

"The American people will never knowingly adopt socialism. But, under the name of 'liberalism,' they will adopt every fragment of the socialist program, until one day America will be a socialist nation, without knowing how it happened."
—Norman Thomas (six-time Socialist Party candidate for President), 1944

Government (not Business) caused the Crash of 2008

http://www.standingontheedge.com/uploads/Government_caused_the_Crash_of_2008.pdf

Allen West for Congress (Lt. Col. US Army Ret.) **Dan Benishek for Congress** (Bart Stoolpack's seat)
Ilario Pantano for Congress (Lt. USMC Ret.) **John Eastman for Attorney General** (CA)
Paul Ryan for Congress

The very best version I could find of "the gaffe heard round the world."

Gordon Brown calls lifelong Labour voter a "bigoted woman"

28 April 2010

Mrs. Gillian Duffy had the temerity to voice concerns to him about immigration, taxes, and deficits. The haughty left-wing Prime Minister's wireless microphone was still on when he complained to aides about even having talked to her, and then said she was a bigot. In Britain, as in America, the ruling classes and the *bien-pensants* believe that anyone who's worried at all about immigration is a reincarnation of Hitler.

Watch for her reaction (at 2:52) when she's told that she'd been called a bigot.

Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvAteKk_KMw&feature=related (7:48)

Praising Arizona

The state's new immigration law is perfectly reasonable, but you wouldn't know it from the *New York Times*.
by Heather Mac Donald, 30 April 2010

Supporters of Arizona's new law strengthening immigration enforcement in the state should take heart from today's *New York Times* editorial blasting it. "Stopping Arizona" contains so many blatant falsehoods that a reader can be fully confident that the law as actually written is a reasonable, lawful response to a pressing problem. Only by distorting the law's provisions can the *Times* and the law's many other critics make it out to be a racist assault on fundamental American rights...

Read on: <http://city-journal.org/2010/eon0430hm.html>

An American Amnesia: How the U.S. Congress Forced the Surrenders of South Vietnam and Cambodia

by Bruce Herschensohn (2010)

http://www.amazon.com/American-Amnesia-Congress-Surrenders-Cambodia/dp/0825306329/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1272304867&sr=8-1

Barack Obama, America's Selective Salary Policeman

by Michelle Malkin, 30 Apr 2010

President Obama spoke the most revealing and clarifying 10 words of his control-freak administration this week: "I think at some point you have made enough money." Peddling financial regulatory reform at a rally in Quincy, Ill., Obama then ad-libbed peculiar definitions of what he called the "American way" and the profit motive: "(Y)ou can just keep on making it if you're providing a good product or providing good service. We don't want people to stop, ah, fulfilling the core responsibilities of the financial system to help grow our economy."

Fundamental lesson of Capitalism 101: Governments and bureaucrats don't make what people want and need. They

only get in the way. It is individuals, cooperating peacefully and voluntarily, working together without mandate or central design, who produce the world's goods and services. They make what people desire and demand for themselves, not what Obama and his imperial overlords ordain that the masses should have.

As usual, Obama's populist demagoguery is telling in its omissions and selectivity. While he lectures on the morality of salary caps for everyone else, his own cabinet is filled with fabulously wealthy CEOs and statist creatures who have parlayed government employment (a "good" service) into private gain as lobbyists, consultants and advisers ("core responsibilities of the financial system") and then back again to public stints. Revolving doors have always grown the Beltway economy...

Read on: <http://michellemalkin.com/2010/04/30/barack-obama-americas-selective-salary-policeman/>

Islam vs. Islamism

Is there such a thing as moderate Islam?

by *Hilton Kramer and Roger Kimball, April 2010*

Charles Krauthammer caused grave unhappiness among some of his admirers last month when, speaking on Fox News, he attacked the Dutch politician Geert Wilders. At issue was Wilders's campaign against the "Islamization" of Europe, particularly in the Netherlands. "What he says," Dr. Krauthammer charged, "is extreme, radical, and wrong":

He basically is arguing that Islam is the same as Islamism. Islamism is an ideology of a small minority which holds that the essence of Islam is jihad, conquest, forcing people into accepting a certain very narrow interpretation [of Islam].

The untruth of that is obvious. If you look at the United States, the overwhelming majority of Muslims in the U.S. are not Islamists. So, it's simply incorrect. Now, in Europe, there is probably a slightly larger minority but, nonetheless, the overwhelming majority are not.

Dr. Krauthammer's was not the only voice on Fox News condemning Wilders last month. Glenn Beck hauled out the "F-word," describing Wilders as "fascist," while William Kristol, the editor of *The Weekly Standard*, warned that Wilders was a "demagogue."

So: Geert Wilders is a fascist demagogue who is extreme, radical, and (what's more) wrong. Strong words. Are they justified?...

Let's just see, shall we?: <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Islam-vs--Islamism-5240>

We're Protecting Our Citizens

by *Rep. John Kavanaugh, 27 Apr 2010*

Arizona's new anti-illegal immigration law is an effort to "crack down" on illegal immigration and the harm it causes Arizona, including crime and back-breaking public expenses to incarcerate, educate, medically treat and provide other services to illegal immigrants and their children. Arizona has been forced to assume responsibility for immigration enforcement because of the federal government's refusal to secure the border and conduct adequate internal enforcement.

Some fear that the law will empower police to challenge the legal presence of all Hispanics, legal and illegal, based solely upon their appearance, but that's not correct. Police officers may only question the immigration status of a person when they have "reasonable suspicion" to believe that the person is in the U.S. illegally. This provision merely extends to immigration offenses a half-century-old tool called "stop and question," created by the U.S. Supreme Court...

...Another misconception is that the law requires residents to carry identification papers. Not true. This mistaken belief stems from a provision that creates a *presumption of legal presence*, if a person voluntarily presents specified forms of government-issued identification. Failing to present identification papers is not grounds for arrest...

...The sad fact is that the Bush administration dropped the ball on immigration enforcement and that the Obama administration cannot even find it...

More: http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2010-04-28-editorial28_ST1_N.htm#

Obama: We need a commission because you can't trust slippery politicians like me to tell you the truth

by *Jacob Sullum, 28 Apr 2010*

Yesterday President Obama opened the first meeting of his National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and

Reform by decrying "the norm around Washington...when it comes to our finances": Politicians "tell people what they want to hear instead of what they need to know."

...Did anyone tell the president that his health care bill passed, so he can stop **lying** about its **fiscal impact**? Perhaps he is prepared to defend the literal truth of this oft-repeated statement: Health care reform will not add a single dime to the deficit; once the implausible savings, hidden costs, and overly optimistic projections are taken into account, it will add many, many dimes...

...As Americans for Tax Reform **notes**, this is Obama's way of pre-emptively renouncing his pledge not to raise taxes on households earning less than \$250,000 a year (a pledge he already has **broken** repeatedly, while **refusing** to admit it). The president apparently plans to pretend that he had to break his tax pledge because the panel of advisers he appointed suggested that he do so. Yet he insists he wants "an honest discussion about putting our country on a more secure fiscal footing." OK. You go first.

The rest: <http://reason.com/blog/2010/04/28/obama-we-need-a-fiscal-commiss>

Democrats' Financial Reform Looks Like a Protection Racket

by Mary Kate Cary, 27 Apr 2010

...Democrats are really playing games with this bill—shutting Republicans out of negotiations, as they did with the health care bill, then accusing them of being “obstructionists” afterward. But by offering some amendments that promote transparency and fiscal responsibility, Republicans have an opportunity here to stand on the side of small businesses and community banks and take the high road. And if they do take the high road, they won't be running into the Democrats...

...So the Democrats can threaten anything from ‘reforming’ to nationalizing an industry, and then collect a boatload of money from frightened corporate executives who want a “carve-out.” It's like something out of *The Sopranos*...

More: <http://www.usnews.com/blogs/mary-kate-cary/2010/04/27/Democrats-Financial-Reform-Looks-Like-a-Protection-Racket.html>

Government (not Business) caused the Crash of 2008

Don John, 29 Apr 2010

For the past year and a half, the Left and the mainstream media have tried to establish the "narrative" (what people used to call "horsefeathers") that the financial crisis that began in September 2008 was caused by business, capitalism, and free markets—and that only Big Daddy Government can rescue us. The recent Kabuki hearings involving the pretend-persecution of the Democrat-run company Goldman Sachs are just one symptom of this.

The truth is that the forces at work were nothing like a free market. Before the 1990s, banks existed for hundreds of years without ever intentionally lending vast sums of money to countless thousands of people who were unlikely to ever pay it back. Political pandering, opportunism, demagoguery, favoritism, and the resultant government meddling were what caused the financial collapse.

Eleven pieces, all posted here in September and October of 2008, explain.

http://www.standingonthedeck.com/uploads/Government_caused_the_Crash_of_2008.pdf

Meddlers at the Gate

by David Harsanyi, 28 Apr 2010

...Using stale populist rhetoric, Democrats dishonestly pit families against "banks" to generate enough support to pass a fiscal reform bill. But how many voters manipulated by the fear-mongering of Chris Dodd, Reid or Barack Obama fully understand reform? I sure don't. It's complex stuff, no doubt...

...How many voters are aware that the pending Senate reform bill includes a payback to unions in the form of a "proxy access" that would allow labor to manipulate company boards? How many are aware that the bill may give the Treasury Department the right to seize private property and businesses without any significant judicial review?

How many Americans are aware that the reform bill might create a so-called "consumer protection board" that would slather another needless layer of federal red tape on a wide range of businesses—businesses, incidentally, with far less culpability in creating the housing bubble than members of the Senate Banking Committee...

More: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/david-harsanyi/meddlers-at-the-gate.html>

Rush on fire: America's Doctor of Democracy in two of his best hours ever

See, I Told You So: Barack Obama Plays the Race Card on Amnesty

26 Apr 2010, hour 1 http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site_042610/content/01125106.guest.html

Monday Quotes: Don't Doubt Me

26 Apr 2010 http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site_042610/content/01125100.guest.html

Guess What? Obamacare Bill Raises Health Care Premiums

26 Apr 2010, hour 2 http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site_042610/content/01125107.guest.html

A Message to the President: Freedom Knows No Race, Sir

26 Apr 2010, hour 2 http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site_042610/content/01125108.guest.html

The Left Exploits Illegal Aliens

26 Apr 2010, hour 2 http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site_042610/content/01125109.guest.html

Jon Stewart Flunks His Spartacus Test

by Jeffrey Lord, 27 Apr 2010

...Then, out of the blue, Jon Stewart found himself in a situation that demanded not the faux courage to take on Fox News. This time, not unlike the passengers of United Flight 93, Stewart suddenly found himself staring his own Spartacus moment in the face. The real thing.

His response? "It's their right," he said of Comedy Central in a verbal shrug of indifference. "We all serve at their pleasure." In a monologue punctuated by yuks, he defended the network by saying, "The censorship was a decision Comedy Central made, I think as a way to protect our employees from what they believe was any harmful repercussions to them...but again they sign the checks."

They sign the checks. Now there's a Spartacus moment...

...This Stewart response—not to mention the response from the Comedy Central suits themselves—is an unintentional snapshot into the mind of American liberalism. What to do about people who have committed mass murder in places like New York, Washington, Pennsylvania, Madrid, London, Bali, Baghdad, Mumbai, and Kabul—and that only for starters while they figure out how to get their hands on a nuclear bomb or biological and chemical weapons?

Just look sternly into the camera, wring your hands, and say to these misguided people what Jon Stewart said to Revolution Muslim: "Your type of hatred and intolerance—that's the enemy." Take that, Al Qaeda!...

...Precisely because Stewart is viewed as the Lion of the Liberal Media, his wimpy response to an actual threat from a group presenting itself as just one more face of Islamic terror serves as a reminder of exactly why so many millions of Americans have come to mistrust President Obama or in fact any liberal when it comes to responding to America's enemies. After all the touchy-feely Obama outreach to Iran—Mahmoud Ahmadinejad just continues to build his nuclear bombs anyway. Nancy Pelosi and John Kerry travel to Syria to make nice—but long range Scud missiles will go to Hezbollah anyway. And so on. Electing Obama was presented as the change that would make precisely this kind of threat to *South Park* go away. Oops.

There is nothing new here, really. Same thin soup, different bowl. Neville Chamberlain hosts *The Daily Show*...

Read it all: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/04/27/jon-stewart-flunks-his-spartac>

Obama Begg His Base to Come Out in November

by Mary Katharine Ham, 26 Apr 2010

...But here's the thing about Obama. He can either be the inspirational, post-partisan, post-racial transcendent figure everyone talks about him being, or he can be the nakedly political candidate who addresses traditional Democratic voting blocs by their race and gender when asking for their votes. He can't be both. (For fun, imagine Bush exhorting white evangelicals, pro-life Latinos, and the Cuban community to get fired up about Republican candidates and not getting slammed for it.)

What appealed to cross-over and new voters in 2008 was a positive, inclusive message about everyone getting involved to make a difference. Sure, when Obama said it in 2008, he meant he wanted everyone to get involved to vote for him. It was ultimately a self-serving pitch, but it was more positive, inclusive, and less political than this one. The idea of

Obama himself as an inspiration was far more credible than Obama as proxy inspiration for any old Democratic candidate who happens to be on the ballot...

More: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/print/blogs/obama-begs-his-base-come-out-november>

Reform will hurt banks

Leave traditional community banks alone.

by *Doug Tippens, 28 Apr 2010*

...It's the "non-banks" and securities firms that brought us all of the gimmicks that should be the focus of this new agency, but they are exempt from the reach of this new agency. Moreover, the Senate proposal adds 27 new or expanded types of regulation to more than 17,000 pages of regulation with which traditional community banks struggle to keep up every day.

One of the most egregious sections is the "skin in the game" provision. It mandates that banks originating home mortgage loans must keep 5 percent of the loan on their books. Commercial banks can't put 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages on their books because it is impossible to match the bank's deposit pricing with such long-term assets. More importantly, it was precisely this mismatch of assets and funding that caused the collapse of the savings and loan industry in the mid-'80s...

