychic powers and astrology than their conservative/Republican counterparts. About 50 percent more Democrats than Republicans say they have spoken to the dead. Or as it's known at Democratic Party headquarters, "voter outreach."

Byron York, writing about this Pew study in the *Washington Examiner*, calls the results "startling." The word I would use is "obvious." The essence of contemporary liberalism is the ability to believe in nonsense.

This week, President Obama and his fellow Democrats told *60 Minutes* that they are serious about dealing with America's debt problem. That very same Sunday, Senate Democrats pushed through a \$1.1 trillion spending bill, every penny of which has to be borrowed.

President "No More Earmarks" is going to sign a bill that includes subsidies for Amtrak, a government pay raise and more than 5,000 individual earmarks for pork-barrel pols to send home the bacon. The ObamaCrats need to raise the debt ceiling by \$1.8 trillion just to get through the 2010 elections. That's as much debt in one year as the entire eight years of George W. Bush...

More: http://bostonherald.com/news/opinion/op_ed/view/20091215yes_there_is_santa_hes_no_liberal_myth/srvc=news&position=also

Inconvenient truth for Al Gore as his North Pole sums don't add up

by *Hannah Devlin, Ben Webster, Philippe Naughton in Copenhagen*, 15 Dec 2009

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/copenhagen/article6956783.ece>

Lord Monckton debates Greenpeace activist on the streets of Copenhagen

12 Dec 2009

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzkB5DuveDE>

A flawed process yields a flawed plan for Afghanistan

by *Paul Mirengoff*, 13 Dec 2009

...First, it was a month until Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, Obama's commander in the Afghan theater and author of the plan being considered by the administration, was brought into the discussions. McChrystal presented his plan in August and the White House began its deliberations during the second week of September. Yet, McChrystal was not consulted until Oct. 8.

Second, when the White House war planners finally talked to McChrystal, they discovered he was not on the same page as the administration. McChrystal said his plan was designed to "defeat the Taliban and secure the population." But key members of the White House team insisted that the mission should be to "degrade," not defeat the Taliban.

McChrystal responded that defeating the Taliban was the mission he had been given in March. Obama agreed, but decided that the mission should be redefined, and the general's plan adjusted accordingly.

In short, the decision on a plan of action was delayed because the White House waited a month before bringing McChrystal into the loop and, when the general finally was consulted, the White House decided it did not like the mission it had given him.

There's a word for this—incompetence. A different word describes Obama's speech announcing his plan—defensiveness. That's an unusual word to describe a renewed call to arms, but Obama clearly felt he had much to be defensive about...

More: http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/Sunday_Reflections/A-flawed-process-yields-a-flawed-plan-for-Afghanistan-8651132-79078367.html

This is more than a week old, but it's a splendid review by a renowned intellectual and academic.

Sarah Palin is Coming to Town

by Stanley Fish, 7 Dec 2009

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/12/07/sarah-palin-is-coming-to-town/>

A savings mirage on health care

by Robert J. Samuelson, 14 Dec 2009

We are witnessing a determined counterattack by the Obama administration and its political allies on the matter of health-care costs. Many critics (including me) have argued that President Obama's "reform" agenda wouldn't control rapidly rising health spending and might speed it up. The logic is simple. People with insurance use more health services than those without. If government insures 30 million or more Americans, health spending will rise. Greater demand will press on limited supply; prices will increase. The best policy: Control spending first, then expand coverage.

But the administration insists that it can insure most of the uninsured and tackle runaway health spending simultaneously. There's so much waste in today's health-care system that both goals can be pursued together, Peter Orszag, head of the Office of Management and Budget, has said...

Continue: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/13/AR2009121302450.html>

From Awful to Worse

Harry Reid's medical malpractice.

by James C. Capretta and Yuval Levin, 14 Dec 2009 (21 Dec issue)

Apparently, in exchange for dropping the "public option," moderate Senate Democrats have tentatively agreed to open up Medicare to people age 55 to 64 (retirees can currently sign up for it at age 65). In other words, rather than build on the failed cost-control model of Medicare, they now want to actually further burden Medicare itself. Why take a roundabout path to failure when a direct one is available? The irrationality of this solution is staggering. But, of course, it's a solution to Reid's political problem, not to the nation's health care financing crisis. Moderate Senate Democrats don't want to vote for anything called a "public option," but some of Reid's more liberal colleagues won't give up the dream of marching toward a single payer health care system. So he has offered up an even more direct path to such a system, but given it a different name and frame than the "public option."

Liberals are ecstatic at the prospect. New York representative Anthony Weiner, a single-payer advocate, called the idea the "mother of all public options."...

Read it all: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/017/329mquur.asp>

What Senators Think They Know about Health Care

... isn't so.

by Ramesh Ponnuru, 14 Dec 2009

The Senate floor debate on health-care legislation has included a lot of confident assertions — many of them false. Sen. Bill Nelson (D., Fla.), for example, said during floor debate that the uninsured impose a "hidden tax" of more than \$1,000 per person. That claim, as regular readers of *NRO* already know, originated with a left-wing advocacy group. A Kaiser Family Foundation study debunked the group's analysis, reaching an estimate closer to \$200 per year for a family. The Congressional Budget Office has joined in the debunking...

Continue: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=ZThiZjBhOThhOGY2YWIIODdjODY2OGNIODJkMjdINDg=>

Hollywood and Howard Zinn's Marxist Education Project

by Michelle Malkin, 14 Dec 2009

The two most important questions for society, according to the Greek philosopher Plato, are these: What will we teach our children? And who will teach them? Left-wing celebrities have teamed up with one of America's most radical historians to take control of the classroom in the name of "social justice." Parents, beware: This Hollywood-backed Marxist education project may be coming to a school near you.

On Sunday, Dec. 13, the History Channel aired *The People Speak* — a documentary based on Marxist academic

Howard Zinn's capitalism-bashing, America-dissing, grievance-mongering history textbook, *A People's History of the United States*. The film was co-produced and bankrolled by Zinn's Boston neighbor and mentee Matt Damon. An all-star cast of Bush-bashing liberals, including Danny Glover, Josh Brolin, Bruce Springsteen, Marisa Tomei and Eddie Vedder, will appear. Zinn's work is a self-proclaimed "biased account" of American history that rails against white oppressors, the free market and the military...

Read on: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/12/14/hollywood-and-howard-zinns-marxist-education-project-by-michelle-malkin/>

The Just-War Tradition

Obama's Oslo speech presumes too much about a centuries-old intellectual tradition.

by *George Weigel*, 12 Dec 2009

<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=MTcyOTljYjM1NmRkZWl0ZGFmZDkzOGU1M2VlZDk2MWQ=>

The Bukay Affair

by *Steven Plaut*, 14 Dec 2009

The most outrageous assault by the Israeli authorities against academic freedom of speech took place in recent days in what is becoming known as the Bukay Affair. The affair combines leftist undermining of democracy, the attempt at thought control by governmental officials and the police, harassment of a university lecturer by an over-zealous anti-democratic prosecutor, and an attempt to create in Israel a political Inquisition against incorrect thinking.

The entire saga revolves around Dr. David Bukay, a lecturer in Middle East Studies at the University of Haifa, with expertise in Arab history. Bukay speaks Arabic better than I speak English. He has conservative points of view and is very outspoken about them. His articles are carried by numerous journals...

More: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/12/14/the-bukay-affair-by-steven-plaut/>

"A conservationist believes that trees are important. An environmentalist believes that trees are more important than people."

—*Ralph Peters*, 12 Dec 2009

Sheer. Utter. Genius.

Obama goes from dazzle to drone

by *Mark Steyn*, 12 Dec 2009

...The usual trick is to position their man as the uniquely insightful leader, pitching his tent between two extremes no sane person has ever believed: "There are those who say there is no evil in the world. There are others who argue that pink fluffy bunnies are the spawn of Satan and conspiring to overthrow civilization. Let me be clear: I believe people of goodwill on all sides can find common ground between the absurdly implausible caricatures I attribute to them on a daily basis. We must begin by finding the courage to acknowledge the hard truth that I am living testimony to the power of nuance to triumph over hard truth and come to the end of the sentence on a note of sonorous, polysyllabic if somewhat hollow uplift. Pause for applause."...

