

The Redlining of Small Businesses

by Henry Dubroff and John Huggins, 31 Jan 2010

Politicians trying to figure out why the electorate is so angry and frustrated will find answers in a simple chat with shopkeepers and small-business owners on Main Street.

When it comes to small business, the disconnect between reality on the ground and what policymakers are talking about is enormous. Even worse, the aspirations of small-business owners are being eroded not only by economic jitters but also by massive uncertainty about deficits and future government policies.

Many small-business owners feel they've been financially and politically redlined — starved of debt and equity capital, shut out of the political conversation and put at the bottom of the priority list while big companies and unions get huge financial and tax breaks.

What's at stake in this redlining of small business is enormous. Although there are only about 5.5 million small businesses in the U.S., they account for half the jobs in America and the lion's share of job growth. The "jobless recovery" is due in large part to the fact that small businesses have yet to see any advantage at all — and see much risk — in adding to payrolls...

Read on: http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_14289805

Yep. Obama-ism is directly traceable to a 19th-century French moonbat.

The Roots of Obama Worship

Auguste Comte's Religion of Humanity finds a 21st-century savior.

by James W. Ceaser, 25 Jan 2010

...The conflicting demands of the Religion of Humanity and the presidency of the United States have become most apparent in the administration's approach to dealing with the threat of Islamic terrorism. The Religion of Humanity, by its own reckoning, admits to facing challenges from two quarters: from those who have not yet fully entered the age of Positivism, which includes the terrorists, and from those who are part of the advanced world but who refuse to embrace it, which includes the likes of George W. Bush. In the present situation, these two groups are understood to have a symbiotic relationship. The existence of the terrorists is regrettable, not only because of the physical threat that they pose, but also because, by doing so, they risk strengthening the hand of those in the West who reject the Religion of Humanity.

Supporters of the Religion of Humanity therefore believe they have good reason to deny or minimize the danger of terrorism in order to save the world from the even greater danger of the triumph of the retrograde forces. This is the dogmatic basis of political correctness, and Obama and his team have gone to considerable lengths by their policies and by their use of language to hide reality. But reality has a way of asserting itself, and it is becoming clearer by the day that being the leader of Humanity is incompatible with being the president of the United States...

The whole thing (3100 elegant words): <http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/roots-obama-worship>

What do you expect from a Jesuit school? The once-proud Catholic order known as the Society of Jesus was taken over by Marxists in the 1960s, and remains firmly in their control. They even fought openly against the anti-Communist agenda of Pope John Paul II. See *The Jesuits*, by Malachi Martin. It's a very readable account of the many changes the Society and the Church rushed into in the 1960s, nearly all of which were ill-considered and decadent. Most of them still plague the Church today. Father Martin also skewered two of the chief intellectual progenitors of these corrosive changes: George Tyrrell and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

St. Louis U's Inverted Values

Islamists are welcome, their critics are not.

by David Horowitz, 29 Jan 2010

...It should be said that while administrators apply these restrictions to critics of radical Islam, no such rules are invoked for Holocaust deniers or supporters of communist genocides. Both Norman Finkelstein and Angela Davis have been invited as stand-alone speakers at St. Louis University, without anti-communists and defenders of Israel on stage to refute them.

I decided to call Smith's bluff and suggested that I debate Cary Nelson, the well-to-the left president of the American

Association of University Professors, on the subject of academic freedom. I called Cary and he agreed. Smith didn't like this because he was aware that Nelson had responded to his attempt to bar me from speaking by saying that St. Louis University was a "university in name only."...

Read the rest: <http://frontpagemag.com/2010/01/29/st-louis-us-inverted-values/>

A scintillating update on Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, Israel, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Dubai, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. "You can't tell the players without a scorecard." This is the scorecard.

Nightmare in the Middle East

by *Ralph Peters*, 31 Jan 2010

http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/nightmare_in_the_middle_east_crsAsQhQIP2XFTrqiVY3O

A few reminders for the constitutionally challenged

by *Thomas Mitchell*, 31 Jan 2010

...One persistent online commenter insisted recently, "Since you brought the issue up, again, Mr. Mitchell, please point out to me language in the Constitution that permits a corporation to petition the government for redress. And since there is no such language, how can such a right be claimed by corporations?"

The Constitution does not permit. It does not dispense rights. It grants limited powers to the various branches of government and then provides checks and balances. Such as Article 1, Section 8: "The Congress shall have power to ..."

The Bill of Rights does not grant rights, either. Those 10 amendments limit the power of government to encroach on the rights presumed to belong to all of us. The Founders were students of the proponents of natural law, especially John Locke and his treatises on government...

...Rights come from nature, not government. Look at how the Bill of Rights is phrased. None says the state hereby grants these rights to its citizens. It should more properly have been called the Bill of Prohibitions.

"Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech ..." The freedom is presumed and Congress shall not interfere. Additionally, "... the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed ..." The right exists. Don't infringe...

Read it all: <http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/a-few-reminders-for-the-constitutionally-challenged-83191882.html>

Disturbing

by *Don John*, 31 Jan 2010

Rasmussen Reports has a very good track record. And its methodology—a 3-day rolling average of likely voters—normally prevents sudden, huge swings. But the President's job approval rating has gone UP ten points in two days, from -17 to -7. That's the best rating he's had since mid-November.

Can that lame State of the Union speech and his petulant Friday meeting with Republicans have given him enough of a "bounce" to turn things around? Are people starting to believe in him again? And if so, why?

One answer is that most of the increase in approval comes from Democrats, some of whom (being Democrats) had thought he wasn't doing *enough liberal fascism* for their tastes. But all Obama's been doing in the past several days is the same stuff he always does: posing, dissimulating, swerving, lying, preaching, and blaming. Apparently there are a lot more pig-ignorant Americans out there than we'd like to admit.

The poll: http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/obama_administration/obama_approval_index_history

First Amendment 451

How one man irked Obama and won a historic victory for free speech.

by *Robert Costa*, 29 Jan 2010

...The president's anger over the Court's 5-4 decision, he adds, actually reveals something more troubling: Obama doesn't like it when someone tries to snatch power from the federal government and put it back in the hands of the American people.

"Our argument in the case wasn't complicated," says Bossie. "It was about freedom, and it ended up hinging on a very simple question: If the FEC is comfortable banning political films, like Citizens United's *Hillary: The Movie*, around election time, would it also be fine with banning political books financed by corporations? The Justice Department's attorney answered yes, the government did have the power to prohibit the publication of a book. When they admitted that, everything changed."

"I think that answer sent a chill through the Court," says Bossie. "It was that moment that was a catalyst for us, and gave us the opportunity to win on much bigger constitutional grounds than we anticipated. It became apparent that the government believed that they could ban anything: movies, books, pamphlets, the Kindle, you name it. It was a shocking revelation."...

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=MTQwNDQ4Y2Y4MTRiOGVhYTFjOWYwNzhkMTViOTI0NGY=>

During Obama's recession, America's public "servants" are living the life of Riley—paid for by our tax dollars.

Income angst? Not for public employees

by Jeff Jacoby, 27 Jan 2010

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/01/27/income_angst_not_for_public_employees/

Global Warming lobby gets new spokesman

He's more famous than Al Gore, but his overall agenda is the same: bring the wheels of the American economy to a halt.
29 Jan 2010

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20100129/D9DHDH582.html>

Over the past two years, reams and reams of op-ed copy have been written on the subject of Obama's true ideological identity and his plans for America. Since Scott Brown's victory in Massachusetts, many more reams have been written—most of them about "the unmasking of Obama," or the general public finally waking up and seeing him for the fraud he's always been. Now, I'm not a very prolific writer, and plenty of pundits write essays far better than mine every week. Still, I'm particularly proud of this one, which I posted the morning after the presidential election. Some of the embedded hyperlinks are dead, and the Fairness Doctrine hasn't been pursued yet. But on the whole, few other assessments of Barack Obama have been more accurate.

The Flim-Flam Man

by Don John, 5 Nov 2008

http://www.standingonthedeck.com/uploads/The_Flim-Flam_Man.pdf

Obama has suspicious number of letter-writing fans named 'Ellie Light'

by Sabrina Eaton, 22 Jan 2010

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2010/01/letter_writer_claims_diverse_r.html

Soft on Terror

by Charles Krauthammer, 29 Jan 2010

...After 50 minutes of questioning him, the Obama administration chose, reflexively and mindlessly, to give the chatty terrorist the right to remain silent. Which he immediately did, undoubtedly denying us crucial information about al-Qaeda in Yemen, which had trained, armed and dispatched him.

We have since learned that the decision to Mirandize Abdulmutallab had been made without the knowledge of or consultation with (1) the Secretary of Defense, (2) the Secretary of Homeland Security, (3) the Director of the FBI, (4) the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center or (5) the Director of National Intelligence (DNI).

The Justice Department acted not just unilaterally but unaccountably. Obama's own DNI said that Abdulmutallab

should have been interrogated by the HIG, the administration's new High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group...

...Where was it during the Abdulmutallab case? Not available, admitted National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair, because it had only been conceived for use abroad. Had not one person in this vast administration of highly nuanced sophisticates considered the possibility of a terror attack on American soil?

It gets worse. Blair later had to explain that the HIG was not deployed because it does not yet exist. After a year! I suppose this administration was so busy deploying scores of the country's best lawyerly minds on finding the most rapid way to release Gitmo miscreants that it could not be bothered to establish a single operational HIG team to interrogate at-large miscreants with actionable intelligence that might save American lives...

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=MGQ1MzlwNmZhZjkxMjkwNjhmMWQ0MTRIN2I5MjhhZDE=>

The importance of the American spirit, the perils of ignoring it

by Rep. Parker Griffith, 28 Jan 2010

...The American spirit is why the United States produces 23.4 percent of the Gross Global Product, yet we are only 4.5 percent of the entire global population. It is why, according to a recent New York Times piece, the top five U.S. hospitals conduct more clinical trials than all the hospitals in any other single developed country, and it is why Americans have received the Nobel Prize in medicine more often than recipients from all other countries combined. It is the American spirit that has led to the creation of an economic system that has made us *the* global superpower, resulting in incredible prosperity for ourselves and for many, many around the world. It is what delivers the oppressed from tyranny, food to the hungry, and relief to the inflicted. And, despite the risks, it is why immigrants continue to flock here, with over 700,000 each year becoming Americans.

Yet this administration continues to bypass the American spirit as the answer to our recovery and, instead, pushes oppressive regulation, government takeover and gross spending as the way out. The democratic leadership is effectively telling the American people they cannot, and will not, have any part in their own futures...

Read the rest: <http://dailycaller.com/2010/01/28/the-importance-of-the-american-spirit-the-perils-of-ignoring-it/>

A roundhouse knockout punch, reaching back 90 years to the jaw of America's first Liberal Fascist president, Professor Woodrow Wilson. POW!

Where Have You Gone, Rutherford B. Hayes?

by Colby Cosh, 28 Jan 2010

...The idea of the "State of the Union address" was revived by the tyrannical, warmongering racist Woodrow Wilson, that infallible guide to the inadvisable...