...It's curious that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac aren't covered by this legislative proposal, considering that they were front and center of the nation's mortgage crisis and ensuing financial meltdown. The reason is simple: The government wants to control the mortgage business, much like it now controls student loans.

All of this places Wall Street and Main Street at odds. We think Wall Street and its executive bonuses, complex derivatives, credit default swaps and collateralized debt obligations need reform. Our country's financial structure needs review so our country doesn't experience another crisis. But what we also need is to leave traditional community banks alone to help Main Street recover.

Full column: http://newsok.com/reform-will-hurt-banks/article/3457256?custom_click=headlines_widget

Hysterics Against Arizona

by *Rich Lowry, 27 Apr 2010*

In the case of the new Arizona immigration law, the *reductio ad Hitlerum* occurred instantly. Cardinal Roger Mahony wrote in a blog post, "I can't imagine Arizonans now reverting to German Nazi and Russian Communist techniques." The president of the Hispanic Federation said the law "reminded me of Nazi Germany." Cooler heads merely compared it to apartheid or 1960s-era civil-rights abuses.

And here I thought the tea partiers were befouling America's political discourse with their overheated words. They don't hold a candle to His Eminence or the assorted other hysterics decrying the rise of totalitarianism in the American Southwest...

...Arizona seeks only to enforce the nominal immigration policy of the United States. Perhaps the federal government should try it some time.

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=ZmNmYmVmYTcxOTI2NGI3N2RiYWVjZmNkMjhiZWQ2ZGU=>

Filtering History

by *Thomas Sowell, 27 Apr 2010*

...Just as Europeans enslaved Africans, North Africans enslaved Europeans—more Europeans than there were Africans enslaved in the United States and in the 13 colonies from which it was formed.

The treatment of white galley slaves was even worse than the treatment of black slaves picking cotton. But there are no movies or television dramas about it comparable to "Roots," and our schools and colleges don't pound it into the heads of students...

...If American society and Western civilization are different from other societies and civilization, it is that they eventually turned against slavery, and stamped it out, at a time when non-Western societies around the world were still maintaining slavery and resisting Western pressures to end slavery, including in some cases armed resistance.

Only the fact that the West had more firepower than others put an end to slavery in many non-Western societies

during the age of Western imperialism. Yet today there are Americans who have gone to Africa to apologize for slavery—on a continent where slavery has still not been completely ended, to this very moment.

It is not just the history of slavery that gets distorted beyond recognition by the selective filtering of facts. Those who go back to mine history, in order to find everything they can to undermine American society or Western civilization, have very little interest in the Bataan death march, the atrocities of the Ottoman Empire or similar atrocities in other times and places. Those who mine history for sins are not searching for truth but for opportunities to denigrate their own society, or for grievances that can be cashed in today, at the expense of people who were not even born when the sins of the past were committed...

Read it all: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/Filtering-history-for-political-ends-92211354.html>

Big lie from Brandeis

by Michael Graham, 27 Apr 2010

The folks at Brandeis assure me it's all just a big misunderstanding. When they compare the Tea Party movement to neo-Nazis, they mean it in a nice way. And so, if all goes as scheduled, Brandeis will host a symposium tomorrow on "The New Right-Wing Radicalism." It starts with a discussion of rising neo-Nazism in Europe (2:30 p.m.—"Mein Kampf: A Book Of The Past In The Present") and ends with an analysis of the Tea Parties in America (4:30 p.m.—"From Tea Parties to Armed Militia").

To make sure everyone got the message, the promotional posters featured swastikas. And to make sure we knew who these "right-wing radicals" were, those swastikas were on the Brandeis Web page right above a link to the "Tea Party Express in Boston Commons (sic)."

That's the Tea Party event I personally helped promote.

Now, as a conservative, if I haven't been compared to Hitler a dozen times before lunch, I'm not doing my job. But the typical Americans who identify with the Tea Parties aren't so blase. Host a seminar comparing them to Nazis and they might think you're trying to say something negative about them.

"Not at all," insisted Brandeis flack Andrew Gully...

Continue: http://www.bostonherald.com/news/opinion/op_ed/view/20100427big_lie_from_brandeis/

Your Higher Taxes pay for My healthcare thanks President Obama Healthcare Reform

by GloZell, 24 March 2010

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRgB2eeHZEw>

(Hat tip: Jim D.)

Goldman Money for Obama Wins at Monopoly

by Kevin Hassett, 26 Apr 2010

The financial overhaul bill creeping toward law is more than a thousand pages, but it has a simple story line. President Barack Obama and the Democrats have decided to turn Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and a few other financial giants into organizations that resemble AT&T Corp. in the 1950s.

Government rules will establish quasi-monopolies, and discourage competition. In exchange, the affected firms will be exposed to constant bureaucratic meddling, but will have the ability to manage this by influencing political appointments...

More: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601039&sid=aATP..yenY9c>

A Health Care CEO Assesses ObamaCare's Impact

by Brian Calle, 23 Apr 2010

What are the real impacts of President Barack Obama's so-called health care reform on some of the country's largest medical companies – some of the country's most substantial employers – and thus the economy?

If you ask the Obama administration and members of Congress who voted for the bill, they might try and tell you the

massive overhaul of health care and expansion of government will actually save taxpayers money and aid the economy. But leaders in the health care industry are seeing a different reality, and they are offering numbers to back up their claims...

Read on: <http://www.ocreger.com/opinion/care-245680-health-companies.html>

It's a slim volume—only 88 pages. But as one reviewer said, "Give this book to your children, your friends and family. Give it to anyone who values a free America."

In Search of Self-Governance

by Scott W. Rasmussen (2010)

...The more or less official story line goes something like this: Big government and big business are perpetual and intractable enemies. Big business wants totally free and unfettered markets while big government wants to regulate everything that moves...As the story goes, the two sides duke it out and end up with compromise regulations. Businesses get enough freedom to compete while government gets enough regulation to protect consumers.

This is bunk! The reality is a bit like a scam you'd see in a bad movie. Some guy is harassing a girl at a bar and another guy steps in to chase the jerk away. For good measure, he gets tough and just a little bit physical. After the jerk is gone, the 'hero' is free to accept whatever thanks he can from the damsel who thought she was in distress. She, of course, has no way of knowing that the two guys were friends and will switch roles the next time they try the scam.

In the political world today, advocates of big business and big government play the same game...

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1449593542?tag=rasmussenrepo-20&camp=0&creative=0&linkCode=as1&creativeASIN=1449593542&adid=0EYH933G6R5VWDBP69ZY&#noop>

The New Fat Cats

The indefensible pensions of public-sector employees.

by Fred Barnes, 24 Apr 2010 (May 3 issue)

John Edwards was right. There are two Americas, just not his two (the rich and powerful versus everyone else). The real divide today is, on one side, the 20 million people who work for state and local governments and the additional 3 million who've retired with fat pensions. On the other, the rest of us, roughly 280 million Americans. In short, there's a gulf between the bureaucrats and the people.

Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey puts his fight with teachers and their union in roughly those terms. He says there are "two classes of citizens in New Jersey: those who enjoy rich public benefits and those who pay for them." The teachers want to keep a pay raise and continue to pay a minimal share of their retiree benefits...

This is appalling: <http://weeklstandard.com/articles/new-fat-cats>

Message From Arizona: Don't Tread On Me

by Austin Hill, 25 Apr 2010

...This is to say that, while a majority of Arizonans are concerned about civil rights violations being entailed in the law's enforcement, an even bigger majority nonetheless view the law as necessary. Is this a contradiction, or some sort of breakdown in logic? No, not really. Not if you've lived in the Southwestern U.S. and you've watched this border state drama play-out over the past twenty years or so, as Washington politicians wring their hands, criticize the citizenry, and often just look the other way.

The polling data, strange as it may seem, articulate an important message. "We didn't want it to come to this point," Arizona is saying to Washington. "We want a free and open society, yes, but in order to achieve this we must remain a society where everyone plays by the rules. You have failed to uphold our nation's rules, Washington, and as a result our free and open society is slipping away."

This sense of society "slipping away" has been mounting for years in the American Southwest. It's not just about the bankrupting of hospitals and public schools and public social services agencies by illegal immigrants and their children. And it's not simply a matter of "racism," as Obama partisans, ACORN enthusiasts, and "Chicanos Por La Causa" members would suggest.

It's about illegal immigrant "advocates" and "activists" flagrantly parading in American streets, "demanding" that America treat them better and more "fairly." It's about American police officers and private citizens being murdered in cold blood by illegal immigrants, and American politicians and law enforcement agencies being either unwilling, or unable, to do anything about it...

More: http://townhall.com/columnists/AustinHill/2010/04/25/message_from_arizona_dont_tread_on_me?page=full

Free All The SEALs From Travesty

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 22 Apr 2010

...All three SEALs could have accepted only a military reprimand, but risked a court-martial to clear their names and save their careers. They refused to be human sacrifices to the same political correctness that seeks a civilian trial with all the trimmings for 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheik Muhammed in New York City not far from ground zero.

Administration defenders say that for President Obama to intervene as commander in chief would amount to exercising "undue command influence," a traditional no-no in military justice. Yet as commander in chief, he sent them on a dangerous mission to apprehend a terrorist murderer of American citizens. They risked their lives on his orders. Who has their back, Mr. President?

They performed their mission brilliantly and bravely, and for doing so found themselves facing charges based on the word of a terrorist taught to lie. It's doubtful that President Reagan would have let this travesty of justice continue...

Read it all: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=531172>

Obama's Credibility Crisis

Washington Examiner editorial, 25 Apr 2010

Hard on the heels of that shocking Pew Research Center survey finding that four out of five Americans don't trust government comes a blitz of new revelations about the Obama administration that amount to a full-fledged credibility crisis. The latest disclosures are especially damaging because they concern President Obama's possible misrepresentation of his relationships with former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and convicted felon Tony Rezko, his administration's misleading statements about Obamacare costs, and questions about improper manipulation of government-owned General Motors and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Blagojevich revelations were no less serious for being accidental. Blagojevich's defense attorneys filed a federal court motion to subpoena Obama concerning charges that the former governor tried to sell the U.S. Senate seat formerly occupied by the chief executive. Improper formatting of the heavily redacted public version of the motion contained evidence that Obama spoke to Blagojevich about the Senate appointment a week before telling White House reporters that he had not done so. The document also revealed that federal prosecutors are withholding from Blagojevich's attorneys documents describing what Obama told investigators about conversations with Rezko on the appointment or his financial ties to the Chicago developer who was one of his key fundraisers...

More: http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/Obama_s-credibility-crisis-91958294.html

EurObama

by Matt Welch, 25 Apr 2010

With the stunning emergence of the consumption-based Value Added Tax (VAT) as a legitimate public policy option, the Obama administration has now all but made it official: There is no European economic idea too extreme for 21st century America. Even if the Europeans themselves are largely headed in the opposite direction.

VAT, first rolled out in 1950s France, is a sales tax on everything that every person or entity buys within a country, with exceptions or reductions carved out for things like food, newspapers, or various links along the industrial supply chain. Compared to the H&R Block subsidy program that is the US tax code, the VAT is a straightforward way for governments to skim 20% or so off the top of every transaction. By penalizing consumption and not earnings, it encourages savings and resists gaming by well-connected special interests.

In an ideal world, you could enact a VAT while slashing America's corporate income tax rate, which is the globe's second-highest. But as the last 18 months of federal misgovernance has aptly demonstrated, we do not live in anything like an ideal world...

Continue: http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/eurobama_6fLHQrfSBJUMrOPsybryvM

Tea Partiers Racist? Not So Fast

by Cathy Young, 25 Apr 2010

...These sentiments may also reflect a genuinely race-neutral belief in self-reliance and self-help—or the view, shared by many black commentators, that the black community's problems are partly rooted in damaging behavioral and cultural patterns.

John McWhorter, a noted black scholar and author whose works include the 2000 book, *Losing the Race: Self-Sabotage in Black America*, says that "the idea that 'racism' is behind the Tea Partiers is based on a lazy and vain extension of the term 'racism' to meaning 'that which many black people would not approve of.'" According to McWhorter, "The position that the government does too much to help black people is not necessarily one based in inherent bias against people with black skin—it can be argued as a reasonable proposition based on the spotty record of social programs since the 1960s."

The other charge against Tea Partiers is that they are not "the people" but the privileged defending their privilege. Walsh gleefully points out that in the Times/CBS poll, 12% of Tea Party sympathizers had an annual income over \$250,000—forgetting to mention that so did 11% of all Americans. Washington Post columnist E.J. Dionne asserts that "Tea Party enthusiasts...side with the better-off against the poor": 73% of them, versus 38% of all Americans, say that "providing government benefits to poor people encourages them to remain poor." (Of course, they couldn't possibly be sincere in the belief that poor people are often harmed more than helped by government programs.)

What, then, do the new polls tell us about the Tea Partiers—or, at least, Tea Party sympathizers?...

Read it all: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/04/25/tea_partiers_racist_not_so_fast_105309.html

Miss Me Yet? The Freedom Agenda After George W. Bush

Dissidents in the world's most oppressive countries aren't feeling the love from President Obama.

by Bari Weiss, 24 Apr 2010

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703709804575202072055128934.html?mod=WSJ_newsreel_opinion

Obama's Economic Policy: Crony Capitalism

by John Steele Gordon, 23 Apr 2010

...Obama's speech was typical in that it set up straw men, fearlessly knocked them down, assigned blame without evidence, told falsehoods while demanding that others stop lying, and asked for discussion as long as every discussant agrees with him. Everyone else and every other opinion is "illegitimate."