...In the great sucking maw of the federal treasury, \$6 million isn't even a rounding error. But it comes from real people—from you and anybody you know who still makes the mistake of working for a living; and, if it had been left in your pockets, you'd have spent it in the real world, at a local business or in expanding your own, and maybe some way down the road it would have created some genuine jobs. Instead, it got funneled to a Democrat pitchman to preserve three nonjobs on a phony quasi-governmental PR campaign. Big Government does that every minute of the day. When Mom 'n' Pop Cola of Dead Skunk Junction gets gobbled up by Coke, there are economies of scale. When real economic activity gets annexed by state, and then federal, government, there are no economies of scale. In fact, the very concept of "scale" disappears, so that tossing six million bucks away to "preserve" three already-existing positions isn't even worth complaining about...

Dazzling stuff: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/obama-223697-belgian-rompuy.html>

A better plan for jobs

by Rep. John Boehner, 11 Dec 2009

During a meeting at the White House this week, House Republican leaders **presented** President Obama with a plan to create jobs and get our economy moving again. It is a responsible blueprint for action based on common-sense solutions that recognize that small business, not government, is the engine of job creation in America.

Republicans took the opportunity to question the impact of the president's proposals to raise taxes on small businesses and expand government at a time of double-digit unemployment. Unfortunately, instead of addressing our concerns, the president said that Republicans are primarily interested in unemployment because of the 2010 midterm elections, and that we seem to be almost rooting against recovery. I told the president very directly that everyone—Republicans and Democrats—wants to get people back to work.

The president also **accused** Republicans of "scaring" the American people, but the truth is that double-digit unemployment is scaring people and his job-killing agenda is making it worse...

Continue: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/10/AR2009121003436_pf.html

Intellectuals and Society

by Thomas Sowell; to be published 5 Jan 2010

Book review:

<http://www.ocregister.com/opinion/sowell-223772-intellectuals-media.html>

To order:

http://www.amazon.com/Intellectuals-Society-Thomas-Sowell/dp/046501948X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1260756264&sr=1-1

Tax Cuts Might Accomplish What Spending Hasn't

by N. Gregory Mankiw, 13 Dec 2009

...When devising its fiscal package, the Obama administration relied on conventional economic models based in part on ideas of John Maynard Keynes. Keynesian theory says that government spending is more potent than tax policy for jump-starting a stalled economy.

The report in January put numbers to this conclusion. It says that an extra dollar of government spending raises G.D.P. by \$1.57, while a dollar of tax cuts raises G.D.P. by only 99 cents. The implication is that if we are going to increase the budget deficit to promote growth and jobs, it is better to spend more than tax less.

But various recent studies suggest that conventional wisdom is backward.

One piece of evidence comes from Christina D. Romer, the chairwoman of the president's Council of Economic Advisers. In **work with her husband**, David H. Romer, written at the University of California, Berkeley, just months before she took her current job, Ms. Romer found that tax policy has a powerful influence on economic activity.

According to the Romers, each dollar of tax cuts has historically raised G.D.P. by about \$3 — three times the figure used in the administration report. That is also far greater than most estimates of the effects of government spending.

Other recent work supports the Romers' findings...

More: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/13/business/economy/13view.html?ref=todaypaper&pagewanted=print>

A good biographical sketch of one of the leading global warming skeptics.

Centre of the Storm

by Colby Cosh, 13 Dec 2009

...In 2007, he caught a mistake in the reporting of U.S. surface temperatures by NASA's Goddard Institute that was quickly acknowledged, with thanks, and corrected. (NASA's gracious manner contrasts sharply with the attitudes displayed behind the scenes at the CRU.)

The truth is that McIntyre, 62, little resembles the caricature of a wild-eyed climate-change "denier." He is scrupulous about focusing his criticism on statistical procedures and disclosure practices. He is polite to, and about, climate

scientists. He refuses to make grand categorical statements of the "Global warming is just commie horse pucky" type, preferring to remain agnostic, and he discourages such talk on his website, *Climate Audit*.

When reached for an interview, he interrupts briefly to turn down a request to appear on BBC television about the exploding "Climategate" scandal. "Anything I say now would just be piling on," he remarks, noting that he has no interest in helping the media stage a drama of personalities. Given the opportunity of a lifetime to gloat over those who referred to him as a "moron" and "Mr. I'm Not Entirely There In The Head," he demurs.

Close observers of the climate wars recognize that the small group of scientists who first advanced the case for urgent concern over global warming were ill-prepared for the appearance of a critic like McIntyre. Spanish paleoclimatologist Eduardo Zorita of Germany's GKSS Research Centre, who has clashed at times with both McIntyre and the climate-research elite, says that "in the realm of science, it doesn't really matter by whom and why a study is criticized. It only counts whether or not the criticism is reasonably well-founded, is logical, and relevant for the final results."...

More: <http://www2.macleans.ca/2009/12/13/centre-of-the-storm/print/>

Great news: *Avatar* reportedly super mega ultra left-wing;

Update: Big Hollywood confirms

by *Allahpundit*, 11 Dec 2009

Via **Ace**, just doing my part to spread the word. You know what sounds like a fun Friday night? A three-hour **lecture on imperialism** starring Smurfs...

More: <http://hotair.com/archives/2009/12/11/review-avatar-super-mega-ultra-left-wing/>

Is AI Gore Smarter Than a Sixth Grader?

by *J.E. Tabler*, 11 Dec 2009

<http://newsrealblog.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=caa6f67f1482e6214d83be62d&id=c7dd8ab562&e=ff1611b9a9>

The sixth grader's video is embedded in the above story, but it's also here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_G_-SdAN04

Still Not an Option

Chicago Tribune editorial, 12 Dec 2009

...But whoa, the public option wouldn't really be dead. If private firms didn't deliver suitable coverage, that failure would trigger creation of a government-run insurance program. It's not hard to imagine government officials writing rules that would discourage private companies from offering coverage through the government. Presto—then the government would step in and start competing with private insurers. Your public option, alive and kicking.

There are other big questions about the new deal. It would allow people as young as 55 to buy into Medicare, the federal health program for seniors. Are the senators serious? Medicare pays less to doctors and hospitals than many private health insurers, yet the Medicare program for hospital care will be insolvent in 2017. Medicare's trustees estimated this year that the program faces \$37.8 trillion in unfunded obligations over the next 75 years. Sure, let's expand that!...

More: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/chi-1211edit1dec11,0,28988.story>

O'Reilly slams *Law & Order*, calls Wolf 'despicable'

by *James Hibberd*, 11 Dec 2009

...This week's episode of *Law & Order: SVU* featured a character played by John Larroquette talking to a detective and saying, "Limbaugh, Beck, O'Reilly, all of 'em, they are like a cancer spreading ignorance and hate...They've convinced folks that immigrants are the problem, not corporations that fail to pay a living wage or a broken health care system."...

More: <http://www.thrfeed.com/2009/12/oreilly-attacks-law-order-calls-wolf-despicable-vid.html>

Down With Big Business

by Rep. Paul Ryan, 11 Dec 2009

In 1979, Robert Bartley's editorial writing at the *Wall Street Journal* not only garnered a Pulitzer Prize, but also exposed a pernicious threat to free enterprise. In a piece titled "**Down With Big Business**," which focused on how General Motors was using its muscle and government connections to squeeze out competitors, Bartley concludes we ought not rely on big business to defend free markets. It's up to the American people—innovators and entrepreneurs, small business owners, Bartley's "XYZ Bumperlight Lens Company"—to take a stand.

Thirty years later, this crony capitalism is back with a vengeance, accelerated by an aggressive program by President Obama and the Democratic congressional leadership. It is wreaking havoc on economic recovery and fueling continued resentment among the American people...

Read on: <http://www.forbes.com/2009/12/11/business-government-politics-reform-opinions-contributors-paul-ryan.html>

The Bilingual Ban That Worked

Rising test scores vindicate English immersion in California—but Hispanics are still struggling.

by Heather Mac Donald, Autumn 2009 issue

In 1998, Californians voted to pass Proposition 227, the "English for the Children Act," and dismantle the state's bilingual-education industry. The results, according to California's education establishment, were not supposed to look like this: button-cute Hispanic pupils at a Santa Ana elementary school boasting about their English skills to a visitor. Those same pupils cheerfully calling out to their principal on their way to lunch: "Hi, Miss Champion!" A statewide increase in English proficiency among all Hispanic students.