More: <http://www2.macleans.ca/2010/01/28/where-have-you-gone-rutherford-b-hayes/>

President Princess Fairy Pants

Mark Steyn on The Hugh Hewitt Show, 28 Jan 2010

...*BHO: By the time I took office, we had a one year deficit of over \$1 trillion dollars, and projected deficits of \$8 trillion dollars over the next decade. Most of this was the result of not paying for two wars, two tax cuts, and an expensive prescription drug program. On top of that, the effects of the recession put a \$3 trillion dollar hole in our budget. All this was before I walked in the door.*

HH: Now Mark Steyn, the prescription drug bill, the two wars, the tax cuts, were all in place by the end of 2007 when the deficit was \$161 billion.

MS: Right.

HH: Today, it's \$1.35 trillion.

MS: Yeah.

HH: It's nonsense what he's saying.

MS: Yes, it is nonsense. I mean, this line that oh, I inherited a huge deficit, so what I've done is blown it up to an even larger size makes no sense anyway. But again, I think this is unbecoming in what is essentially a bit of monarchical theater. You know, Bush could very easily have said well look, he could have stood there in the 2002 State of the Union and said look, I inherited this al Qaeda mess from Bill Clinton, because he didn't have the guts to take out the guy in Afghanistan

when he could have. He could have stood there in 2003 and said well look, I inherited this unfinished Iraq business from my predecessor who just wanted to fly over and bomb the no-fly zone once in a while, and that's unfinished business that I "inherited." Obama will still be blaming everything on what he "inherited" in years and years to come. It's time to man up. You're the president. Nobody forced you to be the president. You wanted the job. Man up or get the hell out of the way. But to stand there blaming in this cheesy, tacky, finger pointing at a guy who's been gone now for over a year just makes you look like Princess Fairy Pants. It's pathetic...

The rest of the segment: <http://www.hughewitt.com/transcripts.aspx?id=44aab6ba-66d5-48d8-b326-1147670c13f4>

GWB should have evicted these Third World gangsters in 2003, when he had the chance, and pulled the U.S. out of the whole organization.

Keep An Eye On The U.N.

by Claudia Rosett, 28 Jan 2010

If you don't like your tax bill now, watch out for the plans of the United Nations. The U.N. has been cooking up proposals to tax you every time you fly, drink, bank, use the Internet or earn a buck. For an institution that has yet to master the art of policing its own accounts, that's awfully ambitious. But an urge to dig ever deeper into your wallet, dear tax-payer, has become a staple on the drawing boards of U.N. plan-o-crats...

...Some years back, the U.N. welcomed the new millennium with a proposal that wealthy nations start turning over 0.7% of their gross national product for aid to the developing world. At the same time the U.N. ramped up its "climate change" campaign for de facto taxes and controls on carbon emissions (based on the U.N.'s politicized "science"), with visions of the command-and-control transfer of billions--or ultimately trillions--around the globe. In such schemes, the U.N. envisions itself manning the main switch.

The U.N. has also been debating a raft of ideas for more targeted global taxes. Just this month comes a dispatch by George Russell, executive editor of Fox News, that the World Health Organization has been honing a "suite of proposals" for asking member states to levy tolls that would be paid directly to the U.N. The WHO notions range from taxes on Internet use, to financial transactions to alcohol, tobacco and weapons.

These campaigns have yet to pan out into the full bonanzas the U.N. hopes for. But for the U.N., there is little cost to trying again and again, gaining traction here and there. All it usually takes is the ability of ambitious U.N. bureaucrats to put together a conference. The planning group for the conference becomes a secretariat. That secretariat becomes the seed of the next U.N. mandate, department or initiative, with the next suite of tax proposals on the table.

So who is keeping an eye on these increasingly acquisitive ambitions of the U.N.? And who is minding the books for its ever-expanding budgets? The sorry answer is that while U.N. ambitions and spending have soared, U.N. reform efforts have largely fizzled...

More: http://www.forbes.com/2010/01/27/united-nations-oversight-money-opinions-columnists-claudia-rosett_print.html

State of the Union: Barack Obama gets an F for world leadership

by Nile Gardiner, 28 Jan 2010

...The scant attention paid in the State of the Union speech to U.S. leadership was pitiful and frankly rather pathetic. The war in Afghanistan, which will soon involve a hundred thousand American troops, merited barely a paragraph. There was no mention of victory over the enemy, just a reiteration of the president's pledge to begin a withdrawal in July 2011. Needless to say there was nothing in the speech about the importance of international alliances, and no recognition whatsoever of the sacrifices made by Great Britain and other NATO allies alongside the United States on the battlefields of Afghanistan. For Barack Obama the Special Relationship means nothing, and tonight's address further confirmed this...

...President Obama displayed what can only be described as a stunning indifference towards the defence of the homeland...

...There were no words of support for Iranian protesters who have been murdered, tortured and beaten in large numbers by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's thuggish security forces, and no sign at all that the president cared about their plight...

...The advance of freedom and liberty across the world in the face of tyranny was not even a footnote in the president's speech. I cannot think of a U.S. president in modern times who has attached less importance to human rights issues. For the hundreds of millions of people across the world, from Burma to Sudan to Zimbabwe, clamouring to be free of oppression, there was not a shred of hope offered in Barack Obama's address.

Obama's world leadership in his first year in office has been weak-kneed and little short of disastrous...

Read the rest: <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/nilegardiner/100024086/state-of-the-union-obama-gets-an-f-for-world-leadership/>

Staying the Course

Wall Street Journal editorial, 28 Jan 2010

...Yet at the same time, he couldn't resist more banker baiting, and he promised that he's determined to see tax rates rise for millions of Americans next year when the Bush rates are set to expire. He also pushed more exports while saying he'll raise taxes on some of our biggest exporters, otherwise known as multinationals that "ship our jobs overseas." Mr. Obama believes he can conjure jobs and a durable expansion from the private sector while waging political war on its animal spirits. It can't be done.

This reflects a larger problem, which is his belief that economic growth springs mainly from the genius of government. Thus Mr. Obama presented a vision of an economy soaring to new heights on "high-speed railroad" and "clean energy facilities" and 1,000 people making solar panels in California. He seems not to appreciate that what really drives growth are the millions of risks taken each day by millions of individuals, far from the politicking and earmarks of Congress or the Department of Energy...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704094304575029773534378324.html>

Howard Zinn, Burn in Hell

Zinn (24 Aug 1922 - 27 Jan 2010) is best known as the author of the notorious anti-American screed *A People's History of the United States*, which is actually used as a textbook in some moonbat schools. David Horowitz calls the book a **Stalinist cartoon**:

"It is certainly disgraceful that a political hack like Zinn—who still thinks America started the Korean War and who has rallied to the cause of every Communist enemy of the United States from Stalin to Castro to Hugo Chavez (not unlike *The Nation* itself)—should be an icon of the American Historical Association. Or that he should be a classroom authority throughout the university system and have his discredited Marxist trash shoved down unsuspecting student throats."

Zinn turned against his country and its allies when, as a bombardier in World War II, he got into a tizzy about civilian casualties (as if he were the only one who every faced such a quandary). This weakness of character led him to a 60-year career of America-bashing. Zinn was so extreme in his reflexive hatred of America and the West that he rivalled Noam Chomsky as a living caricature of a self-loathing, knee-jerk leftist. He warped the mind of one youngster in particular: Matt Damon had the misfortune to live next door to Zinn, and he swallowed everything Zinn preached to him. I sometimes wonder what else he may have swallowed.

As an adult, Damon converted a number of showbiz folk to the cult of Zinn: Danny Glover, Bruce Springsteen, Marissa Tomei, Josh Brolin, and Eddie Vedder became lickspittle acolytes of the old America-hater.

With Zinn's original tizzy in mind, let us read over his grave two quotations from Arthur "Bomber" Harris, head of Britain's Bomber Command in WW2:

"Dresden was a mass of munitions works, an intact government center, and a key transportation point to the East. It is now none of these things."

"I do not personally regard the whole of the remaining cities of Germany as worth the bones of one British grenadier."

Amen.

—Don John, 27 Jan 2010

More on Zinn: <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/individualProfile.asp?indid=939>

Scientists in stolen e-mail scandal hid climate data

by Ben Webster and Jonathan Leake, 27 Jan 2010

The university at the centre of the climate change **row over stolen e-mails** broke the law by refusing to hand over its raw data for public scrutiny. The University of East Anglia breached the Freedom of Information Act by refusing to comply with requests for data concerning claims by its scientists that man-made emissions were causing global warming.

The Information Commissioner's Office decided that UEA failed in its duties under the Act but said that it could not prosecute those involved because the complaint was made too late, The Times has learnt. The ICO is now seeking to

change the law to allow prosecutions if a complaint is made more than six months after a breach.

The **stolen e-mails**, revealed on the eve of the Copenhagen summit, showed how the university's Climatic Research Unit attempted to thwart requests for scientific data and other information, and suggest that senior figures at the university were involved in decisions to refuse the requests. It is not known who stole the e-mails.

Professor Phil Jones, the unit's director, stood down while an inquiry took place. The ICO's decision could make it difficult for him to resume his post...

More: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article7004936.ece>

The Spender-in-Chief's fiscal freeze follies

by Michelle Malkin, 27 Jan 2010

There are more loopholes in President Obama's proposed "spending freeze" than in an Olympic volleyball net. Gargantuan government entitlements (Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid) are **exempt**. A half-trillion in unspent stimulus money is **exempt**. Foreign aid is **exempt**. The Democrats' proposed \$154 billion jobs bill (Stimulus II) is **exempt**.

Pet federal education programs will be **exempt** (including \$4 billion for the White House "Race to the Top" standards initiative and an additional \$1.35 billion he just requested in the 2011 budget). Green jobs spending will be **exempt** (Obama proposed \$10 billion in new clean energy spending earlier this month). Electorally-driven tax credit expansions will be **exempt**. The health care takeover plan is **not included**. As even the New York Times reported, the "estimated \$250 billion in savings over 10 years would be less than 3 percent of the roughly \$9 trillion in additional deficits the government is expected to accumulate over that time."

Which amounts to a molecule in a drop of the ocean of red ink in which American taxpayers have been drowning...

...The president has lately regressed into his "I will fight for you" campaign sloganeering — by which, of course, he means, "I will fight for me." There will be no hands reaching across the aisle. Obama's too busy using them to point fingers at everyone else for his own political meltdown.

More: <http://michellemalkin.com/2010/01/27/the-state-of-obamas-dis-union/>

Obama, the god that failed

Washington Times editorial, 27 Jan 2010

President Obama said Monday that he would "rather be a really good one-term president than a mediocre two-term president." He will be lucky if he's not an abject failure. There's usually a reason for a presidency lasting a single term, as Mr. Obama's slow-motion train wreck is demonstrating.

Mr. Obama took office with historically high approval ratings based on a combination of hope for his administration, reaction against President George W. Bush's second-term unpopularity and a degree of irrational exuberance, best illustrated by Newsweek editor Evan Thomas' cultish image of Mr. Obama "standing above the country, above—above the world, he's sort of God."...