Wall Street was hardly blameless regarding the financial crisis of 2008 and reforms are necessary to prevent the same things from happening again. Niall Ferguson and Ted Forstmann **explain what's needed** in today's Wall Street Journal. (In a nutshell: moving derivatives trading from back rooms to exchanges and limiting the leverage that banks can use.) The Senate bill wouldn't do that. Instead it would move most derivatives trading to exchanges but allow the chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to decide what derivatives can still be traded over the counter. Does anyone see there a hugely empowered federal official (not to mention a golden lobbying opportunity for banks and members of Congress alike)? Is a back room at the CFTC an improvement over a back room at Goldman Sachs?

And Fannie and Freddie? They were at the heart of the mortgage meltdown and political piggy banks that were so badly (and corruptly) regulated that they are likely to cost the taxpayers \$400 billion when all is said and done. But neither of these bills even mentions them. Fannie and Freddie are classic examples of crony capitalism, where government and business are in bed together. Obama wants to expand that disastrous model to the likes of JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs...

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/gordon/283656>

Tea Partiers the New Front in 'War on Terror'

by Mark Steyn, 24 Apr 2010

...Everybody knows that when you say "I'm becoming very concerned about unsustainable levels of federal spending" that that's old Jim Crow code for "Let's get up a lynching party and teach that uppity Negro a lesson." Frank Rich of the New York Times attempted to diversify the Tea Party racism into homophobia by arguing that Obamacare opponents were uncomfortable with Barney Frank's sexuality. I yield to no one in my discomfort with Barney Frank's sexuality but, with the best will in the world, I find it hard to blame it for more than the first four or five trillion dollars of

federal overspending. Eschewing such cheap slurs, Time's Joe Klein said opposition to Obama was "seditious," because nothing says sedition like citing the U.S. Constitution and quoting Thomas Jefferson. Unfortunately for Klein, thanks to "educator" William Ayers' education reforms, nobody knows what "seditious" means anymore.

So enough with all the punch-pulling about seditious racist homophobes...

...Meanwhile, Comedy Central—you know, the "hip" "edgy" network with Jon Stewart from whom "young" Americans under 53 supposedly get most of their news—just caved in to death threats. From a hateful 83-year-old widow who doesn't like Obamacare? Why, no! It was a chap called Abu Talhah al Amrikee, who put up a video on the Internet explaining why a "South Park" episode with a rather tame Mohammed joke was likely to lead to the deaths of the show's creators. Just to underline the point, he showed some pictures of Theo van Gogh, the Dutch film director brutally murdered by (oh, my, talk about unfortunate coincidences) a fellow called Mohammed...

...So the brave, transgressive comedy network was intimidated into caving in and censoring a speech about not being intimidated into caving in. That's what I call "hip" "edgy" "cutting-edge" comedy: They're so edgy they're curled up in the fetal position, whimpering at the guy with the cutting edge, "Please. Behead me last. And don't use the rusty scimitar where you have to saw away for 20 minutes to find the spinal column."

Terrific. You can see why young, urban, post-modern Americans under 57 get most of their news from Comedy Central. What a shame 1930s Fascist Europe was so lacking in cable...

...If the Tea Partiers were truly the murderous goons they've been portrayed as, they would draw the obvious lesson from the kid gloves with which Comedy Central strokes Islam...

The entire column: <http://www.ocregister.com/opinion/tea-245567-comedy-clinton.html>

Mr. Franks is a member of the Illinois General Assembly. And for those of us who thought that conservative Democrats went out with Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Zell Miller, his proposals are refreshing. My favorite is the elimination of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, which he says would save a billion dollars a year.

Want to solve the budget crisis? Say no to spending

by Jack D. Franks, 22 Apr 2010

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/ct-oped-0422-spending-20100422,0,7694179,full.story>

Music and Morality

by Roger Scruton, 11 Feb 2010

...You can talk over Mozart, but not over Schoenberg; you can work to Chopin, but not to Wagner. And it is sometimes argued that the melodic and rhythmic contour of pop music both fits it for being overheard, rather than listened to, and also encourages a need for it in the background. Some psychologists wonder whether this need follows the pattern of addictions; more philosophical critics like Theodor Adorno raise questions of a deep kind as to whether the human ear has not changed entirely under the impact of jazz and its musical successors, and whether music can ever be for us what it was for Bach or Mozart.

Adorno attacked something that he called the "regression of listening," which he believed had infected the entire culture of modern America. He saw the culture of listening as a deep spiritual resource of Western civilization. For Adorno the habit of listening to long-range musical thought, in which themes are subjected to extended melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic development, is connected to the ability to live beyond the moment, to transcend the search for instant gratification, to set aside the routines of the consumer society, with its constant pursuit of the "fetish," and to put real values in the place of fleeting desires. And there is something persuasive here that needs to be rescued from Adorno's intemperate and over-politicized critique of just about everything he found in America.

But Adorno reminds us that it is very hard to criticize a musical idiom without standing in judgment on the culture to which it belongs. Musical idioms don't come in sealed packets, with no relation to the rest of human life. And when a particular kind of music surrounds us in public spaces, when it invades every café, bar, and restaurant, when it blares at us from passing motor cars and dribbles from the open taps of radios and iPods all over the planet, the critic may seem to stand like the apocryphal King Canute before an irresistible tide, uttering useless cries of indignation...

The whole essay: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/02/11/music-and-morality>

The Media's Golf Double Standard

The president has gone golfing more than he's met the press. Had Bush tried that, he'd have been clubbed by the media.
by Mark McKinnon, 21 Apr 2010

News flash: President Obama hasn't held a formal press conference in almost a year (274 days and counting) yet has golfed 32 times since he was elected—eight more times than President George W. Bush did during his *entire* presidency...

...But imagine the press histrionics we would have heard if George W. Bush had gone nine months without a press conference. Recall that Bush was loudly criticized when he didn't hold press conferences frequently enough to satiate a badgering press, though he averaged one about every two months. Over the course of his presidency, he held 45...

...And how about this headline from The Washington Post: "**Just the Sport for a Leader Most Driven.**" Richard Leiby reports, "To some, Obama's frequent outings reflect a cool self-confidence." The article then quotes a sports psychologist who said Obama seemed *able to play golf despite* the grim reports by the media about the wars and the economy.

That bears repeating. Here is a journalist remarking about Obama that he is "able" to play golf despite war casualties and economic disaster. For Bush, the press couldn't believe that he would *dare* golf at such a time, but for Obama they *marvel that he can*. Now that's a double standard that unfortunately we've come to expect...

More: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-04-21/the-medias-double-standard-on-presidential-golf/full/>

Liberals and the Violence Card

by Rush Limbaugh, 23 Apr 2010

The latest liberal meme is to equate skepticism of the Obama administration with a tendency toward violence. That takes me back 15 years ago to the time President Bill Clinton accused "loud and angry voices" on the airwaves (i.e., radio talk-show hosts like me) of having incited Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh. What self-serving nonsense. Liberals are perfectly comfortable with antigovernment protest when they're not in power...

...Like the millions of citizens who've peacefully risen up and attended thousands of rallies in protest, I seek nothing more than the preservation of the social contract that undergirds our society. I do not hate the government, as the left does when it is not running it. I love this country. And because I do, I insist that the temporary inhabitants of high political office comply with the Constitution, honor our God-given unalienable rights, and respect our hard-earned private property. For this I am called seditious, among other things, by some of the very people who've condemned this society?

I reject the notion that America is in a well-deserved decline, that she and her citizens are unexceptional. I do not believe America is the problem in the world. I believe America is the solution to the world's problems. I reject a foreign policy that treats our allies like our enemies and our enemies like our allies. I condemn the president traveling the world apologizing for America's great contributions to mankind. And I condemn his soft-peddling the dangers we face from terrorism. For this I am inciting violence?

Few presidents have sunk so low as Mr. Clinton did with his accusations about Oklahoma City. Last week—on the very day I was contributing to and raising more than \$3 million to fight leukemia and lymphoma on my radio program—Mr. Clinton used the 15th anniversary of that horrific day to regurgitate his claims about talk radio...

Read it all: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703876404575199743566950622.html>

Next on Cowardly Central

by David Harsanyi, 23 Apr 2010

...The popular animated show "South Park"—gloriously vulgar, sharply satirical and, one suspects, offensive to vast swaths of the viewing public—is, if nothing else, impressive in its evenhandedness.

Yet in this week's episode, a depiction of the Prophet Muhammad in a bear costume (don't ask) was blocked with the word "censored" so the channel could avoid hurting the feelings of a few virtual New York City jihadists.

This homegrown radical group, called Revolution Muslim (no thanks), warned the show's architects, Matt Stone and Trey Parker, that they would "probably wind up like Theo Van Gogh" because of the depiction in the episode...

Shameful censorship: http://www.denverpost.com/recommended/ci_14940270

Gangster Government becomes a long-running series

by Michael Barone, 21 Apr 2010

... "The Dodd bill," writes Democratic Rep. Brad Sherman, "has unlimited executive bailout authority. That's something Wall Street desperately wants but doesn't dare ask for."

Politically connected creditors would have every reason to assume they'd get favorable treatment. The Dodd bill specifically authorizes the FDIC to treat "creditors similarly situated" differently.

Second, as former Bush administration economist Larry Lindsey points out, the Dodd bill gives the Treasury and the FDIC authority to grant an unlimited number of loan guarantees to "too big to fail" firms. CEOs might want to have receipts for their contributions to Sen. Charles Schumer and the Obama campaign in hand when they apply...

Read the rest: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/politics/Gangster-Government-becomes-a-long-running-series-91656284.html>

Obama's Phony Bank Debate

by Tunku Varadarajan, 22 Apr 2010

... In pressing ahead with his preferred template for financial reform—Chris Dodd's Senate bill—Obama appears to have foreclosed prematurely on the sort of genuine, wide-ranging, open-minded national debate that we need to have to safeguard our economic future. Foreclosure on debate, never edifying, might have been fine if Obama's own template were a thing of beauty; but it is, instead, a deeply flawed bill with much in it that is wrong (and wrong-headed), particularly in regard to the proposed Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the provisions on ratings agencies, and the potentially vast expansion of the FDIC's powers—not to mention the alarming effect the Dodd rules would have on start-ups, as described in *The Wall Street Journal* Thursday.

But Obama's invitation to debate, here, is akin to his conversation on health-care reform: It is a call to all to come to him, and to drink deeply of his wisdom. Of a piece with this method is Harry Reid's assertion Thursday that he will move ahead with a vote on financial reform as early as Monday: "I'm not going to waste any more time of the American people while they come up with some agreement," Reid said, of the Republicans. "The games of stalling are over."

Yet ill-conceived reform would be just as bad as no reform at all, and the Republicans have every reason to resist knee-jerk legislation...

More: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-04-22/obamas-phony-bank-debate/?cid=hp:mainpromo2>

Goldman Sachs and the Left

An impressionistic study in cronyism.

by Robert Costa, 23 Apr 2010

... For all of his talk about reforming Wall Street, President Obama has been powerless to stop the influence of lobbyists on his financial agenda, preferring to put his hand out, rather than up — his presidential campaign collected more than \$1 million from Goldman employees, a wad of dough the president refuses to return. Obama's hesitancy to return his bundle of Goldman cash is shared by Senate majority leader Harry Reid (D., Nev.), who was recently hosted by Goldman's president at a fundraiser in New York. Other tentacles slither throughout the Democratic caucus. Since 1990, according to OpenSecrets.org, Goldman has donated over \$31 million to political-action committees and candidates, with 64 percent of those donations going to Democrats.

Despite Obama's tough words at the Cooper Union, the symbiosis between Goldman's lobbyists and the Democrats that regulate it has long been a work of political impressionism. Close up, it looks disconnected and blurred, but if you step back, the shape of it all falls into focus: Democrats hoard Goldman cash, Goldman hoards Democrats, and the American people lose.

The cronies: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=YmMxMTVjZjM4ZDQ2ODZhMmY5MDBIMDNjODg5Mzc2ODM=>

Democrats at the Edge of the Cliff

by Daniel Henninger, 22 Apr 2010

... Something unique happened in the first Obama year, about the last thing the Democratic Party needed: The veil was ripped from the true cost of government. This is the ghastly nightmare Democrats have always needed to keep locked in a crypt. Before the Internet, that was easy. Washington, California, New York, New Jersey—who knew what the pols were spending? The Democrats (and their Republican pilot fish) could get away with this. Not now. Email lists, 24/7

newspapers, blogs, TV and talk radio—the spending beast is running naked...

...Barack Obama's speeches are filled with the Democrats' core claim to legitimacy: Government must and will do good. It must "act." But in a crucial period when voters across the political spectrum were losing faith in that core claim, the Democrats lost any self-protective sense of what they were doing with public budgets. Barack Obama took a rising reservoir of public trust for his party (62% said they liked the Democrats in January 2009), and emptied it...

...In 1994 when the Democrats lost over 50 House seats at mid-term, the party's favorable rating was 62%, and for the Congress they controlled it was 53%. They still got killed. Now the party's favorable is 38% and Congress's approval is 25%...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704133804575198290459062592.html>

A splendid new book by one of the leading global warming skeptics.

The Great Global Warming Blunder: How Mother Nature Fooled the World's Top Climate Scientists

by Dr. Roy W. Spencer (published April 2010)

http://www.amazon.com/Great-Global-Warming-Blunder-Scientists/dp/1594033730/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1272002135&sr=1-1#noop

Ms. Weaver Goes to Washington

by David Boaz, 22 Apr 2010

...Congress doesn't have time to vote on presidential nominations. It doesn't bother engaging in serious oversight of presidential power and civil liberties abuses. It looks at the ceiling and whistles as the national debt approaches Greek levels. But members of Congress have time to listen to an actress discuss the topic of ocean acidification.

This seems like a topic for "Really!?! with Seth and Amy" on *Saturday Night Live*. Really, Senate Commerce Committee? You think Sigourney Weaver has important information that you need to know? Really? And you're not just doing this to get yourselves on television? Really!?! And you think the most important thing members of Congress could be doing today is getting their pictures taken with Sigourney Weaver? Really!?!