Instead, warned legions of educrats, eliminating bilingual education in California would demoralize Hispanic students and widen the achievement gap. Unless Hispanic children were taught in Spanish, the bilingual advocates moaned, they would be unable to learn English or to succeed in other academic subjects.

California's electorate has been proved right: Hispanic test scores on a range of subjects have risen since Prop. 227 became law. But while the curtailment of California's bilingual-education industry has removed a significant barrier to Hispanic assimilation, the persistence of a Hispanic academic underclass suggests the need for further reform...

Continue: http://www.city-journal.org/2009/19_4_bilingual-education.html

The doctor examines Greece, France—and the shocking facts Michael Moore's *Sicko* never revealed about Cuba.

Healthcare access better overseas?

by Linda Halderman, MD, 12 Dec 2009

European healthcare systems are often portrayed by their advocates as superior in quality and delivery of care to that of the United States. Proponents of radical healthcare reform who condemn the U.S. system cite great achievements in access and affordability in other nations.

As the debate over U.S. healthcare reform continues, these assertions should be examined...

Read on: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/12/healthcare_access_better_overs.html

The Environmental Shakedown

by Charles Krauthammer, 11 Dec 2009

...The raid on the Western treasuries is on again, but today with a new rationale to fit current ideological fashion. With socialism dead, the gigantic heist is now proposed as a sacred service of the newest religion: environmentalism.

One of the major goals of the Copenhagen climate summit is another NIEO shakedown: the transfer of hundreds of billions from the industrial West to the Third World to save the planet by, for example, planting green industries in the tristes tropiques.

Politically it's an idea of genius, engaging at once every left-wing erogenous zone: rich man's guilt, post-colonial guilt, environmental guilt. But the idea of shaking down the industrial democracies in the name of the environment thrives not just in the refined internationalist precincts of Copenhagen. It thrives on the national scale too.

On the day Copenhagen opened, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency claimed jurisdiction over the regulation of carbon emissions by declaring them an "endangerment" to human health.

Since we operate an overwhelmingly carbon-based economy, the EPA will be regulating practically everything. No institution that emits more than 250 tons of CO2 a year will fall outside EPA control. This means over a million building complexes, hospitals, plants, schools, businesses and similar enterprises...

More: http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/editorialsopinion/2010486156_krauthammer12.html

Ms. Strassel has a slightly different take on the domestic enviro-lunacy.

The EPA's Carbon Bomb Fizzles

The administration has given a skittish Congress another reason not to pass cap and trade.

by *Kimberley Strassel, 11 Dec 2009*

...Far from alarm, the feeling sweeping through many quarters of the Democratic Congress is relief. Voters know cap-and-trade is Washington code for painful new energy taxes. With a recession on, the subject has become poisonous in congressional districts. Blue Dogs and swing-state senators watched in alarm as local Democrats in the recent Virginia and New Jersey elections were pounded on the issue, and lost their seats.

But now? Hurrah! It's the administration's problem! No one can say Washington isn't doing something; the EPA has it under control. The agency's move gives Congress a further excuse not to act.

"The Obama administration now owns this political hot potato," says one industry source. "If I'm [Nebraska Senator] Ben Nelson or [North Dakota Senator] Kent Conrad, why would I ever want to take it back?"

All the more so, in Congress's view, because the EPA "command and control" threat may yet prove hollow. Now that the endangerment finding has become reality, the litigation is also about to become real. Green groups pioneered the art of environmental lawsuits. It turns out the business community took careful notes.

Industry groups are gearing up for a legal onslaught; and don't underestimate their prospects. The leaked emails from the Climatic Research Unit in England alone are a gold mine for those who want to challenge the science underlying the theory of manmade global warming.

But the EPA's legal vulnerabilities go beyond that. The agency derives its authority to regulate pollutants from the Clean Air Act. To use that law to regulate greenhouse gases, the EPA has to prove those gases are harmful to human health (thus, the endangerment finding). Put another way, it must provide "science" showing that a slightly warmer earth will cause Americans injury or death. Given that most climate scientists admit that a warmer earth could provide "net benefits" to the West, this is a tall order...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703514404574588120572016720.html>

My Way Into and Out of the Left

The critically-acclaimed novelist discusses his escape from the political faith.

Andrew Klavan, interviewed by Jamie Glazov, 10 Dec 2009

Frontpage Interview's guest today is Andrew Klavan, the author of such internationally bestselling crime novels as *True Crime*, filmed by Clint Eastwood, and *Don't Say A Word*, filmed starring Michael Douglas. He has been nominated for the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Award five times and has won twice. His last novel for adults, *Empire of Lies*, topped Amazon.com's thriller list. His new novel series for young adults continues in February with *The Long Way Home*. Andrew is a contributing editor to *City Journal*, the magazine of the Manhattan Institute. His essays on politics, religion, movies and literature have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *LA Times*, and elsewhere. As a screenwriter, he wrote the screenplays for 1990's *A Shock to the System*, starring Michael Caine, and 2008's *One Missed Call*. His Klavan on the Culture videos appear at PJTV.com. His website is AndrewKlavan.com.

The interview: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/12/10/andrew-klavan-my-way-into-and-out-of-the-left-by-jamie-glazov/>

Copenhagen climate summit: Blindfolds are hiding the crucial issues

It is now obvious that the science behind rising CO2 levels is far from settled.

by *Christopher Booker, 8 Dec 2009*

...Already under last year's Climate Change Act—on the Government's own figures—we in Britain alone are committed to shell out £18 billion every year from now until 2050. That is £725 for every household in the land, which we will all have to pay in rocketing energy bills and regulatory costs, crippling 'green' taxes on everything from cars to airline

tickets, subsidies to windfarms and heaven knows what else.

But even this may look like a gross underestimate when we realise that it is now the law of the land that, over the same 40 years, Britain must cut its emissions of carbon dioxide by a staggering 80 percent or more. Not a single one of the 463 MPs who nodded through the Climate Change Act, with only three voting against, could have begun to explain in practical terms how this target could be met.

Short of an as-yet undreamed of technological revolution, this could not possibly be achieved without closing down not just most of our transport system and electricity supplies but virtually all of our current economic activity.

What is being proposed at Copenhagen is that not dissimilar measures should be imposed on every country in the developed world, threatening to transform our existing way of life out of all recognition...

...Ultimately the whole case for a Copenhagen treaty rests on the projections of the computer models relied on by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the IPCC). These show that, as CO2 levels continue to rise, so temperatures must follow, leading inexorably to catastrophe—unless mankind takes the most drastic action to cut down on its emissions of CO2.

But as more and more eminent scientists have recently been pointing out, the only reason why the computer models predict that rising CO2 must cause temperatures to rise is that this is what they were programmed to show.

What world-ranking physicists such as Professor Richard Lindzen of MIT and Professor Will Happer of Princeton have been arguing is that the models are fatally flawed because they do not take proper account of all sorts of other factors which play a key part in shaping the world's climate—such as shifts in ocean currents, the effects of magnetic activity on the sun and the 'feedback' from clouds and water vapour, far and away the most important greenhouse gas in our atmosphere, which counteracts any impact from the rise in CO2...

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/6763409/Copenhagen-climate-summit-Blindfolds-at-Copenhagen-are-hiding-the-crucial-issues.html>

Climategate: Gore falsifies the record

by Andrew Bolt, 10 Dec 2009

Al Gore has studied the Climategate emails with his typically rigorous eye and dismissed them as mere piffle...

...*"These people are examining what they can or should do to deal with the P.R. dimensions of this, but where the scientific consensus is concerned, it's completely unchanged. What we're seeing is a set of changes worldwide that just make this discussion over 10-year-old e-mails kind of silly."*

In fact, as **Watts Up With That** shows, one Climategate email was from just two months ago. **The most recent was sent on November 12—just a month ago.** The emails which have Tom Wigley seeming (to me) to choke on the deceit are **all from this year.** Phil Jones' infamous email **urging other Climategate scientists to delete emails** is from last year.