More: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/jan/27/obama-the-god-that-failed-the-decline-and-fall-of-//print/>

A Worldwide Disgrace

Chicago Tribune editorial, 26 Jan 2010

Around this time last year, U.N. leaders decided that the best way to cut rampant corruption in its ranks was to aggressively ... stop looking for it. They yanked funding for a special anti-corruption task force that the U.N. created in 2006 after the infamous oil-for-food scandal. They promised that they were just consolidating the task force into an existing U.N. division, not killing its investigations. Move along, folks! Nothing to see here!

But we suspected the U.N. task force had been too successful, that it had mightily embarrassed U.N. leaders and member countries. Remember, the task force had exposed about \$630 million in allegedly tainted contracts. Its work led to criminal convictions of a U.N. employee and a contractor, and disciplinary actions against 17 other U.N. employees. It triggered the suspension or banishment of more than 45 private companies from the contracting process. There were scores more investigations in the pipeline.

So what has happened since then? Exactly what we feared...

More: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/ct-edit-unitednations0127-20100126,0,1829213,full.story>

Tuning out the State of the Union

by Gene Healy, 26 Jan 2010

...The Constitution requires that the president "from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union." But it doesn't mandate the modern pageant of pomp, circumstance, and phony promises we suffer through every year.

In fact, for most of the Republic's first century, the SOTU was a modest, informational affair. Presidents sent the written address to Congress, to be read aloud by a clerk. That was thanks to President Jefferson, who thought delivering the speech before Congress assembled smacked too much of a king's "Speech from the Throne."

When the power-hungry Woodrow Wilson overturned the Jeffersonian tradition in 1913, one senator cursed the revival of "the old Federalistic custom of speeches from the throne," calling it a "cheap and tawdry imitation of English royalty."

The speech only got worse from there, especially after the advent of television and LBJ's decision to move the address to prime time. That sealed the SOTU's transformation into the modern ritual, in which the president stands at the front of the House chamber making exorbitant promises that would shame a carny barker, while congresscritters stand and clap like members of the Supreme Soviet cheering a Brezhnev speech...

More: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/Tuning-out-the-State-of-the-Union-82635647.html>

Peter Jennings is dead, *Deo gratias*, but there are still a lot of snooty libs preaching at us, from the president on down.

Moody Blues

Barack Obama, the Angry Left, and the politics of intellectual contempt.

by James Taranto, 26 Jan 2010

Last week Boston Globe columnist Renee Loth described the election of Scott Brown as "a collective primal scream." It's an old trope, reminiscent of the late Peter Jennings's classic declaration after the 1994 election:

"Some thoughts on those angry voters. Ask parents of any 2-year-old and they can tell you about those temper tantrums: the stomping feet, the rolling eyes, the screaming. It's clear that the anger controls the child and not the other way around. It's the job of the parent to teach the child to control the anger and channel it in a positive way. Imagine a nation full of uncontrolled 2-year-old rage. The voters had a temper tantrum last week. . . . Parenting and governing don't have to be dirty words: the nation can't be run by an angry 2-year-old."

Echoing this view of the voters as angry, unreasoning and immature is Time's Joe Klein, who in the headline of a blog post describes Americans as "Too Dumb to Thrive"...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703906204575027261881817330.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_MIDDLETopOpinion

Ha. Ha. Ha.

Getting It Done: The Year In Obama-Led Health Care Reform

TalkingPointsMemo TV, 22 Jan 2010

Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aOILuS1i_M

ACORN 'gotcha' man arrested in attempt to tamper with Mary Landrieu's office phones

by David Hammer, 26 Jan 2010, 6:23PM

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2010/01/acorn_gotcha_man_arrested_for.html

To the Editor

26 Jan 2010

As a longtime reader of Iowahawk Blog I must say that I am sick and tired of the constant negative griping and complaining you direct at elected Democratic official. Speaking for the vast silent majority of Iowahawk Blog readers, it is finally time to set the record straight.

elected Democratic official is working hard every time period to undo the damage done to our local economy by the misguided policies of recent Republican President. ...

Read on: <http://iowahawk.typepad.com/iowahawk/2010/01/to-the-editor.html>

Soldiers should not be 'Scapegoats' for Fort Hood massacre

Shooting rampage deserves systemic revisions to eliminate political correctness in military.

18 Jan 2010

The American Islamic Forum for Democracy (AIFD) is calling on Defense Secretary Robert Gates to address the root problem that led to the massacre at Fort Hood before more American citizens are killed. The United States Military needs a systemic and cultural analysis to eliminate the influence of political correctness in its handling of Islamist radicalization issues...

More: <http://www.aifdemocracy.org/news.php?id=5493>

Team Obama appears clueless about (a) finance, and (b) the unintended consequences of their royal proclamations.

The President's Bank Reforms Don't Add Up

by Peter J. Wallison, 25 Jan 2010

...There is one more factor to consider. Banks have been committing themselves increasingly to financing real estate. The reason for this is simple. Because they cannot underwrite or deal in securities, they have been losing out to securities firms in financing public companies—that is, most of American business other than small business. It is less expensive for a company to issue notes, bonds or commercial paper in the securities markets than to borrow from a bank.

Where, then, can banks find borrowers? The answer, unfortunately, is commercial and residential real estate.

Real-estate loans rose to 55% of all bank loans in 2008 from less than 25% in 1965. These loans will continue to rise in the future, because only real-estate, small business and consumer lending are now accessible activities for banks.

This is not a good trend, because the real-estate sector is highly cyclical and volatile. It was, indeed, the vast number of subprime and other risky mortgages in our financial system that caused the weakness of the banks and the financial crisis. Requiring banks to continue to lend to real estate, because they have few other alternatives, virtually guarantees another banking crisis in the future...

Read it all:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704509704575019333516533828.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion

Mrs. Liebau sometimes fills in for Hugh Hewitt; and she knew Barack Obama at Harvard Law.

Lessons for the GOP in Brown's Victory

by Carol Platt Liebau, 25 Jan 2010

Fresh off the best week they've had in years — literally — conservatives and Republicans would be something less than human if they denied themselves the opportunity to savor an amazing trifecta of victories: First and foremost, the election of Scott Brown to Ted Kennedy's former Senate seat, along with the Supreme Court decision vindicating the First Amendment rights of corporations and the demise of Air America.

But the time for jubilation is almost over; the time for some serious thought and hard work is just beginning. If they learn the wrong lessons from last week's events, Republicans will find themselves with significantly less to celebrate next November. And drawing the right conclusions from Brown's victory will make all the difference. So what should conservatives and Republicans keep in mind?...

Continue: http://townhall.com/columnists/CarolPlattLiebau/2010/01/25/lessons_for_the_gop_in_browns_victory

Movie made by chimpanzees to be broadcast on TV

http://news.bbc.co.uk/earth/hi/earth_news/newsid_8472000/8472831.stm

Far more intellectually coherent than Michael Moore, Oliver Stone, Brian DePalma, and Matt Damon.

Rajendra Pachauri, head of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and co-recipient (with Al Gore) of a Nobel Peace Prize for Lying About the Weather, has now been caught colluding with another serial liar, Syed Hasnain. The two of them were making big bucks off Hasnain's 1999 claim that all Himalayan glaciers would be gone by 2030. A November 2009 report by Vijay Raina, India's leading glaciologist, has utterly debunked and exposed the fraud.

The real story behind the Glaciergate scandal

by Christopher Booker, 23 Jan 2010

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/7062667/Pachauri-the-real-story-behind-the-Glaciergate-scandal.html>

A brief but fascinating history of a wrong-headed movement.

An Obit for Health Care Reform

by Terry Michael, 25 Jan 2010

Health Care Reform (HCR) died Jan. 19 in Massachusetts, shortly before his 19th birthday. He was a victim of a mass suicide pact by economic left-liberals swilling Kool-Aid they've been drinking for years to satisfy a thirsty obsession for replacing marketplace accountability with government mandates...

Continue: http://washingtontimes.com/news/2010/jan/25/health-care-reform-rip/?feat=home_columns

How Republicans Can Win the Black Vote

Certainly not with the same old tactic of impersonating Democrats.

by Thomas Sowell, 22 Jan 2010

<http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=MDQ5ZmU1Zjk1MjA2YTUjMjg1Yjg0N2QyODEwYzlmMzc=>

The World Bids Farewell to Obama

U.S. President Barack Obama has had a difficult first year.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,673192,00.html>

Yes, even Der Spiegel has had it with Der Hopemeister. I can just see it now: it's the end of a *Project Runway* episode. Accompanied by dramatic lighting, sound, and camera shots, Heidi Klum pronounces the fateful verdict: "Barack, you are out." Then she approaches the runway for the obligatory fake-kiss, and her traditional "Auf Wiedersehen." Later, Tim Gunn tells him "It's been great working with you, but it's time for you to go and clean up your workspace."

This episode doesn't end there. The failed contestant asks, incredulously, "Do I actually have to take a broom and sweep out the Oval Office?" Tim answers "No, Barack, I'm told there are other people who are going to do that."

Too Much of a Bad Thing

by Mark Steyn, 23 Jan 2010

..."The same thing that swept Scott Brown into office swept me into office," said Obama. "People are angry and they're frustrated, not just because of what's happened in the last year or two years but what's happened over the last eight years." Got it. People are so angry and frustrated at George W. Bush that they're voting for Republicans. In Massachusetts. Boy, I can't wait for that 159th interview. Presumably, the president isn't stupid enough actually to believe what he said. But it's dispiriting to discover he's stupid enough to think we're stupid enough to believe it...

...Whenever aspiring writers ask me for advice, I usually tell 'em this: Don't just write there, *do* something. Learn

how to shingle a roof, or tap-dance, or raise sled dogs. Because if you don't do anything, you wind up like Obama and Fineman — men for whom words are props and codes and metaphors but no longer expressive of anything real.

America is becoming a bilingual society, divided between those who think a pickup is a rugged vehicle useful for transporting heavy-duty items from A to B and those who think a pickup is coded racism.

Unfortunately, the latter group forms most of the Democrat-media one-party state currently running the country. Can you imagine Bill Clinton being so stupid as to put down pickup trucks while standing next to John Kerry? And what's even more extraordinary is that those lines were *written* for Obama by paid professionals.

But fine, have it your way. Tuesday's vote was really a plea by a desperate people for even more Obama. We're going to need even more Obama teleprompters, even more Obama speeches, even more sonorous banalities unrelated to action, even more "Let me be clear" prefacing even more tinny generalities...

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=MThIOTBiN2QwNDgzNTk0MDBkZjNhYzZm2MWQyODUyOWY=>

"You know, if the whole rap against you is that you're the hack candidate of a discredited party machine, the answer isn't to fly in Obama, John Kerry and miscellaneous idiot princelings from obscure branches of the Kennedy family, and hold a so-called rally in a private school at which the President, having gone to the trouble to fly in and put his prestige on the line, can't be bothered to string together a halfway coherent speech."

—Mark Steyn to Hugh Hewitt, during radio coverage of the Massachusetts Senate returns.

Today, while searching for this little gem...

"The revolution of rising expectations was replaced by the expectation of rising revolutions."