Of course, this is not just a one-day thing for Sigourney Weaver. She also traveled this month to Brazil to try to stop the construction of a dam. Because who would know better than a Hollywood-Manhattan actress how to make tradeoffs between energy needs and environmental risks in Brazil?...

More: <http://www.cato-at-liberty.org/2010/04/22/ms-weaver-goes-to-washington/>

Take the Painkiller and Go Home

by Peter Ferrara, 21 Apr 2010

...In the Democrat party of the past, Southern conservatives were the longest serving members of Congress, heading all the Committees as a result, where they sharply restrained the Left in the '60s and '70s. But today the former Southern conservative Democrats have mostly been replaced by Republicans, and it is the northern urban ultraliberals who are the longest serving, and now head all the committees.

This ugly and dangerous reality is what moved one recent talk radio caller to proclaim, "I'm a Democrat, but I'm not a Communist." The left-wing extremism of the currently ruling Democrat party is one huge dark cloud on the horizon indicating the coming political tsunami. Treating grassroots voters who question that left-wing extremism with disdain and name-calling is only further gathering the storm.

The American people never voted for such a radical left takeover of America. Barack Obama ran on a net spending cut at the federal level, a tax cut for 95% of Americans, a promise of a new era of post-partisan political peace, and a pledge to sweet talk Iran out of "unacceptable" nuclear weapons. Obama was greatly aided by the history of Bill Clinton, who after 1994 mostly just went along with the Gingrich Congressional majority Republicans, resulting in solidly conservative economic, defense and foreign policies. Many voters were consequently deluded into thinking Obama and the Democrats would just be a reprise of Bill Clinton and the 1990s. But what should be brutally obvious by now is that Barack Obama is no Bill Clinton, and those analysts who think he may be on the same political trajectory as Clinton are badly deluded as well...

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/04/21/take-the-painkiller-and-go-hom>

Environmentalism is now a religion, and being overtaken by extremism

by Robert H. Nelson, 22 Apr 2010

...When Earth Day started in 1970 few people would have expected it to become a globally observed religious holiday with its own Ten Commandments, including "use less water," "save electricity," "reduce, reuse, recycle," and "spread the word." The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wants people everywhere to "commit to action" in defense of the Earth.

America's leading environmental historian, William Cronon of the University of Wisconsin, calls environmentalism a new religion because it offers "a complex series of moral imperatives for ethical action, and judges human conduct accordingly." In other words, issues such as climate change are now much more than about "science."

And this places a greater burden on environmental theology than it is often able to handle. Success in stirring powerful religious feelings about the environment does not automatically lead to wise and effective policies...

Continue: <http://detnews.com/article/20100422/OPINION01/4220332/1008/Environmentalism-is-now-a-religion--and-being-overtaken-by-extremism>

The Energy Policy Morass

'Think, Baby, Think.'

by Steven F. Hayward, 19 Apr 2010 (April 26 issue)

If you think the health care debate is a tangled mess, try wading into the thickets of the energy sector, which is high on the Obama administration's list of targets to subjugate. Few areas of national policy offer as bad a ratio of blather to substance as energy. It is a field where cliché, wishful thinking, and wince-inducing ignorance dominate the discourse. No matter how patiently or repeatedly the myths and realities of energy are explained, a large portion of the public, along with giddy pundits like Tom Friedman, persist in thinking an energy revolution is one government-sponsored gadget away from being willed into existence. Liberals are the worst offenders, but conservatives have their own energy shibboleths that deserve to be candidly recognized as such.

The energy industry itself, meanwhile—including old-line fossil fuel companies, but also rent-seeking manufacturers such as GE and Siemens—contributes to public ignorance and confusion by jumping on the "green energy" bandwagon for mostly bad reasons. Everyone from T. Boone Pickens to Ralph Nader has a plan to "solve" America's energy crisis, while Obama is practicing Clintonian triangulation to see whether Republicans will be cheap dates on an energy bill. For more than three decades American energy policy has mostly been a muddle, and often a farce. But the time for muddling through is over...

...The chief reason for the lack of a coherent or serious energy policy is that we've never been able to decide exactly what problem we are trying to solve...

Read it all: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/energy-policy-morass>

Even abusive public employees can't get fired

by Steven Greenhut, 22 Apr 2010

Some of the most stunning articles I've read in a long while were in the Los Angeles Times' 2009 investigative series, "Failure gets a pass," which documents the near impossibility of firing unionized public school teachers in the massive Los Angeles Unified School District—even those teachers credibly accused of sexually molesting or harassing their students.

The first article in the Times series, "Firing tenured teachers can be a costly and tortuous task," documented the case of teacher Carlos Polanco, who was accused by the school district of "immoral and unprofessional conduct" for making fun, in front of his class, of a student who had just returned after a suicide attempt...

More: http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/OpEd-Contributor/Even-abusive-public-employees-can_t-get-fired-91706409.html

All the President's Goldman men

by Michelle Malkin, 21 Apr 2010

While President Obama assails the culture of greed and recklessness practiced by the men of Goldman Sachs, his

administration is infested with them. The White House can no more disown Goldman Sachs than Obama can disown Chicago politics.

Obama is headed to Wall Street tomorrow to demand "financial regulatory reform"—just as the US Securities and Exchange Commission has filed civil suit against Goldman Sachs for mortgage-related fraud.

Question the timing? Darn tootin'. As the New York Post reported Tuesday, the Democratic National Committee immediately bought sponsored Internet ads on Google that direct Web surfers who type in "Goldman Sachs SEC" to Obama's *fund-raising* site. "It's time to hold the big banks accountable," the DNC message bellows.

Democrats are silent on the \$994,795 in Goldman Sachs campaign cash that Obama bagged in the 2008 presidential race. The class-warfare Dems are also mum on all the president's Goldman men sitting in the catbird's seat...

Obama's culture of corruption:

http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/all_the_president_goldman_men_e2n0aCBBZgC4cEBbEhqFdI

Obama and the New Civility

During the Bush years a dangerously heated rhetoric became commonplace. Now, lo! a new age has dawned.

by *Victor Davis Hanson, 21 Apr 2010*

It was sometime early this year that Americans finally learned the rules of proper political discourse — another dividend from the Obama administration. We can all be grateful for our new bipartisan protocols, which will go something like the following...

This is rich: <http://article.nationalreview.com/432056/obama-and-the-new-civility/victor-davis-hanson>

Myths About Capitalism

by *John Stossel (and Michael Medved), 21 Apr 2010*

I won 19 Emmy Awards by reporting a myth: that business constantly rips us off, that capitalism is mostly cruel and unfair. I know that's a myth now. So I was glad to see the publication of *The 5 Big Lies About American Business* by Michael Medved...

More: <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0410/stossel042110.php3>

President Obama's Wall Street friends all benefit from the Democrats' bailout bill

by *Rep. John Boehner, 20 Apr 2010*

President Obama likes to say we need to clean up Wall Street. But let's be clear: He is pushing a job-killing bailout bill for Wall Street that benefits his top financial contributor from the 2008 campaign—a firm that just happens to be under investigation by the SEC for defrauding investors.

Despite the President's rhetoric, his support for the Democrats' bailout bills gives big Wall Street banks a permanent, taxpayer-funded safety net by designating them "too big to fail." Just whose side is President Obama on? Here are the facts...

Read on: <http://gopleader.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=181829>

Letter to SEC Chairman Mary Schapiro

by *Rep. Darrell Issa, 20 Apr 2010*

The timing of the Securities and Exchange Commission's (the "Commission") filing of a civil securities fraud action against Goldman Sachs & Co. ("Goldman") has created serious questions about the Commission's independence and impartiality. The Goldman litigation—filed by the Commission on Friday, April 16, 2010—has been widely cited by Democrats in support of the financial regulatory legislation currently before the United States Senate. We are writing to request that you provide documents and information to this Committee regarding any sort of prearrangement, coordination, direction from, or advance notice provided by the Commission to the Administration or Congressional Democrats regarding last Friday's filing against Goldman. The American people have a right to know whether the Commission, or any of its officers or employees, may have violated federal law by using the resources of an independent regulatory agency to promote a partisan political agenda....

Continue: <http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=1C77D6F9-18FE-70B2-A8ED2F2A07FE05E6>

Goldman Employees Donated \$1 Million to Obama Campaign

by John McCormick, 20 Apr 2010

<http://preview.bloomberg.com/news/2010-04-20/goldman-employees-donated-1-million-to-obama-campaign.html>

Top Contributors to Barack Obama's 2008 Presidential Campaign

Univ. of California	\$1,591,395
Goldman Sachs	\$994,795
Harvard University	\$854,747
Microsoft Corp	\$833,617
Google Inc	\$803,436
Citigroup Inc	\$701,290
JPMorgan Chase & Co	\$695,132
Time Warner	\$590,084
Sidley Austin LLP	\$588,598
Stanford University	\$586,557
National Amusements Inc	\$551,683
UBS AG	\$543,219
Wilmerhale Llp	\$542,618
Skadden, Arps et al	\$530,839
IBM Corp	\$528,822
Columbia University	\$528,302
Morgan Stanley	\$514,881
General Electric	\$499,130
US Government	\$494,820
Latham & Watkins	\$493,835

http://images.opensecrets.org/obama_top_contribs.htm?cycle=2008&cid=N00009638

Exploiting the Oklahoma City Bombing

by Debra Saunders, 20 Apr 2010

...Clinton continued, "We must all assume responsibility for our words and actions before they enter a vast echo chamber and reach those both serious and delirious, connected and unhinged."

Think about that for a minute: If anyone were to cast blame for the Fort Hood shootings that left 13 dead, or any other attacks within American military bases, on the antiwar movement, then that assertion would be followed by howls of outrage, and deservedly so. It would be absurd to suggest that opposition to the war be misconstrued as promoting violence against U.S. troops.

Yet somehow arguing against President Obama's health care plan can be construed as practically an incitement to violence....

More: <http://www.sfchron.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/04/20/ED5H1D1191.DTL&type=printable>

Fannie and Freddie Amnesia

Taxpayers are on the hook for about \$400 billion, partly because Sen. Obama helped to block reform.

by Peter J. Wallison, 20 Apr 2010

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704671904575193910683111250.html>

Obama's Supreme Problem

by Wendy Wright, 15 Apr 2010

One detail was missing from President Obama's list of qualifications for his nominee to replace John Paul Stevens on the Supreme Court: Any mention of the Constitution.

He just doesn't get it. At a time when Americans are furious over Obama's headlong plunge into socialism, when his Democrat party is losing elections and hemorrhaging incumbents because voters reject their big-government "remaking America" agenda, the chameleon forgot to adapt.

The master wordsmith—who knows how to say what people want to hear—blew it. He didn't state the main qualification for any person who serves in government, the absence of which has lit a brushfire of discontent, fidelity to the Constitution. He and his allies haven't taken that first step to recovery—acknowledging their problem. It's their utter disregard for the Constitution that is causing this big mess. The concept of a limited government, restrained in what it can and should do, is foreign to them, while for most Americans it's in our DNA. This is what puts Obama at odds with so many Americans.

President Obama said his Supreme Court nominee will be someone who knows "that in a democracy, powerful interests must not be allowed to drown out the voices of ordinary citizens."

Newsflash for the president! The most "powerful interest" in America today that is drowning out citizens' voices is *the government!* ...

Read the rest: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/04/15/obamas-supreme-problem>

Man Should Be Free to Love the Earth

by Mark Landsbaum, 16 Apr 2010

...Here's where I differ from radical environmentalists. A barren, brown, lifeless expanse of arid terrain isn't, in my view, its best use. Flying in to any Southern California airport is a stark reminder of the good man has done. From above, long swaths of green are wonderfully obvious, formed by countless lush trees shoulder to shoulder, and ever-so-many more shrubs carpeting this once unfruitful plain. Those trees and shrubs were planted by people.

To look on what man has wrought is a persuasive argument that this environment is improved immensely, bringing green to what was brown, flowers to what was sterile and beauty to what was bleak. From ground level, look in any direction, and see the fruits of man's labor—trees that otherwise wouldn't be there, colors that otherwise would be absent and an abundance of birds, butterflies and other creatures sustained and nourished by our manmade garden. We have made a literal oasis. People did it.

Then there's this: People have a right to do with their property what they will, so long as it doesn't damage or injure others. Property rights are one of the unalienable rights our founders protected when they set this nation in motion. They recognized these as God-given rights that man can't legitimately revoke...

...Radical environmentalists have adopted a religious fervor. They elevate the animal and vegetable above the human. They tip the scales not only to the detriment of peoples' property rights, but to the detriment of people, period...

The whole column: <http://www.ocreger.com/common/printer/view.php?db=ocreger&id=244475>

Pediatric Environmentalism

by Henry I. Miller, 16 Apr 2010

Every schoolchild these days seems to be a devoted environmentalist, able to spell "sustainable" before "dog." However, much of the indoctrination about environmentalism—especially in schools—is of the passion-is-more-important-than-fact variety. These kids are being misled and shortchanged, to their own and society's detriment...

Read on: <http://www.forbes.com/2010/04/16/science-education-environment-opinions-contributors-henry-i-miller.html?boxes=opinionschannellatest>

Climategate: a scandal that won't go away

From Macbeth to Watergate, it's not the act that leads to nemesis, but the attempts to 'trammel up the consequence.'

by Christopher Booker, 17 Apr 2010

...Lord Oxburgh himself is linked to various commercial interests which make money from climate change, from wind farms to carbon trading. None of the panel he worked with on his report were climate "sceptics"; and one, Dr Kerry Emanuel, is an outspoken advocate of man-made global warming. Even so, it was surprising to see just how superficial their inquiry turned out to be...

...The significance of this sleight of hand can scarcely be exaggerated. Why, in using this misleading graph, did the IPCC not explain the trick that had been played by its leading scientists? If tree rings were so inadequate in reflecting 20th-century temperatures, why should they be relied on to reflect temperatures in earlier centuries? Why, when fresh Siberian tree ring data came to light, making a nonsense of the CRU's earlier temperature reconstructions, did the CRU simply ignore the new data?...