How closely did Gore read these emails? Did he actually read any at all? Was he lying or just terribly mistaken? What else has he got wrong? ...

More: http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/index.php/heraldsun/comments/climategate_gore_falsifies_the_record

How to Stop Cap-and-Trade

The GOP should call Obama's greenhouse gas bluff.

by Rich Trzupke, 10 Dec 2009

The Obama administration is trying to use the **threat of Environmental Protection Agency regulation** of greenhouse gases under its Clean Air Act authority as a means to force Congress into passing some form of a cap-and-trade bill.

It's a subtle strategy, and many Republicans have risen to the bait, worried about what would happen if the EPA tries to implement a so-called "command and control" system instead of a market-friendly solution. But the GOP shouldn't be concerned. In fact, they should call the administration's bluff...

Read on: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/12/10/how-to-stop-cap-and-trade-by-rich-trzupke/>

Obama's Fantasy Jobs Plan

by Steve Chapman, 10 Dec 2009

...There is no reason to believe the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has done anything to revive the economy. Economist John Taylor of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University reports that the economic data show "no

noticeable impact of the temporary tax rebates and one-time payments on consumption." No impact, by the way, is pretty much what we got when President Bush tried a stimulus in 2008.

The administration's allies crow that in the six months before the package was approved, the economy shrank, and in the six months after, the economy grew. But just because football season follows baseball season, that doesn't prove baseball causes football. Just because the economy grew after the stimulus passed doesn't mean the stimulus deserves the credit.

Considering the claims of stimulus supporters, John Cochrane, a macroeconomist at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, says, "There is just as much evidence that Valentine's Day saved the economy." What the advocates disregard, he notes, is that every dollar spent on federal programs is a dollar that is not invested or spent elsewhere. An extravagant program can create jobs in one place only by endangering them in another.

Even by the administration's logic, the success story doesn't hold up. The contraction of the economy slowed sharply in the first month after the passage of the stimulus—before any appreciable amounts of federal cash had been spent. Which suggests that the economy, far from requiring huge injections of federal cash to avert a depression, was already bouncing back on its own, something economies did for eons before Keynesian prescriptions came along.

What has happened since then doesn't make the case for buying a second round...

Read it all: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/chi-oped1210chapmandec10,0,3313882.column>

Charles blows.

How a New York Times Columnist Hurts Fellow Blacks

by Dennis Prager, 9 Dec 2009

More: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/12/09/how-a-new-york-times-columnist-hurts-fellow-blacks-by-dennis-prager/>

Czar Obama takes aim at Congress

Washington Examiner Editorial, 9 Dec 2009

...Obama has launched a thermonuclear warhead aimed directly at the very heart of Congressional authority.

Here's why: The EPA Endangerment Ruling assigns to the agency authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate emissions not included under that law's purview. Indeed, when the original law was approved by Congress, nobody said a word about any agency of the federal government telling any business or industry in America how much CO₂ it could emit. By now saying the law gives it unilateral authority to declare CO₂ dangerous pollutants, the EPA is grabbing power to regulate the 85 percent of the U.S. economy that depends on energy derived from the burning of carbon-based fuels. Those fuels—oil, natural gas, and coal—are heavy CO₂ emitters. This ruling thus renders Congressional intent irrelevant. If the ruling stands, the law will then be whatever the president and his bureaucratic minions in the executive branch decree, not what the people decide acting through their elected representatives in Congress...

...There was a time when American liberals worried about excessive executive power; today they cheer as Barack Obama dons the robes of the imperial presidency in ways that Richard Nixon never dreamed possible...

More: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/Czar-Obama-takes-aim-at-Congress-8641482-78812487.html>

Coming to a school near you: officially sanctioned treason. Teachers *like* the traitor Howard Zinn. They want to fill your kids' brains with self-loathing, anti-American beliefs.

Why 'The People Speak' and the Zinn Education Project May Be Illegal in Public Schools

by Adam Baldwin, 8 Dec 2009

<http://bighollywood.breitbart.com/abaldwin/2009/12/08/why-the-people-speak-and-the-zinn-education-project-may-be-illegal-in-public-schools/#more-274450>

Copenhagen's political science

by Sarah Palin, 9 Dec 2009

With the **publication of damaging e-mails** from a climate research center in Britain, the radical environmental

movement appears to face a tipping point. The revelation of appalling actions by so-called climate change experts allows the American public to finally understand the concerns so many of us have articulated on this issue...

...Our representatives in Copenhagen should remember that good environmental policymaking is about weighing real-world costs and benefits—not pursuing a political agenda. That's not to say I deny the reality of some changes in climate—far from it. I saw the impact of changing weather patterns firsthand while serving as governor of our only Arctic state. I was one of the first governors to **create a subcabinet** to deal specifically with the issue and to recommend common-sense policies to respond to the coastal erosion, thawing permafrost and retreating sea ice that affect Alaska's communities and infrastructure.

But while we recognize the occurrence of these natural, cyclical environmental trends, we can't say with assurance that man's activities cause weather changes. We can say, however, that any potential benefits of proposed emissions reduction policies are far outweighed by their economic costs. And those costs are real. Unlike the proposals **China and India** offered prior to Copenhagen—which actually allow them to **increase** their emissions—**President Obama's proposal** calls for serious cuts in our own long-term carbon emissions. Meeting such targets would require Congress to pass its cap-and-tax plans, which will result in job losses and higher energy costs (as **Obama admitted** during the campaign). That's not exactly what most Americans are hoping for these days...

Read the rest: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/08/AR2009120803402_pf.html

Harry Reid is Wrong on History and Wrong on Health Reform

by Michelle D. Bernard, 8 Dec 2009

...Many assume that given my race and gender, I would support the Senate health reform bill as a savior of the masses. I do not. And thousands, if not millions, of blacks, Hispanics, women, low-income, and at-risk communities feel the same.

There are many reasons why I don't support the proposed healthcare legislation. I worry about how Congress's regulations will drive up insurance premiums, a "public" option might strangle private health insurance, employer mandates might exacerbate the job crisis, and that ultimately this program will add to our already exploding debt.

Yet my reasons to oppose this bill are also personal: In 2005, I found a mass in one of my breasts. I was four months pregnant. I've never forgotten my doctor telling me that "cancer starts small." I had a biopsy and my doctor found a second mass. Two years later, I found a mass and my doctor found another. Thankfully, all four masses were benign. But I know I have an elevated risk for breast cancer, so I'm taking many precautions. Following the advice of my doctor, I do a monthly breast exam; I have a breast MRI every six months, and an annual mammogram.

I firmly believe that decisions about my care should be left between me and doctor. I worry that for millions of American women, these kinds of personal choices will increasingly become influenced by government bureaucrats.

We recently got a glimpse into the role that the government could play in making healthcare decisions...

Full column: <http://www.usnews.com/articles/opinion/2009/12/08/harry-reid-is-wrong-on-history-and-wrong-on-health-reform.htm>

Jobs or Snow Jobs?

by Thomas Sowell, 8 Dec 2009

President Obama keeps talking about the jobs his administration is "creating" but there are more people unemployed now than before he took office. How can there be more unemployment after so many jobs have been "created"?

Let's go back to square one. What does it take to create a job? It takes wealth to pay someone who is hired, not to mention additional wealth to buy the material that person will use.

But government creates no wealth. Ignoring that plain and simple fact enables politicians to claim to be able to do all sorts of miraculous things that they cannot do in fact. Without creating wealth, how can they create jobs? By taking wealth from others, whether by taxation, selling bonds or imposing mandates.

However it is done, transferring wealth is not creating wealth. When government uses transferred wealth to hire people, it is essentially transferring jobs from the private sector, not adding to the net number of jobs in the economy.

If that was all that was involved, it would be a simple verbal fraud, with no gain of jobs and no net loss. In reality, many other things that politicians do reduce the number of jobs...