—Leo Labedz, *on the weakness of the West in the 1970s*

I encountered (and dusted off) this enormous jewel:

The Moral Consequences of Impatience

by John O'Sullivan, 1 June 1999

http://www.standingonthedeck.com/uploads/The_moral_consequences_ofimpatience.pdf

Mr. O'Sullivan is a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, editor-at-large for National Review, and was a Special Adviser to Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s. His book *The President, the Pope, and the Prime Minister* (2006) is a marvelous account of the winning of the Cold War. He's possibly the pleasantest and most engaging lecturer I've ever had the pleasure to hear. This decade-old piece remains relevant today. An intellectually challenging look at the social/cultural/political changes in the English-speaking world during the second half of the 20th century, it's got everything from Edmund Burke to Jerry Springer!

Justice Scalia eviscerates, and even lampoons, the liberal justices' doddering, drooling, droning dissent against this landmark decision. Enjoy.

Concurrence in *Citizens United v FEC*

by Justice Antonin Scalia, 21 Jan 2010

...It is hard to see how this has anything to do with what sort of corruption can be combated by restrictions on political speech. Moreover, if speech can be prohibited because, in the view of the Government, it leads to "moral decay" or does not serve "public ends," then there is no limit to the Government's censorship power.

The dissent says that when the Framers "constitutionalized the right to free speech in the First Amendment, it was the free speech of individual Americans that they had in mind." That is no doubt true. All the provisions of the Bill of Rights set forth the rights of individual men and women—not, for example, of trees or polar bears. But the individual person's right to speak includes the right to speak *in association with other individual persons*. Surely the dissent does not believe that speech by the Republican Party or the Democratic Party can be censored because it is not the speech of "an individual American." It is the speech of many individual Americans, who have associated in a common cause, giving the leadership of the party the right to speak on their behalf. The association of individuals in a business corporation is no different—or at least it cannot be denied the right to speak on the simplistic ground that it is not "an individual American."

But to return to, and summarize, my principal point, which is the conformity of today's opinion with the original

meaning of the First Amendment. The Amendment is written in terms of "speech," not speakers. Its text offers no foothold for excluding any category of speaker, from single individuals to partnerships of individuals, to unincorporated associations of individuals, to incorporated associations of individuals—and the dissent offers no evidence about the original meaning of the text to support any such exclusion. We are therefore simply left with the question whether the speech at issue in this case is "speech" covered by the First Amendment. No one says otherwise. A documentary film critical of a potential Presidential candidate is core political speech, and its nature as such does not change simply because it was funded by a corporation... Indeed, to exclude or impede corporate speech is to muzzle the principal agents of the modern free economy. We should celebrate rather than condemn the addition of this speech to the public debate.

More: <http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?court=US&vol=000&invol=08-205#concurrency2>

Why the Great and Growing Backlash?

by Victor Davis Hanson, 20 Jan 2010

... Voters went for the hope-and-change Obama in part because he promised fiscal sobriety after the Bush \$500 billion deficit. Instead, in utterly cynical fashion, Obama trumped that red ink four times over. In the process, he developed a terrible habit of promising favored constituencies a hundred billion here, a hundred billion there as if it were all paper money — rather than real borrowed currency that will have to be confiscated in the future from the beleaguered taxpayer. It only makes it worse that the more the administration borrowed, printed, and spent, the higher unemployment rose and the lower economic activity plummeted.

Most have had enough of pie-in-the-sky talk of massive new health-care entitlements, cap-and-trade taxes and regulation, more stimulus, and more takeovers of private enterprise. The country is broke and the people want to pay off, not incur more, crushing debt. What got us into the mess was too much borrowing, skyrocketing debt, and reckless spending — not too many balanced budgets and too much lean government...

... Obama is beginning to grate. His flip-the-switch-on, evangelical cadences at rallies sound more like a Harvard nerd doing blues imitations than Martin Luther King Jr...

Read it all: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=MjBjY2Y3NGM3Y2UzYTA0MGJmZGQ3OGY2ZmE3NGZhMDA=>

Newsflash: First Amendment Upheld

An end to giving political speech less protection than pornography.

by Bradley A. Smith, 22 Jan 2010

Thursday's Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, in which the Court struck down a blanket government prohibition on corporate political speech, is a wonderful decision that restores political speech to the primacy it was intended to have under the First Amendment.

To truly appreciate the stakes in *Citizens United*, one must remember the government's legal position in the case. Implicit in its briefs but laid bare at oral argument, the government maintained that the Constitution allows the government to ban distribution of books over Amazon's Kindle; to prohibit a union from hiring a writer to author a book titled, "Why Working Americans Should Support the Obama Agenda"; and to prohibit Simon & Schuster from publishing, or Barnes & Noble from selling, a book containing even one line of advocacy for or against a candidate for public office. As David Barry would say, "I am not making this up."

The Court said "no," and the only shocking thing about the decision is that the four liberal justices said "yes."...

... President Barack Obama, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Chris Van Hollen and Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Chairman Bob Menendez all announced that they would be looking for ways to limit corporate expenditures.

But the First Amendment is all about distrusting government to make those decisions about who has spoken too much. That's why Thursday's decision is such a breath of fresh air.

The next time you download a book on Kindle, buy a Michael Moore screed at Barnes & Noble, or order up a political movie from video on demand, remember that it is the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United* that guarantees you the right to do so.

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704509704575019112172931620.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion

Massachusetts election was a referendum on Big Government

by Senator Tom Coburn, M.D., 20 Jan 2010

...As a candidate for president in 2008, Obama pledged to do what I am now proposing. His pledge said, "Obama will conduct an immediate and periodic public inventory of administrative offices and functions and require agency leaders to work together to root out redundancy. Where consolidation is not the right strategy to improve efficiency, Obama will improve information sharing and use of common assets to minimize wasteful duplication."

I intend to help the president achieve this important campaign pledge. Examples of duplication aren't hard to find. For instance, our government funds:

105 federal programs to encourage students to enter the fields of math and science. Thirteen different federal agencies spend more \$3 billion each year to fund these programs; 44 job training programs administered by nine different federal agencies across the federal bureaucracy for \$30 billion; 69 early education programs administered by nine different agencies; 23 federal housing programs that target or have special features for the elderly; and 21 federal programs for childhood obesity.

The list goes on, and many of these programs are well-intended. Yet, if we really want to encourage math and science education, for instance, why not have one outstanding program instead of 105 overlapping and mediocre programs? Unfortunately, Congress will likely resist any move toward restraint...

More:

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/OpEd-Contributor/Massachusetts-election-was-a-referendum-on-Big-Government-82202832.html>

As a *real* renaissance of conservatism begins to take hold, let's remember its chief progenitor.

Dear Mr. Reagan

song by the Right Brothers, Feb 2005

Sample: http://www.therightbrothers.com/audio/two/dear_mr_reagan.mp3

Buy: <http://store.therightbrothers.com/>

"Ay----la! You've got me on my knees"

or "Senator Brown, you've got a lovely daughter"

Ayla Brown "Breaking Away" Live with the James Montgomery Blues Band & The Uptown Horns

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TW895RxWx7k>

Ayla Brown 2010 Moving Forward

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7cO-ULndIY>

That was the week that was!

Don John, 22 Jan 2010

Returning to port this afternoon, having completed my journey three days sooner than expected, I lamented having been away during such a remarkable week. The good people of Massachusetts elected a Republican senator for the first time since 1972—and did it with the clear intention of stopping Obamacare **dead**. Viewed in the abstract, it was like the siege of the Alamo being relieved by the Frito Bandito.

The Supreme Court **struck down** McCain-Feingold and other "campaign finance" laws that have unfairly restricted the free speech rights of unions, companies, and individuals. Then, the Air America radio network announced not only that it was bankrupt again, but that this time it really is going to shut down. *Deo Gratias*.

Scott Brown's **victory speech** was very good, despite its length and occasional silliness. My favorite passage: "Our Constitution and laws exist to protect this nation—they do not grant rights and privileges to enemies in wartime. In dealing with terrorists, our tax dollars should pay for weapons to stop them, not lawyers to defend them." CNN **aired** only 26% of the speech. MSNBC **aired** a whopping 37%. Fox News **aired** all of it—just as they aired all of Martha Coakley's concession speech.

It was too bad that political realities forced Mr. Brown to pay tribute, however briefly, to Teddy Kennedy. I wish he could have said—as Rush Limbaugh did repeatedly on Wednesday—"Mary Jo, this one's for you."

When the speech was over, the strains of the Black-Eyed Peas' song *I Gotta Feeling* were piped into the hall: a nice bit of music, but in this context underwhelming. The occasion called for a truly great song of victory and gloating and

partying: the Fratellis' *Chelsea Dagger*. That's what my friends and I were playing on Tuesday night—repeatedly and at full volume. C'mon, GOP, get hip. Just a little!

Way to Go, Dear Leader!

The Clueless One gives a clear signal that, like Carter before him, he's incapable of moving anywhere near the Center. Even in the face of stunning repudiations of his failed policies, he intends to remain a socialist ideologue to the bitter end (i.e. November 2012).

In Ohio, Obama vows to 'never stop fighting' by *Ed Henry*, 22 Jan 2010

http://www.cnn.com/2010/POLITICS/01/22/obama.ohio/index.html?section=cnn_latest

Climategate: How to Hide the Sun

The Climategate crowd successfully worked to obscure the connection between solar activity and climate. The leaked CRU e-mails reveal how.

by *Dexter Wright*, 14 Jan 2010

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/01/climategate_how_to_hide_the_sun.html

Don John is away on a voyage, and won't be able to post anything new until about January 25. But do take a look at the 'superb pieces' just below. They really are terrific, even though one of them is from 160 years ago! And below 'Reverse the Vote' are 23 wonderful quotations.

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*

Seen, and Not Seen by *Frédéric Bastiat (July 1850)*

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

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>

"Other constitutions say, 'Government grants you these rights,' and ours says, 'You are born with these rights, they are yours by the grace of God, and no government on earth can take them from you.'"

—*Ronald Reagan*, 25 Jan 1974

"People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf."

—*George Orwell (Winston Churchill and Rudyard Kipling expressed similar thoughts, too)*

"We are giving the Islamists the message that we are theirs for the taking. This is how liberalism may disappear up its own backside."

—*Melanie Phillips*, 11 May 2007

"They hold fast to the idea that we are a 'nation of immigrants'—forgetting that we are also a nation of immigrants who

became Americans."

—*Jonah Goldberg, 2 Oct 2007*

"Self-important professors with silly ideas should have to pay carbon tax for all the hot air they create."

—*Angela Conway, Australian Family Association, 10 Dec 2007*

"Our goal in war can only be attained by the subjugation of the opposing will...All such acts as defeat in the field, propaganda, blockade, diplomacy, or attack on the centres of government and population are seen to be but means to that end."

—*Sir Basil Liddell Hart, armored warfare strategist (1895-1970)*

"Your father reminds us there are men willing to fight for people that they don't even know. Even now, as I write this letter in Iraq, I will honor him on the field of battle by slaying as many of our enemies as possible, and fight until our mission is accomplished."

—*Maj. Douglas A. Zembiec, to the children of his fallen friend, Maj. Ray Mendoza (2005)*

"History is strewn with the wrecks of nations which have gained a little progressiveness at the cost of a great deal of hard manliness, and have thus prepared themselves for destruction as soon as the movements of the world gave a chance for it."