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/7601929/Climategate-a-scandal-that-wont-go-away.html>

A Facebook Exchange

And it's really good.

19 Apr 2010

On April 15, a woman we'll call **Mrs. H.** posted this nuanced, well-informed, sophisticated statement on Facebook: "Mrs. H. thinks any member of the "Tea Party" should be publicly stoned. I can't believe that such ignorant, racist, homophobic people still exist."

Crash KC replied as follows:

Your statement is a disturbing mischaracterization of this movement that our divisive government and media love to perpetuate. It is a dishonest statement used to distract from the horrific policies that this President is shoving down the American people's throats. The "Tea Party" activists are fighting against a tyrannical government that is squelching the liberty of the majority in order to help the minority. There is nothing racist or homophobic about dissent against this kind of tyranny! You'd find that the Tea Party supporters you are looking to stone are fighting for you as well! I would think that you, living in Detroit, Michigan, would be tired of the destructive ideas and policies promoted by the liberals. You've experienced the misery first hand! When most of the failing states in this country are governed by Democrats, supporters should start putting two and two together and realize that this emotionally based ideology is flawed and is hurting the very people that they claim to be helping.

If you like the direction that liberals are taking your state and your country, then sit back and enjoy, but stop hating those that disagree.

And **P.C.** replied to her posting in this fashion:

Based upon Mrs. H.'s narrow-minded use of stereotypes that must make her an ultraliberal, baby-killing, gun-hating, socialistic, gay, veggie-munching, atheistic, illegal alien, tree-hugging, minority dependent on food stamps and welfare to get by as she resides in her Section 8 supported public housing. While I highly doubt any of that "defines" her any more than her foolish stereotypes define Tea Party supporters it begs the question; "where do you get your information from?"

I'm sure that Mrs. H. gets her news from very liberal-minded local Detroit news channels and newspapers. Having worked in Detroit and the state of Michigan since 1986, I'm very familiar with their media; and I'm sure it doesn't bother her that the Dems have controlled her 'beautiful' city, including the media outlets, for decades. And gee whiz, what a fine job they've done of it. It's no wonder she resides in the "burbs" as no one in their right mind would ever live in that cesspool of a city called Detroit.

The Dems have done such a masterful job that the chances of living to the age of 13 is only 1 out of 6! Go ahead and blame THAT on conservatives. They have a police station surrounded by concertina wire and park their "tank" on the front lawn as a deterrent to crime. Yes a TANK! It isn't a prop either it's a fully operational tank. They built a prison on the doorsteps of a residential community. The first month the place was open there was a prison break and all 8 escapees were located within a mile of the prison. THEY ALL WENT HOME! I swear to God I'm not making that up! People all over the country watch in amazement as the city burns on Halloween, called "Devils Night." What you don't see is that it's the poor, descent residents torching abandoned drug and whore houses because the city won't condemn them and tear them down. They are so desperate to protect their children from drugs and keep them from getting raped in these hell holes they resort to vigilante efforts to protect them. Even the locals will tell you that anything inside 8 Mile Road should be bulldozed and start over.

Yes stereotypes are easy to toss about, and I'll even be happy to help Mrs. H. out a bit. After all she left off immigrant-hating, gun-toting, bible-thumping, NASCAR-following, warmongering, polluting, animal killing, slave owning, oil guzzling, big business loving slumlords. Phew, I could go on forever with all this fun stuff.

What she misses is that we are really Americans in love with our country. In love with the constitution that has permitted people like Mrs. H. to her right of free speech, her right to practice her religion as she sees fit, and her right to bear arms and defend herself from ANY government or persons seeking to deprive her of these things.

We believe Mrs. H. has the right to pursue happiness in any manner she wishes so long as it does not prevent her neighbor from pursuing theirs. For the most part we are not homophobic. In fact we're not interested in whether someone sleeps with a same sex partner any more than we care if Tiger Woods cheated on his wife or Mrs. H. likes cream and sugar

in her coffee. We will not, however, be tolerant if you flaunt it in our face and “demand” we embrace your taste in coffee or sexual partners. Want to sleep around? That’s between you, your spouse and—should you choose to believe—your God.

Want to grow and smoke pot in your basement? We don’t care, so long as you didn’t roll some senior citizen in an alley to get the funds to pay for it, my tax dollars aren’t supporting your lazy ass because you’re too stoned to work, and you stay the hell home while wasted so my kids don’t get run down in your drug-induced race to the local convenient store for munchies.

We are completely about equality. Every legal citizen regardless of sex, age, race, nationality, religion, political persuasion, height, weight, or intelligence has an equal right to better themselves and get compensated equally provided you can demonstrate the same level of education, experience, aptitude, and ability required of your coworkers to perform the task asked of you. You do not “deserve” a million dollar mansion because Bill-Gates-has-one-and-that’s-not-fair.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

ALL Chavez supporters should kill themselves

Especially if they have his face tattooed on their chests.

Boxer Valero kills himself in jail, police say

19 Apr 2010

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100419/ap_on_sp_bo_ne/box_valero_slaying

24-Hour Party People

Why the Tea Party isn't as "radical" as you think.

by David Harsanyi, 16 Apr 2010

http://www.denverpost.com/harsanyi/ci_14893370

The Beholden State

by Steven Malanga, Spring 2010 issue

The camera focuses on an official of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), California’s largest public-employee union, sitting in a legislative chamber and speaking into a microphone. “We helped to get you into office, and we got a good memory,” she says matter-of-factly to the elected officials outside the shot. “Come November, if you don’t back our program, we’ll get you out of office.”

The video has become a sensation among California taxpayer groups for its vivid depiction of the audacious power that public-sector unions wield in their state. The unions’ political triumphs have molded a California in which government workers thrive at the expense of a struggling private sector. The state’s public school teachers are the highest-paid in the nation. Its prison guards can easily earn six-figure salaries. State workers routinely retire at 55 with pensions higher than their base pay for most of their working life. Meanwhile, what was once the most prosperous state now suffers from an unemployment rate far steeper than the nation’s and a flood of firms and jobs escaping high taxes and stifling regulations. This toxic combination—high public-sector employee costs and sagging economic fortunes—has produced recurring budget crises in Sacramento and in virtually every municipality in the state.

How public employees became members of the elite class in a declining California offers a cautionary tale to the rest of the country...

Continue: http://city-journal.org/2010/20_2_california-unions.html

This is dazzling, even by his standards.

Obama's Nuke Summit Dangerously Delusional

by Mark Steyn, 16 Apr 2010

...Five years ago, when there was still a chance the world might prevent a nuclear Iran rather than pretending to "contain" it, I remember the bewildered look from a "nonproliferation expert" on a panel I was on after I suggested non-proliferation was a laughably obsolescent frame for this discussion. You could just about enforce nonproliferation back in

the Cold War when the only official nuclear powers were the Big Five at the U.N. Security Council and the entry level for the nuclear club was extremely expensive and technologically sophisticated. Now it's not. If Pakistan and North Korea can be nuclear powers, who can't? North Korea's population is starving. Its GDP per capita is lower than Ghana, lower than Zimbabwe, lower than Mongolia. Which is to say its GDP is all but undetectable. Yet it's a nuclear power.

That's what anachronistic nonproliferation mumbo-jumbo gets you. If you read in the paper that New Zealand had decided to go nuclear, would you lose a moment's sleep over it? Personally, I'd be rather heartened. It would be a sign that a pampered and somnolent developed world had woken up and concluded that betting your future on the kindness of strangers is a helluva gamble. What Obama and his empty showboaters failed even to acknowledge in their "security" summit is the reality of the Post-Big Five nuclear age: We're on the brink of a world in which the wealthiest nations, from Canada to Norway to Japan, can barely project meaningful force to their own borders while the nickel 'n' dime basket-cases go nuclear. How long do you think that arrangement will last? Iran has already offered to share its nuclear technology with Sudan...

...It's not that Britain has nukes, and poor old Sudan has to make do with machetes. It's that the machete crowd are willing to kill on an industrial scale, and the high-tech guys can't figure out a way to stop them. Perhaps for his next pointless yakfest the president might consider a machete nonproliferation initiative...

Read the rest: <http://www.ocreger.com/opinion/nuclear-244432-obama-summit.html>

The Citizen's Constitution: An Annotated Guide

by Seth Lipsky (published October 2009)

Check the reader-reviews at [Amazon](#).

And if you're a subscriber, read this review by Andrew C. McCarthy in *The New Criterion*.

...After all, text is the most important thing, but it is not the only thing in a society where, for example, the Fourteenth Amendment's prohibition against any state's "den[ial] to any person ... of the equal protection of the laws" is understood somehow to permit affirmative action programs, or where the First Amendment's admonition that "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech" has been understood from the start to allow regulation of all sorts of expression—from obscenity to advertisements to leaks of classified information...

Tea Parties & The Inconvenience of Truth

by Ross Mackenzie, 18 Apr 2010

http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/opinion/op_ed/article/ED-ROSS18_20100416-210007/337903/

"There is always an easy solution to every human problem—neat, plausible, and wrong."—H.L. Mencken

The VAT isn't an easy fix for budget woes

by Robert Samuelson, 19 Apr 2010

...A VAT [value-added tax] could not painlessly fill this void. Applied to all consumption spending—about 70 percent of GDP—the required VAT rate would equal about 8 percent. But the actual increase might be closer to 16 percent because there would be huge pressures to exempt groceries, rent and housing, health care, education and charitable groups. Together, they account for nearly half of \$10 trillion of consumer spending. There would also be other upward (and more technical) pressures on the VAT rate.

Does anyone believe that Americans wouldn't notice 16 percent price increases for cars, televisions, airfares, gasoline—and much more—even if phased in? As for a VAT's claimed benefits (simplicity, promotion of investment), these depend mainly on a VAT replacing the present complex income tax that discriminates against investment. That's unlikely because it would require implausibly steep VAT rates. Chances are we'd pay both the income tax and the VAT, making the overall tax system more complicated.

Europe's widespread VATs aren't models of simplicity...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/18/AR2010041802723.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>

Thanks For What?

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 17 Apr 2010

...As the president himself said on his weekly radio address a week ago, "one thing we have not done is raise income taxes on families making less than \$250,000; that's another promise we kept."

In fact, that wasn't his promise at all. Here's what candidate Obama really said in September of 2008: "Under my plan, no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase. Not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes."

Got that? "Not any of your taxes." The claim of no tax hikes on those below \$250,000 as a result of the current administration's policies is completely and utterly false. A report from the House Ways & Means Committee's GOP members notes that, since January 2009, Congress and the president have enacted \$670 billion in tax increases. That's \$2,100 for each person in America. At least 14 of those tax hikes, the report says, break Obama's pledge not to raise taxes on those earning less than \$250,000. Roughly \$316 billion of the tax hikes — 14 increases in all — hit middle-class families, the report says...

...So let's see: The administration and its allies in Congress pass what can only be called the most financially irresponsible series of bills in our nation's history, imposing a crushing tax burden on our children and our children's children, while lowering all Americans' standard of living, and we should thank them for it?

This is the delusional thinking that's led to the Tea Party Movement's soaring popularity. The hundreds of thousands that turned out around the country on April 15 were objecting to the systematic ruin and loss of liberty that massive fiscal irresponsibility brings...

More facts: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=530619>

President shutting out reporters

Obama seems to have decided to skip tradition of a free press.

by Dan Thomasson, 17 Apr 2010

...According to reports, the "summit" was so tightly managed that reporters were given access that lasted literally less than 60 seconds. Nearly all the agenda of individual meetings carried a "no press" notice. This of course is at the behest of a president who soon will attend the White House Correspondents Association dinner, where there are more Hollywood stars present than working journalists and whose organization has been reduced to listening to Obama filibuster his own press conferences with long answers to planted questions from those picked to be called upon ahead of time.

A wise mentor once said that no one wants to hear reporters whine about how they have been mistreated. On the other hand, it is difficult to take lightly the disregard for the press held by a Chicago organizer who made it all the way to the White House in record time largely from publicity and enormously favorable treatment from the very journalists he now appears to eschew.

There is something much bigger at stake here. If Obama has decided that he now doesn't need anyone looking over his shoulder, it is a sad day for all of us, and that contention needs no further explanation. Those who are satisfied with only what he wants to tell them without question deserve what they get...

The full column: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/otherviews/2168612,CST-EDT-open17a.article>

Tea Party in Madison WI, 15 April 2010 (yes, even in the "People's Republic of Madison"!)



photo by James D.

Brownstein—or is it Brownstain?

Without bothering to present (or even *allude to*) any evidence, this fool asserts that it was free market policies, not government meddling, that caused the financial crisis of 2008.

Obama's Economic Narrative Gap

by Ron Brownstein, 17 Apr 2010

http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/nj_20100414_3015.php

Climategate whitewash

CRU scientists who removed caveats from IPCC reports are praised for warning of uncertainties in their published work.
by Peter Foster, 15 Apr 2010

...The first of the UEA reports, from a committee headed by ardent warmist and anti-carbon profiteer Lord Oxburgh, appeared this week. As Lawrence Solomon points out elsewhere on this page, the choice of Lord Oxburgh indicated that the fix was always in for an inquiry which fails to address, let alone probe, most of the major issues. And yet there is a mountain of condemnation-by-faint-exoneration between the lines of the report's ridiculously slim five pages.

Its attempt to present CRU head Phil Jones, and his beleaguered band, as unworldly boffins who were blindsided by all this attention is ridiculous. The report claims that it found a "small group of dedicated if slightly disorganised researchers." The key question is: dedicated to what? Certainly, they weren't expecting to be outed quite so spectacularly, but to paint them as innocents in the big bad world of climate realpolitik is nonsense...

...Lord Oxburgh suggested this week that attacks on the CRU had come from people who do not like the "implications" of their conclusions. If by "implications" he means suicidal and pointless policies, then that might have been the one thing he got right. Otherwise, his report is a travesty.