Read the rest: <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/sowell120809.php3>

Reason TV on why Canadians come to U.S. for surgery

by Ed Morrissey, 8 Dec 2009

Why does Cheryl Baxter's story sound so familiar? Baxter needed a hip-replacement surgery, but since she lived in Canada, she had no choice but to wait for a surgical date that never came. Instead of curing her problem with the common surgery, Canadian doctors just gave her painkillers while she waited ... and waited ... and waited. Finally, as Reason TV reports, Baxter decided to head south for some free-market medicine and an actual cure:

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

The Canadian approach sounds familiar because it mirrors what Dr. Barack Obama offered five months ago in an ABC town-hall forum on ObamaCare:

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-dQfb8WQvo>

More: <http://hotair.com/archives/2009/12/08/reason-tv-on-why-canadians-come-to-us-for-surgery/>

Capping Emissions, Trading On The Future

by Joel Kotkin, 8 Dec 2009

Whatever the results of the Copenhagen conference on climate change, one thing is for sure: Draconian reductions on carbon emissions will be tacitly accepted by the most developed economies and sloughed off by many developing ones. In essence, emerging economies get to cut their "carbon" intensity—a natural product of their economic evolution—while we get to cut our throats.

The logic behind this prediction goes something like this. Since the West created the industrial revolution and the greenhouse gases that supposedly caused this "crisis," it's our obligation to take much of the burden for cleaning them up.

Plagued by self-doubt and even self-loathing, many in the West will no doubt consider this an appropriate mea culpa. Our leaders will dutifully accept cuts in our carbon emissions—up to 80% by 2050—while developing countries increase theirs, albeit at a lower rate. Oh, we also pledge to send billions in aid to help them achieve this goal.

The media skills, scientists, bureaucrats and corporate rent-seekers gathered at Copenhagen won't give much thought to what this means to the industrialized world's middle and working class. For many of them the new carbon regime means a gradual decline in living standards...

Continue: <http://www.forbes.com/2009/12/07/copenhagen-climate-change-carbon-emissions-opinions-columnists-joel-kotkin.html>

All the President's Regulators

by Philip Klein, Dec 2009 issue

During the first year of the Obama administration, conservatives have directed much of their fire on the major legislation the president is pushing through Congress. This concern is justifiable, as Democrats are moving bills aimed at taking over the nation's health care system, creating a national energy tax to limit carbon emissions, and enabling unions to rapidly add members by denying workers a secret ballot on unionization.

But as critical as it is for the right to expose the damaging consequences of such major legislation, conservatives must not lose sight of the fact that there is more than one way for the president to impose his vision on the country. Each day, throughout the executive branch, presidentially appointed bureaucrats who remain unknown to most Americans make decisions that have consequences for the entire nation. And in President Obama's case, his appointments serve as a plan B, allowing him to realize the parts of his agenda that he is unable to enact through the legislative process...

Read on: <http://spectator.org/archives/2009/12/07/all-the-presidents-regulators/print>

Draining the Democratic Swamp

Washington Examiner editorial, 7 Dec 2009

...Over the weekend, it was revealed that Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., had nominated his girlfriend to be a U.S. attorney in his home state. Baucus is a driving force behind the drive to adopt Obamacare in the Senate.

On Friday, it was reported that the House Ethics Committee had opened an investigation of Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee. Staffers on Thompson's committee say he tried to regulate the credit card industry—outside his panel's legislative purview—to extort campaign donations from the companies facing regulation.

Pelosi promised to make congressional office expendiavailable on the Internet. Concurrent with the appearance of the new Web site detailing the information, the amount of information previously available to the public has been significantly restricted. Pelosi then claimed falsely that this was a victory for transparency.

Sens. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Diane Feinstein, D-Cal., offered an amendment to a new press shield law that provides legal protections only to professional journalists employed by established mainstream media—a blatant attempt to curb independent, often blog-based reporting like that of Hannah Giles and James O'Keefe in their hidden-camera expose of ACORN.

Does that sound honest, open and ethical to you? And this is just what happened in the past week. Many other Democratic scandals remain unresolved...

More: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/Draining-the-Democratic-swamp-8634793.html>

The Doctor Drought

If primary care physicians become extinct, it's patients who will suffer.

by Marc Siegel, 4 Dec 2009

I am a primary care internist. All the health care reforms before Congress are counting on me and other doctors to be ready and willing to accept the millions of new patients with shiny new insurance cards. But this concept is a dream, or worse, a nightmare. In reality, my species of doctor will soon be extinct, replaced by nurse practitioners.

The growing doctor shortage in the U.S. is in the way of any real health care reform. Sen. Charles E. Schumer's, D-N.Y., proposed amendment to the Senate health bill—to provide \$2 billion in funds over 10 years to create 2,000 new residency training slots geared toward primary care medicine and general surgery—is a tiny band-aid at best...

Continue: <http://www.forbes.com/2009/12/04/doctors-medical-health-reform-senate-opinions-contributors-marc-siegel.html>

The Cuckoo's Nest visits Copenhagen

by Mark W. Hendrickson, 7 Dec 2009

...The United Nations fits the cuckoo's nest paradigm perfectly. It is ostensibly dedicated to some of mankind's loftiest ideals. The U.N. Declaration of Human Rights affirms: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person." "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest." "No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property." "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion," etc.

In practice, though, the U.N. welcomes, legitimizes, and empowers regimes that systematically trample those rights. U.N. officials readily betray the welfare and liberty of billions of individuals in their pursuit of world government. With cynical irony, the UN extends the voting privilege to regimes that would never permit an honest, democratic vote in their own countries. Also, because the major obstacle to global government is a strong, sovereign United States, U.N. delegates from illiberal regimes routinely gang up to vote against our interests.

Why would any American want to strengthen the UN? Some individuals crave the unprecedented powers that a worldwide government would have. Others pathologically hate liberal democracy, free markets, and limits on government power, and so despise American sovereignty. Most pro-U.N. Americans, to give them the benefit of the doubt, are idealists who believe that the way to establish peace on earth is to do away with nation-states. No nation-states, no wars, right? Not so...

The rest is great, too: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/12/the_cuckoos_nest_visits_copenh.html

The Cold Heart of ObamaCare

by Nat Hentoff, 7 Dec 2009

...In the Senate bill, for instance, Medicare doctors whose treatments each year of certain, mostly elderly, patients costs more than a set government figure will be punished by losing part of their own incomes.

Not only Medicare doctors will be monitored for their cost effectiveness. In the House bill, as the libertarian Cato Institute's health care specialist Michael Tanner explains, "111 government agencies, boards, commissions and other bureaucracies—all overseen by a new health care czar," the commissioner of Health Care Choices, will keep watch on what the president has called excessive, wasteful health care expenditures...

..."These rulings from on high," Dr. Siegel warns, "are problematic, since useful treatments or tests for one patient are not appropriate for another. Appeals are bound to be time-consuming and largely ineffective. This is the government

interfering directly with the practice of medicine."

Is this what presidential candidate Barack Obama meant by "Change we can believe in?" Even if you voted for him, is this the change you will believe in if your doctor is overruled by the government in his or her treatment decisions about you?...

Read the whole column: http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=11024

Donald Kennedy and the corruption of *Science* Magazine

by James Lewis, 7 Dec 2009

Science magazine has been stewing so long in the **Global Warming** bouillabaisse that its very brains are beginning to smoke. That may be because its august Editor-in-Chief Donald Kennedy (until last year) was a dedicated Warm-monger. *Science* is the flagship journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the political lobby for Big Science in Washington, D.C. The Editor-in-Chief of *Science* is like the Queen of England: It's the closest thing to God in the church hierarchy. Everybody kisses your butt and all you have to do is wave your hand to the cheering peasantry from your golden coach.

Try a Google search for "Donald Kennedy AND Global Warming" and you get almost six million hits. Search for "global warming" in *Science* magazine itself, and you get 2,792 citations—almost as many as you get for "*increased science funding*."...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/12/donald_kennedy_and_the_corrupt.html

Does Obama Listen to Himself?

by Mona Charen, 4 Dec 2009

...It's beginning to sound whiny—and unpresidential. Enough about the terrible mess he inherited. Let's hear a little more about the tremendous honor that has been bestowed on him. Ronald Reagan inherited a worse situation in 1980— inflation at 13.5 percent; the prime rate at 21 percent; the Soviets in Afghanistan; American hostages in Tehran; communist coups in 10 new countries over the previous decade—but Reagan never impugned his predecessor. As biographer Lou Cannon noted "Reagan ... was generous to Carter in his public statements even though he did not care for him."