—*Walter Bagehot, 1826-1877*

"There is danger that, if the Court does not temper its doctrinaire logic with a little practical wisdom, it will convert the constitutional Bill of Rights into a suicide pact."

—*Justice Robert Jackson, 1949*

"If you don't read the newspapers, you are uninformed. If you do read the newspapers, you are misinformed."

—*Mark Twain*

"Multilateralism is a synonym for an ineffective and unfocused policy involving internationalism of the lowest common denominator."

—*Alexander Downer, Australian Foreign Minister 1996-2007.*

"Any political group or institution that is not ideologically conservative will become, over time, liberal."

—*George Will*

"There are really only two ways to interpret the Constitution—try to discern as best we can what the framers intended, or make it up."

—*Clarence Thomas*

"Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God?"

—*Thomas Jefferson*

"It is not true, as is sometimes said, that man cannot organize the world without God. What is true is that without God, he can only organize it against man."

—*Henri de Lubac, The Drama of Atheistic Humanism, 1944.*

"Where faith is absent...man is divorced from reality. He is living in the dark and all his intellectual and political systems become distorted and unreal."

—*Christopher Dawson (1891-1970)*

"To look upon these programs as the result of a unified plan was to believe that the accumulation of stuffed snakes, baseball pictures, school flags, old tennis shoes, carpenter's tools, geometry books and chemistry sets in a boy's bedroom could have been put there by an interior decorator."

—*Raymond Moley (an early adviser to FDR) on the New Deal*

"In 1968, 13 percent of Americans were poor. Over the next 12 years, our expenditures on social welfare quadrupled. And

in 1980, the percentage of poor Americans was—13 percent."

—*Charles Murray (Losing Ground, 1984)*

As government becomes more involved in a firm, the firm acts less and less competitively and more and more like a job-protection organization. A symbiotic relationship develops in which the very concept of a public interest is lost.

—*David Frum, 11 Dec 2008*

"It is frequently said that you cannot legislate morality. In fact, you cannot legislate *anything but* morality. Any question of political moment has to do with questions such as justice, equality, fairness, and the common good. All of these are inescapably moral categories."

—*Richard John Neuhaus, 8 Oct 1996*

"Civilization is not an evolution of mankind but the imposition of human good on human evil. It is not a historical inevitability. It is a battle that has to be fought every day, because evil doesn't recede willingly before the wheels of progress."

—*Andrew C. McCarthy*

"The disarmament movement was, as the event has shown, tragically successful in disarming the nations that believed in disarmament."

—*Walter Lippmann, 1943*

"It's in the nature of government to do things worse, and slower."

—*Mark Steyn, America Alone, 2006*

Antarctica and the Myth of Deadly Rising Seas

by *Marc Sheppard, 14 Jan 2010*

On Monday, scientists from the Norwegian Polar Institute reported that they'd measured sea temperatures beneath an East Antarctic ice shelf and found no signs of warming whatsoever. And while the discovery's corollaries remain mostly blurred by the few rogue mainstream media outlets actually reporting it, the findings are in fact yet another serious blow to the sky-is-falling-because-oceans-are-rising prophecies of the climate alarm crowd...

Lots of visuals: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/01/antarctica_and_the_myth_of_dea_1.html

Pat Robertson's Offense

by *Peter Wehner, 14 Jan 2010*

...Pat Robertson's argument is as neat and clean as a mathematical equation: God grants blessings and curses on nations and people based on their allegiance and obedience to Him. If things are going well, you're living right; if things are going badly, you're living wrong. And it is Robertson himself who can divine the hierarchy of sins that most trouble God. But this view simply does not correspond with any serious understanding of Christianity. After all, the most important symbol in Christianity is the Cross, which represents suffering, agony, and death....

Read on: <http://corner.nationalreview.com/post/?q=MTliN2Y1YzU4NjUwMDkwZTZjYjFhZDM3NGNkZDk4MmI=>

Hey, Speaker Pelosi, Where Are the Jobs?

by *Capitol Confidential, 13 Jan 2010*

In August 2003, then-Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi issued a press statement demanding to know from President Bush, "Where Are the Jobs?" The statement was released in response to the monthly Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs report, which, at that time showed that over 400,000 Americans had given up looking for work and had left the labor force. It should be noted that today, every job measurement she cited is worse now than it was in 2003. We must have overlooked her similar question for President Obama...

More: <http://biggovernment.com/2010/01/13/hey-speaker-pelosi-where-are-the-jobs/>

At last! A Muslim terrorist with a sense of humor. Hard to believe? Just watch.

My Imam Wrote Me A Fatwa

by *vorbach1*, 1 Jan 2010

Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZTa0CRNo_0

Anatomy of a Meltdown

by *Victor Davis Hanson*, 13 Jan 2010

...The former celebrity Obama has lost that luster, point-by-point over a year, bleeding by a thousand small cuts until he nears 40 percent approval. In themselves, the bad jokes like the flippant remark about the Special Olympics, the lunatic appointments like Anita Dunn and Van Jones, the serial untruths about airing the health-care debt on C-SPAN or shunning lobbyists, the phony deadlines on Gitmo and the Iranians, the bribing of senators with hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayers' funds, the bowing, the snubbing of the British, the use of the race card against tea-party critics, the Skip Gates mess, the Orwellian NEA business, constant fluff photos ops, but rare real press conferences — all that in the aggregate brought Obama to his present state.

And now the question is not whether the president's charisma can save his unpopular agenda, but rather whether the president's growing unpopularity makes things even worse. This takes place, of course, in a landscape of 10 percent unemployment, a nearly \$2 trillion debt, and rising energy prices. Somehow more deficits and subsidized wind and solar won't be winning issues.

An obvious prediction: The upcoming show trial of KSM, cap and trade, and amnesty are not winning issues — and will have to be Gitmoized or they will threaten to destroy the Democratic party for years...

The rest: <http://corner.nationalreview.com/post/?q=MWFINzYzMTM3ZjZkZWY5NmZlNjIxYjVhNDVhYmI3NmM=>

(Hat tip: Tom L.)

Let's Take the "Crony" Out of "Crony Capitalism"

by *John Stossel*, 13 Jan 2010

When Judge Richard Posner, the prolific conservative intellectual, released his book *A Failure of Capitalism: The Crisis of '08 and the Descent Into Depression* last year, you might have thought the final verdict was in: Capitalism caused the economic downturn and high unemployment.

That this verdict was pronounced by someone like Posner, who is associated with the University of Chicago and the free-market law and economics movement, gave moral support to all the politicians who were intent on exploiting the recession (as they exploit all crises) to increase government control of the economy.

But what exactly is this "capitalism" that is blamed?

The word "capitalism" is used in two contradictory ways. Sometimes it's used to mean the free market, or *laissez faire*. Other times it's used to mean today's government-guided economy. Logically, "capitalism" can't be both things. Either markets are free or government controls them. We can't have it both ways.

The truth is that we don't have a free market — government regulation and management are pervasive — so it's misleading to say that "capitalism" caused today's problems...

Read on: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/john-stossel.html>

Shocking abuses of privilege by public "servants" in California. That's why the state is bankrupt. And many others are headed in the same direction. It's time for the nation to stop following the Golden State's lead—at least until it has regained its sanity, and its fiscal health. That'll be a decade or two hence, at the very least.

Class War

How public servants became our masters.

by *Steven Greenhut*, 13 Jan 2010 (February issue)

...The United States had 2.3 state and local government employees per 100 citizens in 1946 and has 6.5 state and local government employees per 100 citizens now. In 1947, Hodges writes, 78 percent of the national income went to the

private sector, 16 percent to the federal sector, and 6 percent to the state and local government sector. Now 54 percent of the economy is private, 28 percent goes to the feds, and 18 percent goes to state and local governments. The trend lines are ominous.

Bigger government means more government employees. Those employees then become a permanent lobby for continual government growth. The nation may have reached critical mass; the number of government employees at every level may have gotten so high that it is politically impossible to roll back the bureaucracy, rein in the costs, and restore lost freedoms.

People who are supposed to serve the public have become a privileged elite that exploits political power for financial gain and special perks. Because of its political power, this interest group has rigged the game so there are few meaningful checks on its demands. Government employees now receive far higher pay, benefits, and pensions than the vast majority of Americans working in the private sector. Even when they are incompetent or abusive, they can be fired only after a long process and only for the most grievous offenses...

Read it all: <http://reason.com/archives/2010/01/12/class-war>

Israel's Opening to China

by Caroline Glick, 8 Jan 2010

The growing power of the UN-based international community is one of the gravest emerging threats to Israel's national security.

This threat stems from two sources. First, the UN-led system of global governance is working to redefine international law by on the one hand whitewashing war crimes by states associated with the majority, and on the other hand rendering it illegal for unpopular countries to take action to protect themselves against aggression. Second, and most important, Israel has become the scapegoat of the UN-led international community. The 57-member Islamic bloc has built an automatic majority for its unrelenting and ever-escalating assaults on Israel's right to exist.

The new—and false—interpretation of international law gives every General Assembly resolution the weight of binding Security Council resolutions and international treaties. Among this new "legal" regime's most dangerous features is its bid to overturn state sovereignty by subjecting leading citizens of weak states to politically-motivated criminal prosecutions under the rubric of universal jurisdiction...

Continue: <http://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/p18270.xml>

Oliver Stone: I Got Your Hitler Context Right Here

by Kurt Schlichter, 12 Jan 2009

...Does Stone really believe that Hitler somehow lacks "context," or that "American corporations were involved [with the Nazis], from GM through IBM"? Sure, to the extent he believes in anything besides gobbling pharmaceuticals and ginning up publicity, but make no mistake: His *Secret History* will be neither. It will not be "history" in the sense of relating what actually transpired in the past. Nor is its tired leftist wisdom on how America was somehow to blame for the rise of the Nazis—as it is to blame for all evil throughout the ages—a "secret." If you can't wait to get a dose of it, just check out the Daily Kos comments or join the other half-dozen lonely leftist shut-ins who actually saw Howard Zinn's recent [celebrity-filled Trash America fest](#).

The real *Secret History* that Stone won't disclose involves the **identity** of the Americans who actually thought the Nazis had quite a lot to offer with their collectivist, anti-capitalist vision, their refusal to let things like democracy stop their agenda, and their fondness for eugenics. Here's a hint: It starts with a "P" and ends with a "rogressives."...

More: <http://bighollywood.breitbart.com/kschlichter/2010/01/12/oliver-stone-i-got-your-hitler-context-right-here/>

The Politically Motivated Forgiveness Of Harry Reid

by Matt Margolis, 10 Jan 2010

How many of you want to take Barack Obama's "forgiveness" of Harry Reid for his **past offensive comments** as legitimate forgiveness? Perhaps we ought to look at how he and other Democrats have treated other controversial comment made by a Republican. The Trent Lott incident comes to mind...