More: <http://network.nationalpost.com/NP/blogs/fpcomment/archive/2010/04/15/peter-foster-climategate-whitewash.aspx>

Obama's terrible powers

by Dick Morris, 13 Apr 2010

If the financial regulation bill that passed the House last year becomes law, President Obama and his Treasury Secretary will acquire the right to take over any financial institution they wish to, provided that, in their sole opinion, it is both “too big to fail” and on the brink of insolvency. The House bill provides for no judicial review and does not require any objective evidence of imminent failure to trigger the takeover provisions....

...Will Obama, or any future president, target companies that are particularly vocal in their opposition to his policies or generous in funding his political opponents? Will the fact that Obama would have this power force companies, investors, CEOs and managers to self-censor their opinions and political involvement because they fear the wrath of a vengeful president? ...

...In a political world where contributions from financial institutions are sought and widely given, doesn't this power give the president and his party unlimited fundraising ability, simply by baring its teeth and showing the power it has to take anybody over and fire anybody? Given the fact that Goldman-Sachs was the second-largest donor to Obama's campaign, giving \$954,795, doesn't this new power raise the specter that the federal government could take over financial institutions so as to make the competition lighter for its donors? ...

Read about the OTHER terrible powers:

<http://thehill.com/opinion/columnists/dick-morris/92019-obamas-terrible-powers?tmpl=component&print=1&page=>



www.CoxAndForkum.com

Small Business vs. Big Government

by Eric Singer, 15 Apr 2010

While the stock market has been buoyant over the last several weeks, small businesses, the heart of U.S. job creation, remain extremely gloomy...At the bottom of the 1982 recession, a net 47% of small businesses indicated they planned to hire more people, and soon after the economy turned sharply up. Currently, a net **negative** 8% of businesses plan to increase hiring...

...The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act creates roughly 100 new Washington bureaucracies that in turn will write the roughly 100,000 new regulations that the laws contemplate. Think of an instant replay of the IRS, its code and all its regulations, but happening in 100 days instead of 100 years. It's enough to make a small businessman's brain explode.

The crumbs thrown to small business in the form of "tax credits," according to the NFIB, are complex, and even if you do figure them out, they evaporate after two years. This is part of why small business, which is responsible for 50% of hiring in the private sector, is not anticipating doing much hiring or capital spending soon.

They also have to worry about changes to the finance laws that may further restrict their access to credit products, and rules increasing the likelihood of unionization at their firms. We used to have a roughly trillion-dollar drag on the

economy from the regulatory burden. It feels like it is doubling.

Big companies can handle it. It creates barriers to entry and, besides, the U.S. is just another market for many. It's the small-business owner, starved for credit, watching slow sales, fast government and growing regulatory drag that is still in trouble. For the small-business owner, Washington has become the arsonist pouring gasoline on the fire he is trying to put out...

Read the rest: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=530389>

Obama's Moral Equivalence on Nukes

by Mark Davis, 13 Apr 2010

Is it good or bad for the United States and Russia to reduce their nuclear arsenals?

Either answer is wrong. But it was a trick question, based on a false equivalency...

Continue: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/opinion/viewpoints/stories/DN-markdavis_0414edi.State.Edition1.2bf5d2a.html

Obama's Nuclear Strutting and Fretting

by Charles Krauthammer, 15 Apr 2010

...So what was the major breakthrough announced by Obama at the end of the two-day conference? That Ukraine, Chile, Mexico and Canada will be getting rid of various amounts of enriched uranium.

What a relief. I don't know about you, but I lie awake nights worrying about Canadian uranium. I know these people. I grew up there. You have no idea what they're capable of doing. If Sidney Crosby hadn't scored that goal to win the Olympic gold medal, there's no telling what might have ensued.

Let us stipulate that sequestering nuclear material is a good thing. But, it is a minor thing, particularly when Iran is off the table, and Pakistan is creating new plutonium for every ounce of Canadian uranium shipped to the U.S.

Perhaps calculating that removing relatively small amounts of fissile material from stable, friendly countries didn't quite do the trick, Obama proudly announced that the U.S. and Russia were disposing of 68 tons of plutonium. Unmentioned was the fact that this agreement was reached 10 years ago—and, under the new protocol, doesn't begin to dispose of the plutonium until 2018. Feeling safer now? ...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/15/AR2010041504663.html>

Good Riddance!

by Thomas Sowell, 13 Apr 2010

When Supreme Court Justices retire, there is usually some pious talk about their "service," especially when it has been a long "service." But the careers of all too many of these retiring jurists, including currently retiring Justice John Paul Stevens, have been an enormous disservice to this country.

Justice Stevens was on the High Court for 35 years— more's the pity, or the disgrace. Justice Stevens voted to sustain racial quotas, created "rights" out of thin air for terrorists, and took away American citizens' rights to their own homes in the infamous "Kelo" decision of 2005...

Read the rest: <http://article.nationalreview.com/431149/good-riddance/thomas-sowell>

The Constitution and Justice Stevens

by Roger Pilon, 12 Apr 2010

http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=11677

How Republican Justices Evolve Leftward

by Stuart Taylor, 13 Apr 2010

...While many liberals see this trend as a case of acquiring wisdom on the job, conservative critics including Justices

Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia have claimed that their more liberal Republican-appointed colleagues have been moved neither by wisdom, nor by legal principle, nor by general public opinion, but by the leftward march of the intellectual elite, especially in the media and academia.

While I would not dismiss the liberal view, the conservative critique seems more plausible. Indeed, it would be only human, as I wrote in a 2003 column, for justices who arrive without settled ideological convictions to **evolve in a liberal direction**.

The justices' reputations are determined in large part by mostly liberal news reporters, commentators and law professors and by liberal feminist, civil rights and professional interest groups such as the American Bar Association. Newly appointed justices who vote conservative are often portrayed as uncompassionate right-wing ideologues. Those who move leftward win praise for enlightenment. ("I ain't evolving," the aggressively conservative Thomas has reportedly told clerks.) And the bright young law clerks—the justices' closest professional collaborators—tend to come from elite law schools where conservative professors are rare birds and general public opinion is widely seen as benighted...

More: <http://ninthjustice.nationaljournal.com/2010/04/how-republican-justices-evolve.php>

So What Happened to Iraq?

by Victor Davis Hanson, 15 April 2010

<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0410/hanson041510.php3>

Waging War on Obamacare

Obama and his allies won the first battle. Market-oriented reformers can still win the war.

by Michael G. Franc and Gary Andres, 15 Apr 2010

<http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=YzZiYjA5ZDMxY2E1NWFiMmJmZTNjODVhOTZmMGJhZjA=>

Dems, Not GOP, Have Taken Side of Wall Street

by Michael Barone, 15 Apr 2010

...Big firms tend to favor regulation because it insulates them from competition and protects them against loss.

Republicans owe no political debt to the big Wall Street firms. In the 2008 campaign cycle, according to the Center for Responsive Politics' [opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org) website, Goldman Sachs personnel contributed \$4.5 million to Democrats and just \$1.5 million to Republicans.

Add in three other big Wall Street firms—Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan Chase and Citigroup—and the total take was \$12.7 million to Democrats and \$6.7 million to Republicans. The image of Wall Streeters as solid Republicans is as dead as J. P. Morgan himself.

The big media tend to portray Republicans as opposed to all financial regulation. But every intelligent person knows that some form of financial regulation is necessary. And the 2008 financial collapse shows we need smarter regulation that will discourage, not encourage, government bailouts of Wall Street...

More:

http://townhall.com/columnists/MichaelBarone/2010/04/15/gop_should_push_tough_regulation_of_wall_street?page=full&comments=true

Listening and Telling the Truth

by Paul Johnson, 8 Apr 2010 (April 26 issue)

Any leader aspiring to greatness must do two things, and he must do them not just at supreme moments or occasionally but all the time. Of course, there are many other things a leader must do, but these are the two that matter most: to listen and to tell the truth...

...But a leader must **know** the truth, however awful, even if—in wartime, for instance—he cannot divulge it. Winston Churchill blamed himself for not knowing—because he did not take the necessary steps to find out—the extent of Singapore's military weakness. The ignominious fall of that military base to the Japanese in 1942 came as one of the biggest shocks in the history of the British Empire...

More: http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2010/0426/opinions-paul-johnson-obama-health-care-current-events_print.html

Tea Party Activists Get No Respect

by Jonathan Gurwitz, 10 Apr 2010

...Thanks to some recent polling, a less distorted image of the tea party movement is emerging. For starters, it's not inordinately composed of angry white men. A USA Today/Gallup poll found that 79 percent of tea party supporters are white — compared with 75 percent of the general population — and 45 percent are women.

Tea partiers aren't all GOP stooges either. The same poll also revealed that 49 percent of tea party supporters are Republican, 43 percent are independent and 8 percent are Democrat. In other words, a majority of tea party members aren't Republican.

What do they want? Well, no one seems to have polled about cross burnings or racial purity tests. But a Winston Group poll found tea partiers united around two core issues: the economy/jobs and reducing the deficit.

In short, the profile of the tea party movement and the concerns of its members aren't that much different from the American people as a whole...

The rest: http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/columnists/jonathan_gurwitz/Tea_party_activists_get_no_respect.html

EPA choking freedom

by Mark Landsbaum, 9 Apr 2010

<http://www.ocreger.com/opinion/-243422--.html>

The Descent of Liberalism

by Michael Knox Beran, 12 Apr 2010

In his 1950 book *The Liberal Imagination*, Lionel Trilling said that “in the United States at this time liberalism is not only the dominant but even the sole intellectual tradition.” Liberalism was no less the dominant political tradition; a coherent conservative opposition had yet to emerge. Over the next 60 years, however, the liberal imagination lost its hold on the American mind. In October 2009 Gallup found that just 20 percent of Americans described themselves as liberals; twice as many called themselves conservatives.

What happened? Part of the answer lies in liberalism's loss of an element that was essential both to its intellectual vitality and to its popular appeal. Liberalism in the middle of the 20th century maintained an equilibrium between the antagonistic principles within it. The classical liberalism that descended from Jefferson and Jackson survived in the movement; the social liberalism that derived from the theories of 19th-century social philosophers, though it was steadily gaining ground, had not yet obtained a complete ascendancy. Liberalism today has lost this equipoise; the progress of the social imagination, with its faith in the power of social science to improve people's lives, has forced liberals to relinquish the principles and even the language of the classical conception of liberty...

Read on: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=YzE5MGVmODg3ZjViODJkM2Y5ZjAzNzY0MTc2N2NmJjU=>

Bribery Strikes Out

It isn't lack of opportunity that keeps poor people poor.

by Heather Mac Donald, 8 Apr 2010

A welfare mother in Central Harlem is not poor for the same reasons that a subsistence corn farmer in Mexico is poor. That's just one of the many self-evident conclusions to emerge from a dangerously misguided antipoverty program begun by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2007. Bloomberg's initiative, Opportunity NYC—Family Rewards, bestows cash rewards on (for the most part) single parents and their children if they act responsibly—by attending school, for example, or by working. Interim results for New York's effort, which is modeled on a program in Mexico that targeted agricultural peasants, are now in. Not all of them are as blindingly obvious, though, as the fact that multigenerational urban poverty in America is far different from Third World rural poverty. One detail in particular stands out: that the lives of America's underclass are characterized by a degree of disorganization that is rarely grasped or acknowledged. The implications of this revelation will be difficult, if not impossible, for the welfare industry to accept...

More: <http://www.city-journal.org/2010/eon0408hm.html>

Buyer's Remorse

by Yuval Levin, 13 Apr 2010

A few weeks after passing “historic” health-care legislation, Democrats in Congress may finally be discovering what other Americans already know in their bones: this law is a horrendous mess. Some members apparently asked the Congressional Research Service (an arm of the Library of Congress that does research for members and staff) to explain to them just what will happen to their own insurance and that of their staffs as a result of the law...

More: <http://corner.nationalreview.com/post/?q=Y2Q5ZTRhNGE4ODQ4MzNhZDYwNjVmZGI0MzVkMWRmOGM=>

Read the bill: Obamacare socks middle class with \$3.9 billion tax increase

by Mark Hemingway, 12 Apr 2010

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/blogs/beltway-confidential/read-the-bill-obamacare-socks-middle-class-with-39-billion-tax-increase.html#>

Medical Schools Can't Keep Up

As ranks of insured expand, nation faces shortage of 150,000 doctors in 15 years.

by Suzanne Sataline and Shirley S. Wang, 12 Apr 2010

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304506904575180331528424238.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_MIDDLENexttoWhatsNewsSecond#printMode

Health law's heavy impact

by Paul Guppy, 28 March 2010

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2010/mar/28/health-laws-heavy-impact/?print-friendly>

Nudge Nudge, Wink Wink

Behavioral economics—the governing theory of Obama's nanny state.

by Andrew Ferguson, 11 Apr 2010 (April 19 issue)

Among the many transformative experiences President Obama says he has planned for us, one in particular has gone relatively unnoticed. He has vowed to remake the methods by which the federal government regulates our homes, our offices, our roads and brooms and thimbles, our roller skates and garden tools and tortilla chips and sunglasses—nearly everything. The federal government regulates nearly everything already, of course, but now the new administration wants to regulate by different lights. A few days after taking office last year, Obama signed a presidential memorandum to set our new transformative experience in motion.

The memorandum began by noting that federal regulatory policy has lately been governed by an executive order issued in 1993. Political activists disliked the old order—EO 12866, as it's known among regulation buffs—because they saw it as a hindrance to new and ever more sweeping regulations. EO 12866 made the job of regulating difficult by requiring a federal agency to perform onerous cost-benefit analyses on each regulation it proposed and to rework the rules that proved too costly. In his memorandum, the president suggested that this approach, while perhaps well-meaning, was the product of a less sophisticated, pre-Obama era....