George W. Bush showed the same chivalry toward Bill Clinton, declining to breathe a negative word about him—even when sorely tempted by the pardon scandal that further tarnished an already clouded tenure. Even now, despite the unremitting barrage from his successor, Bush keeps silent, true to his tradition of civility toward opponents.

President Obama is so spiteful that he warps history to fit his prejudices. Everything was going brilliantly in Afghanistan, he explains, until "the decision was made to wage a second war, in Iraq." Iraq took the lion's share of resources and ruined our international reputation, he argues. But in the next sentence, without acknowledging the surge (far less the courage Bush demonstrated in pursuing it despite tremendous political and military pressure against it), Obama boasts that "*we* are bringing the Iraq War to a successful conclusion" and "successfully leaving Iraq to its people."

No doubt Obama's "success" in Iraq is attributable, as he sees it, to the fact that "I've spent this year renewing our alliances and forging new partnerships" including "a new beginning" between America and the Muslim world. Oh yes, that's going so well. As the Taliban gain strength in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the chief object of Mr. Obama's flirtation, Iran, spat in the eyes of the U.S. and the U.N. last week...

The rest: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=YjUxNDc3OWM5NTNINjZhYWY1M2ZhNjA5ZTIiMDFkNGI=>

Navy SEALs are heroes, prosecution is unfair

Chicago Sun-Times editorial, 5 Dec 2009

...Four Blackwater security contractors from our country were murdered, their mutilated bodies dragged through the streets of Fallujah, Iraq. Remains of two of the men were strung up on a bridge, as Iraqis shouted anti-American slogans—a horrifying image that flashed across computer and television screens and newspaper front pages across the world.

It's important to remember those victims' names: Stephen S. Helvenston, Mike R. Teague, Jerko Gerald Zovko and Wesley J.K. Batalona.

It's also important to know the names of the three Navy SEALs facing charges: Julio Huertas, formerly of Blue Island, Jonathan Keefe and Matthew McCabe. Those men put their lives on the line for their country when they successfully captured Abed. They are heroes, plain and simple, and it's mind-boggling that they face charges for what

amounts to little more than punching Abed and remaining loyal to one another during an investigation.

Not waterboarding him. Not torturing him. Not a savage beating. But a punch that left a bloody lip, according to news reports. During wartime. Now, they face trial by courts-martial.

The SEALs could have gone another route and dealt with the matter through an administrative proceeding. But that would have involved their admitting guilt, and they believe they have done nothing wrong. So they have chosen the tougher route, the one that could keep their integrity and professionalism intact if they prevail...

More: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/commentary/1922656,editorial-navy-seals-prosecution-unfair-120609.article>

Climategate reveals 'the most influential tree in the world'

by Christopher Booker, 5 Dec 2009

...Its true significance, we can now see, is that what they intended to hide was the awkward fact that, apart from that one tree, the Yamal data showed temperatures not having risen in the late 20th century but declining. What Jones suggested, emulating Mann's procedure for the "hockey stick" (originally published in *Nature*), was that tree-ring data after 1960 should be eliminated, and substituted—without explanation—with a line based on the quite different data of measured global temperatures, to convey that temperatures after 1960 had shot up.

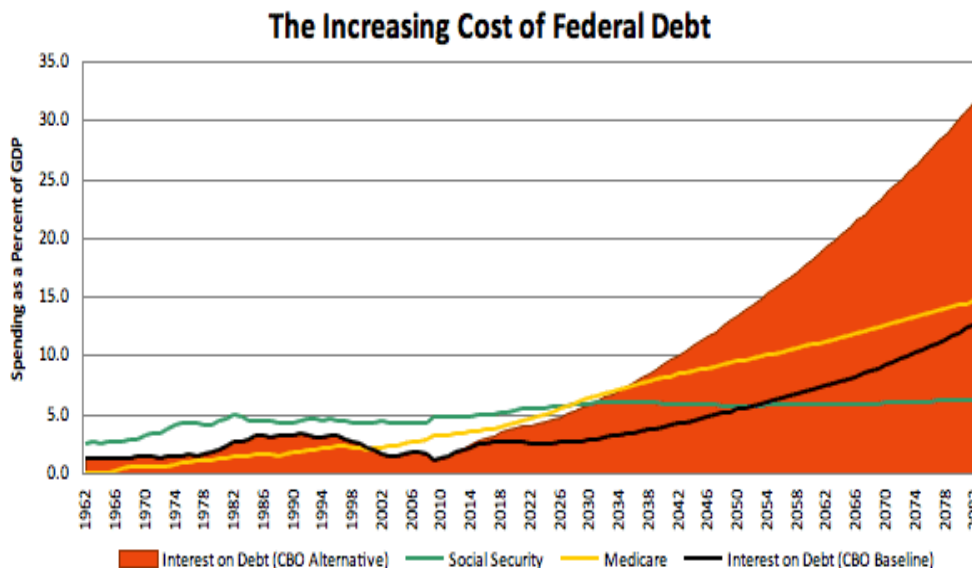
A further devastating blow has now been dealt to the CRU graphs by an expert contributor to McIntyre's Climate Audit, known only as "Lucy Skywalker." She has cross-checked with the actual temperature records for that part of Siberia, showing that in the past 50 years temperatures have not risen at all. (For further details see the science blog Watts Up With That.)

In other words, what has become arguably the most influential set of evidence used to support the case that the world faces unprecedented global warming, developed, copied and promoted hundreds of times, has now been as definitively kicked into touch as was Mann's "hockey stick" before it. Yet it is on a blind acceptance of this kind of evidence that 16,500 politicians, officials, scientists and environmental activists will be gathering in Copenhagen to discuss measures which, if adopted, would require us all in the West to cut back on our carbon dioxide emissions by anything up to 80 per cent, utterly transforming the world economy...

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/6738111/Climategate-reveals-the-most-influential-tree-in-the-world.html>

The Jobs Picture Crashes Into Debt Realities

by Veronique de Rugy, 4 Dec 2009



Source: Congressional Budget Office: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/102xx/doc10297/06-25-LTBO.pdf>

Read all about it:

<http://www.american.com/archive/2009/december-2009/the-jobs-picture-crashes-into-debt-realities>

A clear and fascinating account of how climate change hysteria reached its present state. (5,800 words)

Scientists Behaving Badly

A corrupt cabal of global warming alarmists are exposed by a massive document leak.

by *Steven F. Hayward*, 5 Dec 2009 (December 14 issue)

http://www.weeklystandard.com/Utilities/printer_preview.asp?idArticle=17300&R=16446DBB

A 10,000-word history of the long descent into self-loathing pacifist treason—naming some of the most culpable players, e.g. Frank Church, Stansfield Turner, Bob Woodward, and (surprise!) the *New York Times*.

The 35-Year War on the CIA

by *Arthur Herman*, December 2009 issue

<https://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/the-35-year-war-on-the-cia-15292?page=all>

Intellectual and moral brilliance, as always.

Swiss ban on minarets was a vote for tolerance and inclusion

The Swiss vote highlights the debate on Islam as a set of political and collectivist ideas, not a rejection of Muslims.

by *Ayaan Hirsi Ali*, 5 Dec 2009

...In their response to the presence of Islam in their midst, Europeans have developed what one can discern as roughly two competing views. The first view emphasizes accuracy. Is it accurate to equate political symbols like those used by Communists and Nazis with a religious symbol like the minaret and its accessories of crescent and star; the uniforms of the Third Reich with the burqa and beards of current Islamists?

If it is accurate, then Islam, as a political movement, should be rejected on the basis of its own bigotry. In this view, Muslims should not be rejected as residents or citizens. The objection is to practices that are justified in the name of Islam, like honor killings, jihad, the we-versus-they perspective, the self-segregation. In short, Islamist supremacy.

The second view refuses to equate political symbols of various forms of white fascism with the symbols of a religion. In this school of thought, Islamic Scripture is compared to Christian and Jewish Scripture. Those who reason from this perspective preach pragmatism. According to them, the key to the assimilation of Muslims is dialogue. They are prepared to appease some of the demands that Muslim minorities make in the hope that one day their attachment to radical Scripture will wear off like that of Christian and Jewish peoples...