Quotes from Barack Obama, Harry Reid, Mary Landrieu, Joe Biden, Evan Bayh, Barbara Boxer, Maria Cantwell, Hillary Clinton, Dick Durbin, Russ Feingold, Dianne Feinstein, Tom Harkin, John Kerry, Blanche Lincoln, Barbara

Mikulski, Patty Murray, and Debbie Stabenow—on the Trent Lott/Strom Thurmond flap in 2002:
<http://blogsforvictory.com/2010/01/10/the-politically-motivated-forgiveness-of-harry-reid/>

Reid, Obama, and Racism

by gfreakj, 11 Jan 2010

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35Y91JNBNqo>

Harry Reid and the Offense Game

by Rich Lowry, 12 Jan 2010

...Real racism has been almost entirely eliminated from respectable American public life. With no one defending segregated lunch counters anymore, the accusation of racism is left mostly to hang on infelicitous phrases, legitimate policy disagreements, or the airing of uncomfortable truths.

That means the charge has become unavoidably subjective, and those with the most credibility to make it—black politicians and civil-rights groups—all lean to the left. They've turned it into a handy political tool wielded only against their opponents. Reid could practically perform in a minstrel show, and the NAACP would defend him as long as he remained a reliably liberal vote...

Full column: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=YjI4ZDA2NmRiYTNmZDJjNDBiY2Q2YTg4OTQ5OTJiYmM=>

This is one of THE fundamental essays of Conservatism. It runs to 17,878 words. But once you start reading (and get used its occasional archaic syntax), you won't be able to put it down. Yes, even in 1850 France had big-government socialists who were willfully blind about human nature, and had no clue how an economy works. M. Bastiat utterly refutes them.

That Which is Seen, and That Which is Not Seen

by Frédéric Bastiat, July 1850

<http://bastiat.org/en/twisatwins.html>

In Defense of Tea Parties

by Tunku Varadarajan, 11 Jan 2010

...Put to one side, for the moment, David's exaggeratedly Hamiltonian belief in the natural leadership abilities of people like him, and ask this: What exactly is this "educated class," and what leads him to think that those who oppose it are not, somehow, sophisticated? Forgive me, here, for bringing to the discussion a personal note. I have a cousin who is a Wellesley graduate, a widely traveled, thirty-something, multilingual daughter of Indian immigrants who lives in that most redneck of territories... Union Square, in Manhattan. She is a Tea Party supporter, and she wrote me these words in an email:

"I laugh, but also feel indignant, when I read that the tea parties are filled with angry white men, because it's obvious that reporters are not attending the same tea parties I attended. The events were a mix of young and old, VERY mixed ethnicities (but yes, a majority white). Everyone to a person was courteous and polite, and the best part was the signs, which were funny and clever. It did feel very grassroots and very much a movement fueled by the people rather than by shadowy party apparatchiks. It felt cool to think that we were not going to be taken in by government and be told what was good for us. (Does that sound really hokey?) It felt good to be a part of a group of people who were saying "enough!" I'm a huge supporter of the tea party movement because I think it exists outside of the traditional parties and is a true manifestation of the voice of the citizen."...

Read it all: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-01-11/in-defense-of-tea-parties/full/>

Ruled by Legalistic Minds

by David Warren, 11 Jan 2010

...The Democrat leadership is all lawyers, and has been for some time. Barack Obama, lawyer; Michelle Obama, lawyer; Hillary Clinton, lawyer; Bill Clinton, lawyer; Bill Reid, lawyer; Nancy Pelosi, lawyer; and so forth. All Democrat presidential candidates since 1984, lawyers—except Al Gore, who somehow failed to graduate from law school.

Compare, if you will, the Republican leadership over the last while, in White House and Congress. The last Republican lawyer to make president was Gerald Ford. Instead: movie actor, spy chief, businessman, successively. Last election: an old soldier, and a PTA lady. Look back at the leaders of the so-called "Republican revolution" in Congress: Newt Gingrich, history professor; Tom Delay, pest exterminator; Dick Armev, economist; Bill Frist, heart surgeon. (And note what the Democrat lawyers did to get rid of them.)

Alas, when I turn to Canada, I see all-party government by lawyers...

More: <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/opinion/Ruled+legalistic+minds/2421190/story.html>

Funny and appalling. Read 'em, watch 'em, listen to 'em.

The Best Notable Quotables of 2009

by Brent Bozell III, et al., 21 Dec 2009

<http://www.mrc.org/notablequotables/bestof/2009/>

Stop Blaming the CIA

by Marc Thiessen, 9 Jan 2010

The report released by the White House Thursday into the failure to stop al Qaeda's attempt to blow up a passenger plane over Detroit found a number of mistakes were made—including the misspelling of Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's name and the failure to put him on the no-fly list. But the ultimate failure was much larger...

...President Obama laid blame for this failure on the agency he has put under siege since his second day in office: the CIA. "This was not a failure to collect intelligence," he declared this week, "it was a failure to integrate and understand the intelligence we had... That's not acceptable and I will not tolerate it." But the President's chief counterterrorism advisor, John Brennan, told a different story, acknowledging that we did not, in fact, have all the intelligence we needed: "We did have the information throughout the course of the summer and fall about ... plans to carry out attacks," Brennan said. "We had snippets of information... We may have had a partial name. We might have had an indication of a Nigerian. But there was nothing that brought it all together."

The question is: why did we have nothing that brought all the "snippets" of information together? Because within 48 hours after taking office, President Obama eliminated the only tool that would allow the intelligence community to do so: the CIA program to interrogate senior terrorist leaders. Thanks to Obama, America no longer have the capability to detain and question the only individuals who know how the information fits together—the terrorists themselves...

Read on: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-01-09/stop-blaming-the-cia/full/>

Another Obama-bot has had it with her ertstwhile Messiah. But she still hates Bush, of course.

Captain Obvious Learns the Limits of Cool

by Maureen Dowd, 9 Jan 2010

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/10/opinion/10dowd.html?adxnml=1&ref=opinion&adxnmlx=1263100587-mnBpYjovdMBiGH2q/HAWIq>

Prominent voice in health care debate took money from the Administration

by Megan McArdle, 8 Jan 2010

MIT economist Jonathan Gruber has become the go-to economist for fans of the health care reform wending its way through congress. He regularly produces analyses showing how great reform is going to be for people buying insurance in the individual market, and has been a vocal advocate for the excise tax....

...He shows up in the work of the left-half of the health care commentariat so often that if I tried to round up representative cites, this piece would be published sometime next month, and you'd die of old age before you made your way through it.

But he probably wouldn't have been cited with quite the same authority—particularly by mainstream media—if he'd been more upfront about the fact that he's being paid almost \$300,000 by the Obama Administration for "special studies and analysis" of the health care bills, as a blogger on Firedoglake revealed last night...

More: http://meganmcardle.theatlantic.com/archives/2010/01/prominent_voice_in_health_care.php

But We're Still Gonna Kill You

by *Mark Steyn*, 9 Jan 2010

...According to one poll, 58 percent of Americans are in favor of waterboarding young Umar Farouk. Well, you should have thought about that before you made a community organizer president of the world's superpower. The election of Barack Obama was a fundamentally unserious act by the U.S. electorate, and you can't blame the world's mischief-makers, from Putin to Ahmadinejad to the many Gitmo recidivists now running around Yemen, from drawing the correct conclusion...

...This is not to say (to go wearily through the motions) that all Muslims are potential suicide bombers and axe murderers, but it is to state the obvious — that this "war" is about the intersection of Islam and the West, and its warriors are recruited in the large pool of young Muslim manpower, not in Yemen and Afghanistan so much as in Copenhagen and London.

But the president of the United States cannot say that because he is over-invested in a fantasy — that, if only that Texan moron Bush had read Khalid Sheikh Mohammed his *Miranda* rights and bowed as low as he did to the Saudi king, we wouldn't have all these problems. So now Obama says, "We are at war." But he cannot articulate any war aims or strategy because they would conflict with his illusions...

Read it all: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=NTE3NTI1MWViMzRjYWISODY1OTI0YWNiNWNkOTMxZTg=>

Fox, Tiger, and Christianity: a defense of Brit Hume

by *Carl M. Cannon*, 8 Jan 2010

<http://www.politicsdaily.com/2010/01/08/fox-tiger-and-christianity-a-defense-of-brit-hume/>

Obama Becoming More 'Transparent' Every Day

by *Peter Wehner*, 8 Jan 2010

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/wehner/213526>

Even Obama's acolytes and idolators have had enough of his b.s.

Stealth Care Reform

by *Jon Stewart and Samantha Bee*, 7 Jan 2010

Video: <http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/thu-january-7-2010/stealth-care-reform>

The Jobs Recession

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 8 Jan 2010

...Last February, after the Congress and President Obama triumphantly passed their \$787 billion stimulus program, we were told it would mean 3.5 million new jobs over two years. Unless something unforeseeably dramatic happens, there's no way that will occur.

Yet there was Obama on Friday, doubling down, getting serious one more time about jobs, jobs, jobs. His answer? More stimulus funding for clean technology manufacturing.

That might be funny if people weren't hurting so much already from the administration's focus on government make-work. For the record, every program the government put in place in 2009 has failed. Yet, we keep doing the same thing, at a cost of literally trillions of dollars. This is madness to the nth power.

The real reason for the dearth of jobs isn't, as some suggest, "insufficient stimulus." It's that small businesses, the real job creators in our economy, are scared half to death of what may come next.

With expectations the Bush tax cuts will soon expire, and the possibility of a raft of new taxes on businesses ranging from cap-and-trade to health care, businesses have stopped investing and hiring. There's only one answer to our crisis: Taxes must be cut, spending must be slashed and the regulatory siege on business must end...

...Since 2006, when Democrats retook Congress, the economy has crashed as the party has made mistake after mistake...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=517576>

As Climategate Becomes Pressgate, Questions for the Media

by John R. Lott Jr. and Roger Lott, 8 Jan 2010

Trillions of dollars are at stake in the man-made global warming debate. The Climategate scandal—where leaked emails and computer programs involve dozens of prominent scientists worldwide—has almost everything one would want in a good scandal: conspiracies, fraud, possible destruction of documents, and lots of heated exchanges. But the media has been reluctant to look into the problems and even when the controversy has been acknowledged it has been quickly dismissed as unimportant.

Newsweek poo-pooed Climategate as just showing "a few scientists in a bad light" and that "there's still plenty of evidence that the earth is getting warmer and that humans are largely responsible." *The New York Times* editorialized that "no one should be misled by all the noise" and that global warming was just too important "to let one set of purloined e-mail messages undermine the science and the clear case for action." Former Vice President Al Gore has been in **full swing** doing interviews the last few weeks, and the media has rarely challenged any of his claims. Gore told *Slate*: "What we're seeing is a set of changes worldwide that just make this discussion over 10-year-old e-mails kind of silly." He made the same comment unchallenged on MSNBC. Yet, the thousand emails were written over thirteen years, and went right up through this year.

Take an in-depth analysis of Climategate provided by the Associated Press...

Continue: <http://bigjournalism.com/lotts/2010/01/08/as-climategate-becomes-pressgate-questions-for-the-media/>

Never thought I'd post another column by this woman who hates Sarah Palin for being younger and more popular, if not prettier. But it's a good one.

The Risk of Catastrophic Victory

Obama is in the midst of one. Can the GOP avert one of their own?

by Peggy Noonan, 7 Jan 2010

...In a way Mr. Obama made the same mistake President Bush did on immigration, producing a big, mammoth, comprehensive bill when the public mood was for small, discrete steps in what might reasonably seem the right direction.