More: <http://weeklystandard.com/articles/nudge-nudge-wink-wink>

Gratitude and Grace

by Roger Scruton, 2 Apr 2010

...When gifts are replaced by rights, so is gratitude replaced by claims. And claims breed resentment. Since you are queuing on equal terms with the competition, you will begin to think of the special conditions that entitle you to a greater, a speedier, or a more effective share. You will be always one step from the official complaint, the court action, the press interview, and the snarling reproach against Them, the ones who owed you this right and also withheld it. That is the way European society is going, and American society may one day follow it. *Agape*, the contagious gentleness between people, survives only where there is a habit of giving. Take away gift, and *agape* gives way to the attitude that Nietzsche called *ressentiment*, the vigilant envy of others, and the desire to take from them what I but not they have a right to.

Moreover, ingratitude grows in proportion to the benefits received...

You'll be grateful you read the full essay: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/04/02/gratitude-and-grace>

Neighborhood Restaurant Story

a.k.a. Free Home Offer

a.k.a. What Are the Rules?

by Clifford A. Wright, March-Apr 2010

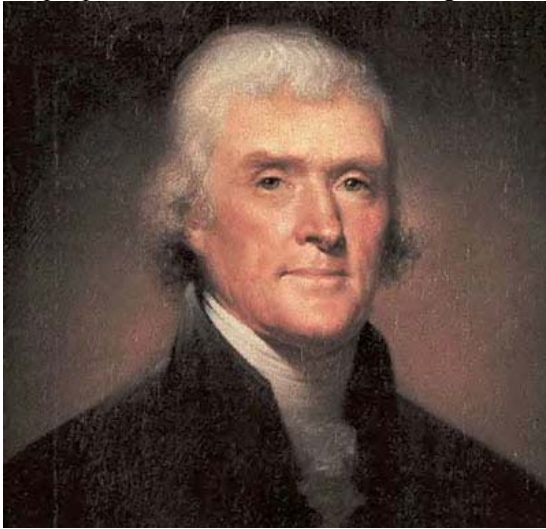
http://www.fourwinds10.com/siterun_data/government/banking_and_taxation_irs_and_insurance/social_security/news.php?q=1270485719

http://suden871.blogspot.com/2010_04_11_archive.html

<http://www.sodahead.com/fun/what-are-the-rules/blog-295072/#comments>

(hat tip: Scott A.)

"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



Thomas Jefferson (April 13, 1743—July 4, 1826)

Biography

A Summary View of the Rights of British America (1774)

Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms (1775, with John Dickinson)

Declaration of Independence (1776)

Notes on the State of Virginia (1783)

First Inaugural Address (1801)

Health care act's two ticking bombs

by Shawn Tully, 9 Apr 2010

...So it would be wonderful for folks like Anthony if the historic health-care reform law scuttled the rules that created the disaster in New York, and made America's insurance markets a lot more like Arizona's. But amazingly, the bill imposes a New York-style regime on the rest of the nation, then makes a gigantic bet that the results won't mimic those of the Empire State.

That's the problem with Obamacare: It's staking its entire success on a complex web of subsidies and penalties designed to pull young and healthy Americans into the insurance system, even as their policies get more expensive. As we'll see, that's an extremely risky wager...

...So the success or failure of ObamaCare depends on how much premiums rise for the young and healthy under the new rules. Be warned: They could explode. That's what happened in New York.

Read the rest: http://money.cnn.com/2010/04/09/news/economy/healthcare_insurance_affordable.fortune/index.htm

Would Goodwin Liu Sink the Left-Leaning 9th Circuit?

by Debra Saunders, 11 Apr 2010

...The National Journal's legal authority, Stuart Taylor Jr., estimates that Liu's writings put "him markedly to the ideological left of all 41 Senate Republicans, at least half of the Democrats, and 80 percent or more of voters."...

...The professor is set to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 16. Last week, Liu, 39, in preparation, filed 117 new items to add to his professional record, which included "some of his most incendiary statements on issues such as affirmative action, school busing and constitutional welfare rights," according to Politico. The committee's ranking Republican, Jeff Sessions of Alabama, noted in a letter to Chairman Patrick Leahy that the omissions at best demonstrated "incompetence" and at worst set "the impression that he knowingly attempted to hide his most controversial work."...

...Last month, 42 of California's 58 district attorneys signed a letter urging the Senate Judiciary Committee to reject Liu, as "his views on criminal law, capital punishment, and the role of the federal courts in second-guessing state decisions are fully aligned with the judges who have made the Ninth Circuit the extreme outlier that it presently is."...

More: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/debra-saunders/would-goodwin-liu-sink-the-left-leaning-9th-circuit-2010-04-11.html>

Israel the Strong Horse

Harsh rhetoric aside, Jordan's King Abdullah is actually rooting for the Jewish State.

What much of the West doesn't grasp about the Arab world.

by Caroline Glick, 9 Apr 2010

...As Smith explains, today, Arab leaders view Israel as a possible strong horse that could defeat the rising Shiite axis that threatens them. And now, as the US under Obama abdicates its leadership role in world affairs by turning on its allies and attempting to appease its foes while scaling back America's own military strength, Israel is the Sunnis' only hope for beating back the Shiite alliance. If Israel does not prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power, then the likes of Kings Abdullah of Jordan and Saudi Arabia and Egypt's Hosni Mubarak are going to be forced to accept Iran as the regional hegemon...

...The recognition that a strong Israel is the most stabilizing force in the region is perhaps the main casualty of the Left's land for peace narrative and the two-state solution paradigm which wrongly promote the weakness of Israel as the foremost potential contributor to stability in the region. Because Israel is everyone's convenient bogeyman, it cannot form permanent alliances with any of its neighbors and as a consequence, it cannot gang up against another state. Because it will always be the first target of the most radical actors in the region, Israel has a permanent interest in defeating them or, at a minimum denying those actors the means to cause catastrophic harm...

More: <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0410/glick040910.php3>

Selfish state of the unions

by Michael Goodwin, 11 Apr 2010

...The way organized labor sees it, sacrifice is for suckers. Let somebody else pay.

There once was a time when public-employee unions were responsible citizens. They saw their members' well-being directly tied to the well-being of the people and institutions they served. The movement was probably more militant 40 years ago, but it famously did its part to help the city out of the fiscal crisis of the '70s.

That is ancient history. The modern movement has seceded from reality.

Instead of recognizing it needs a healthy New York to survive, it aims to bleed the public dry, then demand a bailout. Or maybe it thinks it can just move on to another "host" until it, too, runs out of money...

More: http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/local/selfish_state_of_the_unions_WSzzmpiXwocHHd6FQWYWgL

Preemptive Disarmament

by Claudia Rosett, 8 Apr 2010

...Far from being a major threat, America, nuclear arsenal and all, has long been the world's greatest safeguard: a

deterrent, not an accelerant to war. It is precisely the waning of American resolve that is emboldening the likes of Iran, whose leaders have been sniggering at Obama since he first took office...

...America's nuclear arsenal is not a problem for anyone genuinely interested in civilized norms, including aspirations of world peace. On the nuclear front, America, since dropping the bomb on Nagasaki, 65 years ago, to end World War II, has refrained from using these weapons as anything but a deterrent. America did not use them in the 1950-53 Korean War, and did not use them in Vietnam. America did not use them in Iraq, has not used them in Afghanistan and never used them, anywhere, during more than 40 years of Cold War maneuvers punctuated by hot regional conflicts to stop the expanding Soviet empire.

Not all of that can be explained by the Soviet era standoff of mutually assured destruction. America is an extraordinary case in which a nation has used massive military might not for conquest, but to protect a system that has poured its energies into commerce, creativity and the global spread of freedom and prosperity. American restraint springs from within, overseen by citizens of a democracy and members of a society in which freedom has engendered a remarkable respect for human dignity, liberty and life. Nothing of the kind can be said of such despotic regimes as those of Syria, Libya or North Korea, or the predatory regime in Iran...

...The thrust of Obama's policy has been to increasingly abjure the role of global cop, while enrolling America as a pedestrian member of a world order that depends upon countries honoring civilized norms. In this brave new world, who will do the policing? The United Nations? The European Union? Crocodile Dundee?...

More: <http://www.forbes.com/2010/04/07/nuclear-weapons-disarmament-opinions-columnists-claudia-rosett.html?boxes=opinionschannellatest>

America Rising

by Lisa Stevens Thrasher

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBN1okz3Lv0>

(hat tip: Duane R. Patterson)

God Hates Judges

by Ann Coulter, 7 Apr 2010

...The fact that "speech" was involved in the Fred Phelps cult's assault on Matthew Snyder's funeral is a mundane and irrelevant fact. The question is: Did that speech constitute intentional infliction of emotional distress? Hey, look! That reasonable man over there is nodding his head "yes." If so, the First Amendment is as irrelevant as it is to a copyright law violation.

The Supreme Court has upheld shockingly restrictive bans on speech outside of abortion clinics: content-based restrictions on the speech of pro-lifers singing, "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world, red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world."

Is abortion more sacrosanct than a son's funeral? Is singing "Jesus loves the little children" deserving of less First Amendment protection than placards saying, "God Loves Dead Soldiers"? ...

The full column: http://www.anncoulter.com/cgi-local/printer_friendly.cgi?article=363

Nomination for Justice post withdraws

by Evan Perez, 9 Apr 2010

Dawn Johnsen withdrew her nomination to lead the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, after becoming a lightning rod for Republican opposition and languishing more than a year in the Senate confirmation process.

Ms. Johnsen, an Indiana University professor, was a strident critic of the Bush administration's counterterrorism policies and the legal theories used to create them.

Those views and her past work for a group that supports abortion rights led stiff opposition from Republicans and some Democrats. The opponents made sure she never got a final Senate confirmation vote, although she was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee...

More:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304222504575174440161725322.html?mod=WSJ_WSJ_US_PoliticsNCampaign_4#articleTabs%3Darticle

True North strong not free

by Mark Steyn, 8 Apr 2010

... "We don't have a First Amendment, we don't have a religion of free speech," she explained patiently. "Students sign off on all kinds of agreements as to how they'll behave on campus, in order to respect diversity, equity, all of the values that Canadians really care about. Those are the things that drive our political culture. Not freedoms, not rugged individualism, not free speech. It's different, and for us, it works."

Does it? You rarely hear it put quite that bluntly—"Freedoms"? Ha! Who needs 'em?—but there was a lot of similarly self-regarding blather in Coulter Week euphemizing a stultifying, enforced conformism as "respect" and "diversity" and whatnot. "I therefore ask you, while you are a guest on our campus, to weigh your words with respect and civility in mind," wrote François Houle, the provost of the University of Ottawa, addressing Miss Coulter in the smug, condescending, preening tone that comes so naturally to your taxpayer-funded, tenured mediocrity. "There is a strong tradition in Canada, including at this university, of restraint, respect and consideration in expressing even provocative and controversial opinions and urge you [sic] to respect that Canadian tradition."

Because, after all, nothing says "restraint" and "respect" and "civility" more than a snarling mob using the threat of violence to shut down those it dislikes—and all for that beloved "Canadian tradition." Strange that the more Canada congratulates itself on its "tolerance" the less it's prepared to tolerate. "If any Canadian spoke like Ann Coulter," wrote Denise Cooke-Browne, "he'd be jailed." And she says that like it's a good thing...

More: <http://www2.macleans.ca/2010/04/08/true-north-strong-not-free/>

What the Euphemisms Tell Us

by Mona Charen, 10 Apr 2010

In the latest installment of politically correct, not to say Orwellian, language emanating from the Obama administration, the term "rogue states" has been sidelined in favor of "outliers." The switch was unveiled as part of the just released Nuclear Posture Review...

... These euphemisms betray a weak-mindedness about foreign policy the likes of which we have not seen since Jimmy Carter warned us about our "inordinate fear of communism." This attention to softening our image arises from the leftist conviction that strife and trouble in the world are the result of U.S. bullying and bravado, or can at least be diminished by American meekness. This is such an ingrained worldview that nothing as mundane as experience can shake it. Thus we have the spectacle of Barack Obama, repeatedly rebuffed in the most graphic terms by Iran's ruling gangsters, nevertheless persisting in seeking engagement.

The New Start Treaty is of a piece with this foreign policy of polite feebleness. No one imagines that a war between Russia and the U.S. is likely (not that arms treaties prevent wars, but that's another matter). Yet the showy signing ceremony is meant to set a good example to rogue, oops, outlier nations. As the teenagers used to say, "As if."

The president did issue a couple of warning words to Iran as he clinked glasses with Medvedev. But they cannot obscure the larger message of his first year—U.S. self-assertion, self-defense, and sovereignty have been morally wrong, and he is changing all that.

Read it all: <http://article.nationalreview.com/430822/what-the-euphemisms-tell-us/mona-charen>

A Trip Down Memory Lane

by Evan Coyne Maloney, 31 March 2010

... If you've opened up a newspaper or watched a cable news program in the past week or so, you've probably seen members of the media painting Tea Party activists as dangerous bigots. That's because disagreeing with President Obama on issues like government spending and high taxes makes you a racist, you see.

What's interesting about the media's latest freak-out is that there were radicals a-plenty under President Bush. They protested in the streets. They talked openly about revolution and killing. But oddly, the violent imagery used by people claiming to be advocates for peace never registered with the media. They were too busy fawning over Cindy Sheehan.

Why the difference in coverage? Did the media cheerlead the protests against President Bush to hurt him politically? Are they trying to marginalize the increasingly powerful Tea Party movement because they favor President Obama's agenda? One thing's for sure: If there is such a thing as dangerous rhetoric, then the media is at least one president too late in reporting the story.

Don't believe me? Well, then let's take a trip down memory lane...

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6b1VOAATNk>
<http://brain-terminal.com/posts/2010/03/31/a-trip-down-memory-lane#2754>

Out of Control

by Dick Arme, 6 Apr 2010

Back when I was an economics professor, I was always amazed to hear faculty members complain that the United States was not more like Europe. They were enamored with the cradle-to-grave entitlements of the European welfare state...