...The Swiss vote highlights the debate on Islam as a domestic issue in Europe. That is, Islam as a set of political and collectivist ideas. Native Europeans have been asked over and over again by their leaders to be tolerant and accepting of Muslims. They have done that. And that can be measured a) by the amount of taxpayer money that is invested in healthcare, housing, education, and welfare for Muslims and b) the hundreds of thousands of Muslims who are knocking on the doors of Europe to be admitted. If those people who cry that Europe is intolerant are right, if there was, indeed, xenophobia and a rejection of Muslims, then we would have observed the reverse. There would have been an exodus of Muslims out of Europe...

Read the whole essay: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/1205/p09s01-coop.html>

Another "Kelo": Once again, government has wantonly stolen private property for no good (or Constitutional) reason.

Eminent Domain: These Grinches Aren't Bringing Christmas Back

by *A. Barton Hinkle*, 4 Dec 2009

http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/opinion/columnists/article/ED-HINKLE04_20091203-183601/309346/

Here are some more ways the global warming hysterics create their very own "facts."

Greenhouse Gas Observatories Downwind from Erupting Volcanoes

by *Andrew Walden*, 4 Dec 2009

Problems in the collection of atmospheric CO2 data parallel other absurdities in the global warming fraud. The

Climategate scandal is exposing the massive and systematic fraud behind the fabrication of the worldwide temperature record necessary to make the case for global warming. But what about the record of atmospheric CO2? The U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) openly admits to producing a CO2 record which "contains no actual data." NOAA **temperature stations** sited in ways that artificially inflate temperatures have been exposed over the past two years. CO2 observatories have similar flaws. Two of the five NOAA "baseline" stations are downwind from erupting volcanoes. All five are subject to localized or regional CO2 sources.

Climategate collaborator Dr. Andrew Manning worked with Dr. David Keeling, founder of the Mauna Loa Observatory, where atmospheric CO2 is measured. Manning, whose name appears in [37 Climategate emails](#), tells [BBC...](#)
Continue: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/12/greenhouse_gas_observatories_d.html

Assessing Pre-Blame for Climate-Change Summit

It's time to start over, beginning with the science.

by *Jonah Goldberg, 4 Dec 2009*

...It was often said that President George W. Bush "refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol." This is technically true—because Bush couldn't sign Kyoto. It was already signed during Bill Clinton's presidency—and Clinton immediately shoved it in his desk drawer because he knew it would never be ratified by the Senate. Indeed, the Senate voted 95-0 to not even consider ratifying it so long as developing countries like China were left out of the scheme. (See inconvenient truth No. 1.)

Overlooked by the mobs who decried Bush's "treason against the planet" (to borrow a phrase from Paul Krugman) is the fact that Barack Obama has opted to stay out of the Kyoto system for the same reason. Making carbon fuels more expensive for us while not making them more expensive for China & Co. means that fossil-fuel users will move their businesses to the developing world even faster while costs and taxes for consumers will skyrocket...

...Indeed, even if global warming is the threat the alarmists claim it is, it makes no sense to waste trillions of dollars on "fixes" that will do little to fix the alleged problem. It's time to start over, beginning with the science.

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=MzE5NjM0NWNmOTI3NGEyZTcxMjkYTBiYjUzMDg0ZjM=>

Main Street Tour Faces Frosty Greeting

by *Elizabeth Williamson, 4 Dec 2009*

ALLENTOWN, Pa.—When President Barack Obama launches a multicity tour Friday to take Main Street's temperature, he will likely get a cool reception from business leaders and workers here who say he hasn't delivered.

Swing voters in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley helped Mr. Obama win this pivotal, populous state. But the region's jobless rate inched up another half percentage point in October to 9.8%. About 41,000 people are out of work, the highest number since 1984...

...If Mr. Geiger had a chance to meet him in Allentown, he says he would say: "Mr. President, you ran your whole campaign based on the fact that you were going to help Main Street people rather than Wall Street companies. Why one year later are there so many Main Street people still hurting?"

Full column: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125988452288275673.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_MIDDLETopStories

Job creation requires certainty, not government action

by *Irwin M. Stelzer, 4 Dec 2009*

...Indeed, whereas politicians see the joblessness problem as calling for still more government activity, many economists see it calling for less government activity and more certainty.

Small businesses create most of the jobs in an economy such as ours. But small businesses find it impossible to plan on expanding because they do not know what it will cost them to take on more staff.

What they do know is that if the health care bill passes in anything like its current versions, their health care costs will rise. They know, too, that if the pledges the president is about to make at the Copenhagen, Denmark, climate change summit are ratified by Congress, their energy costs will rise.

And, finally, they know that passage of the president's health care and energy programs, not to mention finally paying for the trillions of debt he is incurring, mean higher taxes for them.

This is not exactly a setting in which businessmen, especially small-business men, see a bright future. Uncertainty

about some things, certainty about even worse things—so hunker down, don't hire just yet, wait and see if things turn out as badly as it now seems likely they will....

More: http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/IrwinStelzer/Job-creation-requires-certainty_-not-government-action-8625404-78461897.html

The End of Audacity

by Nina Easton, 4 Dec 2009 (Dec. 14 issue)

... "What people understand that policymakers in Washington don't is that there's a real belief out there that all government does is waste money," says Doug Schoen, the pollster who helped President Clinton move into the era of "Big Government is over" after the Democrats' 1994 midterm-election drubbing. "Taxes go up. Debt goes up. People think, 'All you're going to do is waste my money and put me in a dire situation.'"

More: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1945357,00.html>

We-Don't-Want-to-Talk-About-It-Gate

by David Harsanyi, 4 Dec 2009

... Yet Barbara Boxer, the Democratic chairwoman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, is off hunting bigger game.

"You call it 'ClimateGate'; I call it 'E-mail-theft-gate,'" Boxer clarified during a committee shindig. "We may well have a hearing on this; we may not. We may have a briefing for senators; we may not." Boxer, as steady as they come, went on to put the focus where it belongs: on hackers. She warned: "Part of our looking at this will be looking at a criminal activity which could have well been coordinated. ... This is a crime."

If this hacker(s) is unearthed on U.S. soil (or anywhere in the Middle East, actually), Boxer can jettison the guilty party to Gitmo for some well-deserved sleep deprivation.

But surely there is time for some sort of investigation? This is, after all, the senator who ran a vital committee hearing in 2008 so that an Environmental Protection Agency whistle-blower, who accused the Bush administration of failing to address greenhouse gas emissions appropriately, could have his say.

Boxer's rigid devotion to rule of law is also admirable. But this is the senator who championed the Military Whistleblower Protection Act and fought for whistle-blowing rights for defense contractor employees (to ferret out bureaucratic waste) and for nurses (to protect patients' rights)...

More: http://www.denverpost.com/harsanyi/ci_13921733

Mr. Linder presents fact, after fact, after fact: not theories, not computer models, just observed-and-recorded facts about the history of Earth's climate. Here's his conclusion.

Climate Challenges

by John Linder, 3 Dec 2009

... There is no need for any climate treaty at Copenhagen. It is time to disband the U.N.'s self-serving and serially dishonest climate panel. Officially sponsored environmental extremism is a danger to our national security.

Read those facts: http://www.americanthinker.com/2009/12/climate_challenges.html

The Left's War Against the Boy Scouts

What it teaches us about so-called "progressives."

by Dennis Prager, 2 Dec 2009

... the left is in fact doing whatever it can to destroy the Boy Scouts until the Boy Scouts change their policy on gays. The left-wing position is that if the Boy Scouts do not change a policy that has been in place since the inception of the organization, they do not deserve to exist.

Therefore it is entirely accurate to state that the left wishes to destroy the Boy Scouts as that organization now exists. No matter how much good the Boy Scouts have done and continue to do for millions of boys, for the left, all this good amounts to nothing.

For the left in this instance, as in most instances, the attitude is: Destroy the imperfect in order to build the perfect.