The public in 2009 would have been happy to see a simple bill that mandated insurance companies offer coverage without respect to previous medical conditions. The administration could have had that—and the victory of it—last winter. Instead, they were greedy for glory. It was not worth it...

More:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704130904574644701673362182.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_MIDDLETopOpinion

The Democrats' Job Standard

Leading Dems attacked Bush when millions of jobs were being created, then promised their \$787 billion stimulus would create millions of jobs.

by Michael Steele et al., 8 Jan 2010

...By 2007, 5.7 million jobs had been created under Bush. (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov, accessed 1/6/10).

But Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) claimed Bush had a "shameful history of losing american jobs." (Sen. Harry Reid, "Reid: As Unemployment Reaches Two-year High, American Jobs Are The Latest Casualty Of Bush's

Failed Economic Policies," Press Release, 1/4/08)...

Read it all: http://www.gop.com/index.php/briefing/comments/the_democrats_job_standard/

Thermopylae for Health Care

by *Quin Hillyer*, 7 Jan 2010

...What infuriates conservatives is the attitudinal signals the Senate leadership sends. The health care bill is treated as just another piece of legislation—certainly more important than most, as Atlanta was a more important city than most, but not ground to be defended by every available means, to the death, as if a civilization hangs in the balance the way Greek civilization was threatened by the Persians. Yet for millions upon many tens of millions of Americans, the health-care battle is indeed their generation's domestic version of the Greco-Persian War, and nothing less than a Thermopylae-like stand will be acceptable. These middle-Americans don't want amendments to the bills. They don't want to force bill supporters into tough votes that will be used against them in the 2010 fall campaigns. They don't care about positioning for future battles on other legislative subjects, and they don't give a flying expletive about maintaining the alleged dignity of the Senate.

What they want is to beat Obamacare: They want to ward off this abomination, this vicious assault on the Constitution and on the free market, this affront to individual liberty in a realm that is intensely and profoundly personal. They want to defeat it, trip it up, smother it, by any and all means within the law. They hate Obamacare. They see a government that already has taken over banks and financial companies and car companies, a government blob that **wants to limit** the very air we exhale, and they see it now trying to suck in one-sixth of the whole economy in one massive power grab.

And the people say no. They say no at TEA parties. They say no at town hall meetings. They say no at Capitol demonstrations. They say no in emails and faxes and phone calls and letters, and they repeatedly and resoundingly say no in public-opinion polls. They don't just say no; they *shout NO* with every breath of carbon dioxide in their lungs. Yet what they see is a Democratic leadership that wants to trample them, and a Republican leadership that defends them by daintily offering some amendments and making some speeches and then changing the subject to the debt limit.

Middle Americans want a Churchillian fight at the beaches, landing grounds, fields, streets, and hills, yet what they see instead is a series of "unanimous consent" agreements interspersed with some really severe tut-tutting. And they see a horrid future of Chuck Schumers—William Sherman-like—laying waste to what they hold dear...

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/01/07/thermopylae-for-health-care>

Count the lies: Obama vowed 8x to televise healthcare negotiations on C-SPAN

6 Jan 2010

The Octo-liar:

<http://www.blip.tv/file/3052083/>

<http://www.breitbart.tv/the-c-span-lie-did-obama-really-promise-televised-healthcare-negotiations/>

Even moonbat Jack Cafferty rips Obama on failed openness pledge: 'Just another lie told for political expediency'

6 Jan 2010

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pO1oJPpsII>

Medicare and the Mayo Clinic

by *Jeff Jacoby*, 6 Jan 2010

...But if you think that sounds grim, wait until Congress enacts the president's health care overhaul. A central element of both the House and Senate versions of ObamaCare is that Medicare reimbursements to hospitals and doctors—already so low that many providers lose money each time they treat a Medicare patient—will be forced lower still...

...In short, the Democratic understanding of health care reform—more government power to set prices, combined

with reduced freedom for individuals—will make medical care harder to come by: an Economics 101 lesson in the pitfalls of price controls...

...Each year Medicare loses tens of billions of dollars to fraud and abuse. The program's long-term deficit is a staggering \$38 trillion. Its expenditures have raced ahead of inflation from the day it was created: Medicare's price tag has skyrocketed from \$3 billion in 1966 to \$453 billion this year. Yet its reimbursement of medical providers is so meager that more and more of them cannot afford to treat Medicare patients. Whatever else Medicare might be, it is no model for rational reform.

Obama says he wants the country to "learn from what Mayo is doing." What Mayo is doing is trying to provide high-quality medical care in the face of Washington's compulsively misguided interference. As 3,000 Mayo patients have just learned, government interference can hurt. Ratchet up that interference with ObamaCare, and the pain will grow worse.

More: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/01/06/medicare_and_the_mayo_clinic/

All you need to know about Senator Herbert Kohl—and the Democrat elites he typifies.

If they wanted your opinion, they'd ask

by Patrick McIlheran, 6 Jan 2010

...Kohl routinely gets 100% ratings from NARAL, the abortion lobby, and is infamous, say established pro-life groups, for stonewalling them. How eager is he to talk with a guy who opposes abortion, especially one who, while well networked in the movement, wasn't representing anyone?

But that Zeidler's not a lobbyist isn't the point. He's something more: a citizen, one to whom Kohl explicitly said he'd talk. Surely the senator could spare a few minutes by phone. At least he could put his signature under a polite brush-off. Something.

Apparently not. That's the real take-away: Kohl isn't keen on input from the shmoes on this issue that nearly sank (and may still sink) his party's deepest desire. If he wanted your opinion, he'd ask.

In this, he fits his party's health care dynamic. From town halls last summer at which tough questions got lawmakers' backs up right through the middle-of-the-night votes on thousand-page excrescences largely unread and scarcely comprehended, the directive from congressional leaders has been to ignore voters, ignore polls, ignore qualms and questions: Just pass something...

More: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/80855132.html>

"We've spent eight years looking for little scissors and toenail clippers.

Perhaps the emphasis should be looking for bad people."

—Kenneth Dunlap, Security Director, International Air Transport Association

A more thorough review than the one posted here a couple of weeks ago.

The Divine Right of Intellectuals

Too many intellectuals believe they have a duty to make decisions for the rest of us.

by David Hogberg, 5 Jan 2010

...With his new work, *Intellectuals and Society*, Sowell has finally made good on his 20-year-old promise to write about intellectuals. He has also made good on his threat. Sowell takes aim at the class of people who influence our public debate, institutions, and policy. Few of Sowell's targets are left standing at the end, and those who are stagger back to their corner, bloody and bruised.

What makes *Intellectuals and Society* even more withering than Johnson's historical-biographical work is that Sowell approaches his subject as an economist, analyzing the incentives and constraints intellectuals face. Sowell defines intellectuals as an occupation, as people whose "work begins and ends with ideas." This includes academics, especially those in the humanities and social sciences, policy wonks, and, to a certain extent, journalists. This distinguishes them from occupations in which the work begins with ideas and ends with the *application* of ideas. Physicians or engineers usually start with ideas about how to approach their work, but eventually they have to put them into practice by treating patients or constructing bridges.

As a result, intellectuals are free from one of the most rigorous constraints facing other occupations: external

standards. An engineer will ultimately be judged on whether the structures he designs hold up, a businessman on whether he makes money, and so on. By contrast, the ultimate test of an intellectual's ideas is whether other intellectuals "find those ideas interesting, original, persuasive, elegant, or ingenious. There is no external test." If the intellectuals are like-minded, as they often are, then the validity of an idea depends on what those intellectuals already believe. This means that an intellectual's ideas are tested only by internal criteria and "become sealed off from feedback from the external world of reality."...

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=MzczMzhmNjZhNzRiMWI3ZjMyOWZjMGViZDc4ODY2NjA=>

Buy the book:

http://www.amazon.com/Intellectuals-Society-Thomas-Sowell/dp/046501948X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1262834692&sr=1-1

What the Dems Know: Universal Voter Registration

by James Simpson, 6 Jan 2010

Many are puzzled that Democrats persist in ramming unpopular and destructive legislation down our collective throats with no apparent concern for their plummeting poll numbers. A widespread belief is that the Democrats are committing political suicide and will be swept from one or both houses of Congress with unprecedented electoral losses next November. But since Democrat politicians rarely do things that will not ultimately benefit themselves, this column asked two weeks ago, "What do they know that we don't?"

We may have found out. It's called universal voter registration. The *Wall Street Journal's* John Fund described the Democrat plan recently at a David Horowitz Freedom Center forum. Watch the video [here](#).

Fund describes the proposal as follows...

They must be stopped: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/01/what_the_dems_know_universal_v.html

Government jobs overtake goods-producing jobs

by Pamela Geller, 6 Jan 2010

http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2010/01/government-jobs-overtakes-goodsproducing-jobs.html

While Europe Sneered

Kurt Westergaard and other brave critics of Islamic fanaticism continue to fend for themselves.

by Bruce Bawer, 5 Jan 2010

...In 2006, her book *But the Greatest of All Is Freedom: On the Consequences of Immigration* became a huge—and controversial—best-seller in Norway. At the time, Hege lived in a neighborhood called Kampen, a part of Oslo that brings to mind the Haight-Ashbury or East Village of the 1960s. Hege notes that after her book began to sell big—and draw harsh media attacks—her neighborhood was papered over with posters featuring a photo of her with an X drawn over her face, along with the slogan NO TO RACISTS IN KAMPEN. Then one day—as Hege revealed in a powerful [account](#) posted yesterday on the website of Human Rights Service, the small foundation where she works—one or more people broke into her home, beat her, and left her bruised and unconscious in a pool of blood on the floor. Nothing was stolen. The date was January 1, 2007—three years to the day before the attempted murder of Westergaard.

At first, Hege kept the crime secret, for fear that publicizing it would discourage other critics of Islam from speaking out...

The whole story: <http://www.city-journal.org/2010/eon0105bb.html>

Death of a Theory

The Left can't give up its operating theory of terrorism, no matter how tattered.

by Rich Lowry, 5 Jan 2010

Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab couldn't ignite the bomb in his underwear on Flight 253 on Christmas Day.

All he managed to blow up was a worldview.

His failed attempt put paid to the notion that terrorism is the byproduct of a few, specific U.S. policies and of our

image abroad. This view dominates the Left and animates the Obama administration. It informs its drive to shutter Guantanamo Bay, to get out of Iraq, and to cater to "international opinion." If we are only nice and likable enough, goes the theory, the Abdul Mutallabs of the world will never be tempted to violent mayhem...

Read on: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=NmI2ZDlhZWlyM2U0ZDRhMjUwYTY4NGQzZjczNjE5Nzg=>

A response to an inane rant by [Matt Yglesias](#).

Because It Feels So Good When We Stop?

by *Tom Maguire*, 4 Jan 2010

...Do terrorist-coddling liberal elites really believe that prisoners provide just as much (or as little) information whether we observe their rights under U.S. criminal procedures or their rights as detainees of the U.S. military? Do terrorist-coddling liberal elites really believe that all these Miranda warnings and provision of access to lawyers really don't encourage anyone to keep anyone quiet? Just wondering.

More: <http://justoneminute.typepad.com/main/2010/01/because-it-feels-so-good-when-we-stop.html>

Burj Dubai: The new pinnacle of vanity

by *Stephen Bayley*, 5 Jan 2010

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/dubai/6934603/Burj-Dubai-The-new-pinnacle-of-vanity.html>

Copenhagen's Dodged Bullet

Modern men have lived through 20 sudden global warmings.

by *Pete Du Pont*, 5 Jan 2010

...Over time climates do change. As author Howard Bloom wrote in *The Wall Street Journal* last month, in the past two million years there have been 60 ice ages, and in the 120,000 years since the development of modern man, "we've lived through 20 sudden global warmings," and of course this was before—long before—"smokestacks and tail pipes."

In our earth's history there has been both global warming and global cooling. In Roman times, from 200 B.C. to A.D. 600, it was warm; from 600 to 900 came the cold Dark Ages; more warming from 900 to 1300; and another ice age from 1300 to 1850. Within the past century, the earth has warmed by 0.6 degree Celsius, but within this period we can see marked shifts: cooling (1900-10), warming (1910-40), cooling again (1940 to nearly 1980), and since then a little warming. The Hadley Climatic Research Unit global temperature record shows that from 1980 to 2009, the world warmed by 0.16 degree Celsius per decade...

...In truth, the world dodged a bullet in Copenhagen. There could have been significant damage to many nations' economies if the warming alarmists' full agenda had been adopted.

But of course the game has not ended. Here in America, Mr. Obama, Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency all seem committed to regulating our behavior and consumption under the guise of addressing a crisis that is not a crisis. They will do so in a way that will not meaningfully reduce global temperatures, but will substantially hurt the economies and opportunities of the world's people.

Read the rest: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704905704574622643206570348.html>

Does Obama 'Get' the Terror War?

by *William Murchison*, 5 Jan 2010

...Why is the government decanting Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab into the civilian justice system after he tried to destroy an airliner filled with innocent passengers? Why are we affording this enemy agent the legal protections that obtain in a land he wants to destroy? The administration is going to answer for this one, with volume turned up.

Counterterrorism chief John Brennan said on Fox News the other day that Umar was given a lawyer instead of a military interrogator because the government hopes for a plea agreement: a thwarted bomber working out with lawyers a deal that benefits both sides. "[H]e knows," said Brennan, "that there are certain things that are on the table, and if he wants to, in fact, engage with us in a productive manner, there are ways that he can do that."

Let us savor this statement. The man who lighted a Christmas fire with his underwear, hoping to cause an explosion that would bring down Northwest Airlines Flight 253 and everyone traveling on it, himself included—our government's lawyers are going to wheel and deal with this susceptible gentleman? Assure him of a "productive" outcome if he cooperates? Dangle rewards and incentives for succumbing to arguments that he turn state's evidence?

It's all going to happen—can't we see it now?—on the day scientists discover the moon is one chunk of blue cheese...

The whole column: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/william-murchison/does-obama-get-the-terror-war.html>

Controlling When You Relieve Yourself, Not Body Scan, Invades Privacy

by Dennis Prager, 5 Jan 2010

If the government prohibits airline passengers from getting out of their seats during the last hour of a flight, I hereby announce that I will get out of my seat either to escort someone who needs to use the lavatory or because I do. I understand that I may be arrested, but I am willing to make this a cause celebre.

Aside from a genetic incapacity to be directed by irrationality, I will make this protest on behalf of fellow passengers who are in pain because of this idiotic rule. What are diabetics, for example, supposed to do?...

Continue:

http://townhall.com/columnists/DennisPrager/2010/01/05/controlling_when_you_relieve_yourself_not_body_scan_invades_privacy?page=full&comments=true

The Joke's on Us

The Pantybomber wasn't the big joke. We are.

by Mark Steyn, 2 Jan 2010

...Ten years ago, you got to the airport 45 minutes, an hour before the flight. Now, thanks to the ever more demanding choreographers of the homeland-security kabuki, it's two, three, four, whatever. Look at O'Hare and imagine the size of airport we'll need. And by then the Pantybomber won't even need to get on the plane; he can kill more people blowing up the check-in line...

...The president can't tell an allegedly alleged suspect (which is what he is in Obama fantasy-land) from an enemy combatant (which is what he is in cold hard reality). But worse than the complacent cop-show jargonizing was a phrase it's hard to read as anything other than a deliberate attempt to mislead the public: The president referred to the Knickerbomber as an "isolated extremist."...

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=N2M4ZjFIMDUzZDAxZGNIYjdiMzc3NjNjZDhjNjJIN2Y=>

The Constitutional Crisis and the Security Crisis

On detainees, either ignore the judges or rein them in.

by Andrew C. McCarthy, 4 Jan 2010

...First, there is the matter of the ongoing constitutional crisis that, as al-Qaeda's attempted Christmas Day attack amply demonstrates, is now endangering our nation. The Constitution gives the political branches plenary responsibility for the conduct of war. The conduct of war includes the detention, trial, or release of enemy combatants. The federal courts have no role except the one they have usurped. This brazen power grab flouts the bedrock constitutional separation of powers, and the political branches do not have to abide it. Indeed, as national defense is their chief responsibility, it is their duty not to abide it.

Writing for the Supreme Court in *Chicago & Southern Air Lines v. Waterman S.S. Corp.* (1948), Justice Robert Jackson, whom Attorney General Holder claims as a role model, explained that, because matters related to national defense are the most important ones, the Framers ensured that there would be political accountability for the officials making security decisions. As he put it...

Read it all: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=NzM1NzdlZWZM2MmYyMzMjMjkyMWM5OGFiNTZhYjFhNmU=>

Short, and well worth reading—despite the worldview behind the excerpt below.

Welcome to Qaedastan

Yemen's coming explosion will make today's problems seem tame.

by Gregory D. Johnsen, January 2010

...The United States has not helped matters. Washington's continued insistence on seeing the country only through the prism of counterterrorism has induced exactly the results it is hoping to avoid. By focusing on al Qaeda to the exclusion of nearly every other threat and by linking most of its aid to this single issue, the United States has only ensured that al Qaeda will always exist...

More: http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/01/04/welcome_to_qaedastan?print=yes&hidecomments=yes&page=full

Exposing the Myth of Reform in Iran

by Sayeh Hassan, 3 Jan 2010

<http://shiro-khorshid-forever.blogspot.com/2010/01/exposing-myth-of-reform-in-iran.html>

Obama Pretends to Get Tough on Yemen

...after a year of neglect.

by Stephen F. Hayes, 2 Jan 2010

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/017/399juooq.asp>

A terrorist war Obama has denied

by Charles Krauthammer, 1 Jan 2010

...More jarring still were Obama's references to the terrorist as a "suspect" who "allegedly tried to ignite an explosive device." You can hear the echo of FDR: "Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—Japanese naval and air force suspects allegedly bombed Pearl Harbor."

Obama reassured the nation that this "suspect" had been charged. Reassurance? The president should be saying: We have captured an enemy combatant—an illegal combatant under the laws of war: no uniform, direct attack on civilians—and now to prevent future attacks, he is being interrogated regarding information he may have about al-Qaeda in Yemen.

Instead, Abdulmutallab is dispatched to some Detroit-area jail and immediately lawyered up. At which point—surprise!—he stops talking.

This absurdity renders hollow Obama's declaration that "we will not rest until we find all who were involved." Once we've given Abdulmutallab the right to remain silent, we have gratuitously forfeited our right to find out from him precisely who else was involved, namely those who trained, instructed, armed and sent him.

This is all quite mad even in Obama's terms. He sends 30,000 troops to fight terror overseas, yet if any terrorists come to attack us here, they are magically transformed from enemy into defendant...

...Any government can through laxity let someone slip through the cracks. But a government that refuses to admit that we are at war, indeed, refuses even to name the enemy—jihadist is a word banished from the Obama lexicon—turns laxity into a governing philosophy.

Read it all: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/31/AR2009123101744.html>

Why the Health-Care Bills Are Unconstitutional

by Orrin G. Hatch, J. Kenneth Blackwell and Kenneth A. Klukowski, 2 Jan 2010

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703278604574624021919432770.html>

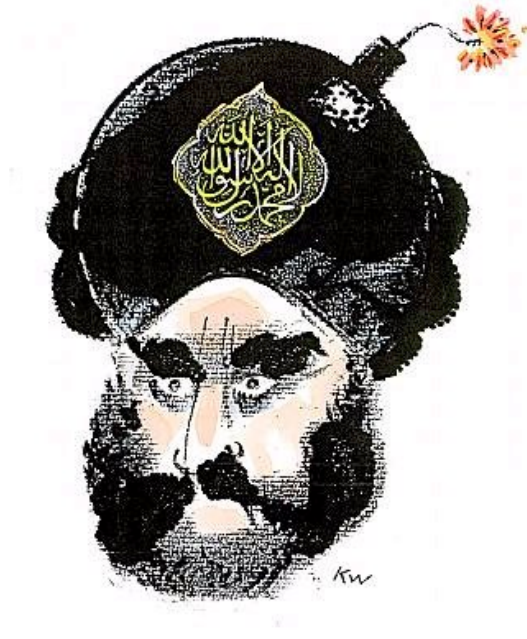
Police shoot man attacking Muhammad cartoonist

by Jan M. Olsen, 2 Jan 2010

COPENHAGEN (AP)—A Somali man wielding an ax and a knife was shot by police as he attempted to kill an artist who drew a cartoon depicting the Prophet Muhammad that sparked outrage in the Muslim world, the head of Denmark's intelligence agency said Saturday.

Jakob Scharf said in a statement that a 28-year-old man with ties to al-Qaida attempted to enter Kurt Westergaard's home in Aarhus shortly after 10 p.m. (2100 GMT) on Friday. But Westergaard pressed an alarm and police arrived minutes later, foiling the attempt on his life...

More: http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9CVDRH80&show_article=1



Choruses from *The Rock*, VI

by Thomas Stearns Eliot, 1934

... Why should men love the Church? Why should they love her laws?
She tells them of Life and Death, and of all that they would forget.
She is tender where they would be hard, and hard where they like to be soft.
She tells them of Evil and Sin, and other unpleasant facts.
They constantly try to escape
From the darkness outside and within
By dreaming of systems so perfect that no one will need to be good...

More: <http://guccipiggy.objectis.net/poetry/eliot/chorusesfromtherock/vi>

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/>

The Most Important Three-Year Period in History?

by Steve McCann, 1 Jan 2010

The most important three-year period in the history of the United States will start on January 1, 2010. The choices that we as a people make during this time may well relegate our country to secondary status (easily dominated by those who wish to make us subservient to their power, influence, and ideology)—or, in the alternative, allow us to continue as the greatest nation in the history of mankind.

Is this unadulterated hyperbole? A statement made to incite fear and mobilize the electorate? No, it may well be reality...

Continue: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/01/the_most_important_three_year.html

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

[StopFundamentalism.com](#)

[Iranian.com](#)

Sayeh Hassan (young Iranian expatriate lawyer in Toronto)

[HondurasNews.com](#)