There is no left-wing Boy Scouts. The left knows best how to crush the non-left Boy Scouts, but it has never made a boys organization of its own.

Likewise with individual lives devoted to the poor. Sure, there are secular and left-wing organizations devoted to the poor, but the individuals who give up their lives to the poorest in America and the world, like the members of Salvation Army at home and the Mother Teresas abroad, are overwhelmingly religious (and to be fair, Christian)...

More: <http://frontpagemag.com/2009/12/02/the-lefts-war-against-the-boy-scouts-by-dennis-prager/>

At Honduran polls, a defeat for tyranny

by Dale McFeatters, 2 Dec 2009

The best antidote to the current confusion about who should govern Honduras is a free, fair election, and that appears to be what Honduras pulled off Sunday.

Local officials say the turnout was better than 60 percent of registered voters, which means that Hondurans ignored ousted President Manuel Zelaya's calls to boycott the election, and international election observers called the balloting credible and free of intimidation.

The winner, Porfirio "Pepe" Lobo, described as a conservative rancher, narrowly lost the last election to Zelaya, who is currently holed up in the Brazilian Embassy in Tegucigalpa.

This would seem to—or should—settle the matter. But with the early exceptions of the United States and Colombia, other American nations, especially those with leftist leaders, are refusing to recognize the outcome...

More: http://www.bostonherald.com/news/opinion/op_ed/view/20091202at_honduran_polls_a_defeat_for_tyranny/

The Illegal-Settlements Myth

by David M. Phillips, December 2009 issue

The conviction that Jewish settlements in the West Bank are illegal is now so commonly accepted, it hardly seems as though the matter is even open for discussion. But it is. Decades of argument about the issue have obscured the complex nature of the specific legal question about which a supposedly overwhelming verdict of guilty has been rendered against settlement policy. There can be no doubt that this avalanche of negative opinion has been deeply influenced by the settlements' unpopularity around the world and even within Israel itself. Yet, while one may debate the wisdom of Israeli settlements, the idea that they are imprudent is quite different from branding them as illegal. Indeed, the analysis underlying the conclusion that the settlements violate international law depends entirely on an acceptance of the Palestinian narrative that the West Bank is "Arab" land. Followed to its logical conclusion—as some have done—this narrative precludes the legitimacy of Israel itself.

These arguments date back to the aftermath of the Six-Day War. When Israel went into battle in June 1967, its objective was clear: to remove the Arab military threat to its existence. Following its victory, the Jewish state faced a new challenge: what to do with the territorial fruits of that triumph...

Continue: <https://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/the-illegal-settlements-myth-15295?page=all>

What the Senate is debating isn't only about "health care." It's about whether Americans want freedom, or socialism. Contrary to the recent bleatings of Howard Dean: you can't have both.

Committing HarryCare

by Peter Ferrara, 2 Dec 2009

...You have to understand, this is not your father's Democrat party. The reigning Democrat majorities in Washington today are working towards a vision of a Super Welfare State, where the government takes and spends 60% to 80% of all the money earned in the economy. This is an informed estimate based on official government projections of current programs, Democrat "reforms" of welfare and health care, and the expected negative economic effects of these government burdens.

Already, under the income tax increases in the House health bill and in President Obama's budget adopted earlier this year, the top income tax rate in 5 states politically controlled by Democrats, New York, California, New Jersey, Oregon, and Hawaii, the top income tax rate counting Federal and state taxes *will be higher than in socialist Sweden!* And this is

before the Cap-and-Tax bill the Democrats want, and the new European-style Value Added Tax (VAT) already supported by Democrat Congressional leaders, which President Obama may propose in January to counter record shattering federal deficits.

Under this backbreaking burden of overwhelming government, the traditional economic prosperity that has always characterized America, "The American Dream," will be crushed. Working people will no longer enjoy the traditional American economic freedom to decide how to spend the fruits of their own labor. The government will decide that for them. America will then be precisely "just another country," as President Obama has characterized it.

What is surprising a lot of people is that over the past 30 years, while the country was enjoying the American Renaissance under Reagan-dominated leadership, the Democrat party and the formerly "mainstream" media has been taken over by the New Left of the 1960s. Bill Clinton tried leading the Democrats in the opposite direction to more moderation to counter the Reagan tidal wave. But with the passing of Clinton and Gore, 2004 saw the New Left openly rise to the top of the Democrats and their media colonies, and they now rule America with a literally neo-Marxist vision and agenda.

We are now experiencing a defining turning point in American history, like the American Revolution or the Civil War. If you want traditional American freedom and prosperity for you, your children, and your grandchildren, this is no time to be politically idle, totally consumed by personal affairs. If you want to save your country, then you need to become politically active, and reach out and organize your friends, neighbors, and relatives for political action...

Read the whole thing: <http://spectator.org/archives/2009/12/02/committing-harrycare>

Not sure I agree with the entire essay. But what a delicious turn of phrase!

Trust Science

A few general truths to keep in mind in the wake of Climategate.

by John Derbyshire, 30 Nov 2009

...As best I can judge, our planet probably *is* enjoying a long-term warming trend, though with much local variation and temporary lulls and reversals sometimes lasting for years. The Arctic certainly seems to have been losing ice these past 30 years, for instance (Figure 3 [here](#)). That these changes are human-made is not clear to me. The argument that they are rests largely on theories about the overall effect of changing CO₂ levels, but those theories themselves are open to **reasonable doubt**. There is even more doubt about the consequences of any change that might be happening; and even where doubt is minimal, the consequences are counterintuitive. It is generally thought, for example, that an ice-free Arctic will leave Europe *colder* (by **killing the Gulf Stream**).

And the science is heavily polluted by politics. The climate-change legions are recruited mainly from the Western Left-intelligentsia, **their kitbags stuffed with all the sub-Marxist and ethno-masochist flabdoodle of the modern academy**. They hate capitalism, they hate Western civilization, and they hate their own ancestors. The kind of dramatic social engineering implicit in the phrase "combating climate change" is emotionally appealing to them.

Downstream from these ideologues are opportunist politicians (if you'll pardon a pleonasm), too dimwitted to understand the ideology — let alone the science! — but eager to ride the climate-change wave to power and wealth. These pols find the gimcrack formulas of postmodernist **Hesperophobia** mighty handy for whipping up support from **Bobo** academy graduates and aggrieved ethnic groups. They control departments of state, which hand out grants and jobs to ideologically friendly researchers, corrupting the whole scientific process...

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=MzYyOTVhZTAzNTFIN2VmM2EyMDgxZWlxOTAzNmViZGY=>

Setting up our military to fail

by Ralph Peters, 2 Dec 2009

...What messages did our president's bait-and-switch speech just send?

To our troops: Risk your lives for a mission I've written off.

To our allies: Race you to the exit ramp.

To the Taliban: Allah is merciful, your prayers will soon be answered.

To Afghan leaders: Get your stolen wealth out of the country.

To Pakistan: Renew your Taliban friendships now (and be nice to al Qaeda).

This isn't just stupid: It's immoral. No American president has ever espoused such a worthless, self-absorbed non-strategy for his own political gratification.

On the other hand, the stage lighting and the camera angles at West Point were terrific. Our president looked *good*. Jaw jutting high (in his "hope" pose), he decried political partisanship—but spent more time blaming Bush and Iraq for our

Afghan problems than he spent blaming the Taliban (check it with a stop-watch).

Nor did Obama miss a single chance to praise himself, insisting that he's already transformed our relationship with the Middle East (please notify the Iranians, al Qaeda, Hezbollah and Hamas) and that all of his dithering demonstrated wisdom.

This guy *loves* to hear himself talk. The last quarter of the speech was boiler-plate rhetoric that wandered off into the clouds. And that human-rights stuff? Where was *that* during his visits to China and Saudi Arabia? Hypocrisy, thy name is Barack. Above all, *where was the strategy?* And where are the four-star resignations over a policy *designed* to squander American lives just to give an administration political cover?...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/setting_up_our_military_to_fail_IBITIHm69SM02Lly5JbNaO

Iran and Honduras: some credible 'alternative' sources of news

StopFundamentalism.com

Iranian.com

Sayeh Hassan (young Iranian expatriate lawyer in Toronto)

HondurasNews.com