...The relationship between the private sector and the government is similar to that of a jockey and horse. The winning combination is a strong and fast horse with a nimble and light jockey. In this case the horse is the private sector and the jockey is the government. When the jockey grows too large, and the horse is starved, eventually the horse will collapse under the weight of the jockey.

Advocates of big government do not understand this. They take our freedom and prosperity for granted. We now find this commitment to personal and economic liberty being challenged by the size of government...

Milton Friedman warned us that the true rate of taxation is government spending. With trillion-dollar deficits projected for years to come, I fear the greatest threat to our freedom and way of life will come from our out-of-control deficits. Eventually you must pay the piper, and the government will either deflate our currency or impose catastrophically high taxes and institute a national sales tax. Or, even worse, it will pursue a combination of both bad ideas.

Higher taxes degrade our standard of living, leaving citizens with fewer choices and fewer dreams. Taxes and a bloated public sector rob the private sector of much-needed capital investment. Capital is like fertilizer: when it's spread on the private sector it grows the economy; when it's fed to the government it grows more government. This is the challenge handed to the new crop of freedom-loving patriots: government is growing too big and too costly, and it needs to be reined in...

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/04/06/out-of-control>

Nuclear Posturing, Obama Style

by Charles Krauthammer, 9 Apr 2010

...Under President Obama's new policy, however, if the state that has just attacked us with biological or chemical weapons is "in compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)," explained Gates, then "the U.S. pledges not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against it."

Imagine the scenario: Hundreds of thousands are lying dead in the streets of Boston after a massive anthrax or nerve gas attack. The president immediately calls in the lawyers to determine whether the attacking state is in compliance with the NPT. If it turns out that the attacker is up-to-date with its latest IAEA inspections, well, it gets immunity from nuclear retaliation. (Our response is then restricted to bullets, bombs and other conventional munitions.)

However, if the lawyers tell the president that the attacking state is NPT noncompliant, we are free to blow the bastards to nuclear kingdom come.

This is quite insane. It's like saying that if a terrorist deliberately uses his car to mow down a hundred people waiting at a bus stop, the decision as to whether he gets (a) hanged or (b) 100 hours of community service hinges entirely on whether his car had passed emissions inspections.

Apart from being morally bizarre, the Obama policy is strategically loopy. Does anyone believe that North Korea or Iran will be more persuaded to abjure nuclear weapons because they could then carry out a biological or chemical attack on the U.S. without fear of nuclear retaliation? ...

Read the rest: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/08/AR2010040804507.html>

Time For a 180, America

by Janine Turner, 7 Apr 2010

We the People need to turn around and look back at our Constitution and the Federalist Papers for guidance on how to move our nation forward in this time of crisis. We must join together in a unifying mission to become aware of what is in these great documents. Let's get cracking and do 90 readings in 90 days...

Continue: <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2010/04/07/janine-turner-constitution-federalist-papers-read-founding-fathers/>

What's Not Happening to American Muslims

To hear Hollywood and the media tell it, American Muslims were the ultimate victims of 9/11. What nonsense.

by *Dorothy Rabinowitz*, 8 Apr 2010

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304017404575166270042320854.html>

America's Wounded Ally

India is annoyed by Obama.

by *Sumit Ganguly*, 2 Apr 2010 (*April 12 issue*)

...Obama's predecessors built a relationship around trade negotiations, joint military exercises, and ad hoc coalitions for humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of the Indonesia tsunami. Despite his reputation for uniquely pushy diplomacy, it was George W. Bush who concluded the landmark deal that recognized India as a legitimate nuclear power and opened the door to the sale of civilian nuclear technology to India. No single American move has done more to demonstrate Washington's respect for New Delhi as a rising and equal power. Now Obama, who came to office promising to respect U.S. allies, is backpedaling on that deal, to the growing chagrin of the Indians. Obama appears largely oblivious to India's concerns...

...Top Obama advisers, like national-security adviser James Jones and the special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke, have little experience in South Asia and have displayed remarkable naiveté in public statements. More than once, Jones has argued that reducing Indo-Pakistani tensions would allow Pakistan to redeploy forces from its Indian border to the fight against the Taliban along the Afghan border. This is utterly fatuous in the view of Indian officials, who believe Pakistan is still dallying with the terrorists who target Indian interests in Kashmir and who orchestrated the devastating 2008 attacks on Mumbai...

...India won't wait indefinitely for the White House to put the relationship back on track. Instead, it is cutting deals with nations that respect its significance. Russia, which had let old Soviet ties to India wither, is now dramatically renewing the connection. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin recently visited India and went home with multiple agreements, including deals on civilian nuclear energy and more than \$1.5 billion worth of advanced naval aircraft. Obama's inattention is what makes Russia's advance possible...

More: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/235819>

Political Implications of the Moscow Terror Bombings

by *Cathy Young*, 7 Apr 2010

The explosions that struck on the Moscow subway on the morning of March 29, killing 39 people in two separate attacks and injuring dozens more, have brought back inevitable memories of the terrorist bombings that rocked Russia more than a decade ago...

...Theoretically, an attempt to shore up Putin's strongman credentials could also be related to Kremlin power struggles. While Medvedev is still widely regarded as a puppet and Putin as the real authority, conflicting signals continue. Medvedev's talk of the need for "modernization" has been seen as a call for both economic and political liberalization in Russia, as well as an implicit critique of Putin-era policies.

With Medvedev's first term as President ending in two years, the question of whether he will run for re-election or cede the presidency back to Putin (the two-term limit for presidents in the Russian Constitution applies only to consecutive terms) is increasingly relevant. Some top Medvedev advisors such as political consultant Igor Yurgens have openly urged him to run on a modernization platform, with backing from a substantial group of reform-minded people in the upper echelons of government. Such statements, Piontkovsky wrote two weeks before the subway bombings, amount to a declaration of war, making "a decisive battle between the two Kremlin clans" practically inevitable...

More: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/04/07/political_implications_of_the_moscow_terror_bombings_105081.html

Obama's List

by J.R. Dunn, 6 Apr 2010

Over the past year and a half, we've seen much in the way of speculation of what Obama is really up to, what his true agenda might be behind all the soothing and meretricious rhetoric. It was quite clear that "Obama" was a construct, a carefully manufactured image, as all politicians are to one extent or another. But Obama was an extreme example—all image, most of it having little or no connection with any discernible substance. The gap between what he said and what he would then proceed to do was wide and glaring. This obvious and undeniable discontinuity is the major factor feeding all the conspiracy theories—the ones featuring George Soros as puppet-master, the claims of adherence to Islam, and so forth. If only it were that simple! The past few weeks have clearly revealed that Obama is something at the same time entirely more commonplace while also being more obnoxious...

Read on: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/04/obamas_list.html
(hat tip: Virginia J.)

You Picked a Fine Time to Lead Us, Barack

by WhiskersFish, 20 March 2010

Watch: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_W57aBMYKvU
(hat tip: Al H.)

The EPA's Ginormous Power Grab

by Iain Murray, 8 Apr 2010

It's a sure sign that a government agency has become overmighty when it vastly increases its budget, grabs power unconstitutionally and treats Congress with contempt. All of this applies to the Environmental Protection Agency...

...Fortunately, some lawmakers have caught on to what the EPA is up to. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Alaska Republican, was so concerned that she wrote to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, asking 13 simple questions about the proposed course of action. The reply she received was so evasive that it answered only two of the questions - and partially at that.

Congress may soon get its first real opportunity to rein in this rogue agency. Sometime between now and May 25, the Senate is expected to vote on Mrs. Murkowski's Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution of disapproval. This measure would veto the legal force and effect of EPA's endangerment finding. The EPA's nongovernmental allies are so worried about this resolution that they have engaged in a smear campaign, accusing Mrs. Murkowski and others of seeking to impose a "Dirty Air Act." She has not been intimidated, though, and her proposal is likely to come to a vote.

A rogue regulatory agency is like an oil tanker with sails. Once in motion, it takes a lot to stop it. Congress can take the wind out of the EPA's sails through the Murkowski resolution of disapproval and a significant reduction in the agency's budget. On the other hand, if the EPA gets away with this power grab, we can expect further abuses of its authority...

Full story: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/apr/08/epas-ginormous-power-grab/>

Obama Is Weakening America

by Tunku Varadarajan, 6 Apr 2010

...In terms of foreign policy—or, better put, foreign clout—the U.S. is going through a startling period of auto-emasculation. Barack Obama has discarded his predecessor's big stick—the wielding of which should have confirmed the flaws not of big sticks but of his predecessor—and replaced it with a mission of almost messianic outreach to our foes and most adamant competitors (while, at the same time, snubbing allies like Britain, Israel and India...

...In the Obama narrative, America has been a reckless source of trouble for the world because of its arrogant interventionism. Obama's solution, in the words of Charles Hill, a professor at Yale, is the following: "Close out the wars, disengage, and distance ourselves in order to carry out the real objective: the achievement of a European-style welfare state. Just as Reagan downsized government by starving it through budget cuts, Obama will downsize the military-industrial complex by directing so much money into health care, environ-o-care, etc., that we, like the Europeans, will have no funds available to maintain world power. This will gain the confidence of those regimes adversarial to us as they recognize we will no longer be a threat to them and that we will acquiesce in their maintenance of power over their people." All will be well with the world...

More: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-04-06/obama-embarrassed-by-america>

How much taxation is enough?

'Tea Partiers' understand the link between taxes and freedom. Somehow, liberals just don't get it.

by *Jonah Goldberg*, 6 Apr 2010

...Personally, I have never understood liberalism's blind spot for liberty when it comes to taxation. A 24-hour waiting period before a teenager can have an abortion is an allegedly grotesque violation of individual freedom, but a federal government that takes vast amounts of your money — the means by which you exercise your every freedom — to distribute as it sees fit is "progressive"? The USA Patriot Act, whose threat to privacy was somewhere between entirely theoretical and non-existent for the overwhelming majority of Americans, shocked the liberal conscience. But our income tax system — made idiotically complex by both parties — demands countless hours of preparation and requires law abiding citizens to reveal (and document!) many of their most private decisions to government inspectors every year is "reasonable." Yet many liberals even think complaining about this is a sign of right-wing dementia.

Now, under ObamaCare, the IRS is going to branch out into the field of health care, enforcing mandates and collecting fees. Perhaps it's not entirely paranoid to fear that this will make the IRS' past intrusions of proctological exactitude even less metaphorical.

I bring this up because many in the Democratic Party and in the news media have a hard time understanding what the "Tea Party" crowd is talking about when it complains of incipient tyranny and intrusive government. This might be why much of the media keep making up motives for the Tea Partiers rather than taking them at their word...

Read it all: <http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2010/04/column-how-much-taxation-is-enough.html>

Liberal journalist admits Democrats will cut health costs by restricting care

In Medicine, the Power of No

by *David Leonhardt*, 6 Apr 2010

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/07/business/economy/07leonhardt.html>

Adam Sharp on his video debate with Rep. Phil Hare (D-IL)

with *Neil Cavuto*, 2 Apr 2010

<http://sharpebrowsstl.blogspot.com/2010/04/on-with-cavuto.html>

Obamalateral Disarmament

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 7 Apr 2010

Aiming at a world where nuclear weapons are obsolete, the administration's nuclear posture review leaves a world without American nuclear weapons and the backbone to use them...

...The U.S. is now promising not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states that are in compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, even if they attack America with biological or chemical weapons or launch a paralyzing cyberattack.

This is good news for our enemies to know — they can wipe out much of New York City, but as long as their signature is on that piece of paper, their capital is safe from becoming a pile of irradiated rubble. We are not making this up.

In this nuclear posture, which can best be described as slouching in a recliner, we renounce the development of any new nuclear weapons, thus ensuring the aging of our nuclear deterrent into obsolescence and irrelevance...

Read the rest: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=529511>

The bad-nukes myth

by *Ralph Peters*, 7 Apr 2010

...The seeds sown by the deceased USSR put down durable roots. Pursuing a nuke-free world became a litmus test

for the left.

Now we have a president who's taken on that goal as his personal grail. He's absolutely right that nukes have horrifying power—but the paradox of deterrence is that, the more monstrous the weapons you possess, the less likely you are to ever need to employ them.

The new policy won't stop Iran and other rogue states from pursuing nukes (even though Iran and North Korea were singled out as policy exceptions). But it *will* accelerate the proliferation of other weapons of mass destruction. And it certainly won't reduce the probability of war.

It will also ensure that our aging arsenal will have to be content with a few Band-Aids; that we won't develop new, safer nuclear weapons—and that we'll increasingly have to rely on the kindness of strangers.

Idealists just invited the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse to ride a little closer.

More: http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/the_bad_nukes_myth_FdlnLjZQ8ZQ8LHBrbJRNVM

Bing West was an assistant secretary of defense in the Reagan administration.

How to Save Afghanistan From Karzai

by Bing West, 7 Apr 2010

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/07/opinion/07west.html?pagewanted=print>

Karzai's new low

by Ralph Peters, 6 Apr 2010

Our government continues to insist that imminent magic will make President Hamid Karzai reform and make his Afghan government perform. Ain't gonna happen. The better diplomats and generals know it. But they continue to play along—because we don't have Plan B and never did.

We're married to an abusive spouse and keep going back for more. We give Karzai lavish presents (an entire country), but he just keeps demanding more—while cheating on us...

...We refused to recognize how xenophobic Afghan tribal culture remains. Aid programs would fix everything. We didn't have a clue. Our tens of billions in aid money merely enriched well-connected Afghans. The poor were left in the dirt, seething with envy.

Contrary to the nonsense of the left, Bush's mistake wasn't that he did too little in Afghanistan—but that, from 2002 onward, he did too much. Now we're doing much too much. To preserve the regime of an Afghan president whose betrayals grow more flagrant every week, we're sending another 30,000 US troops.

Over the years, I've heard plenty of horror stories of women who fell for Middle Eastern men living in the West. The males seemed so considerate, promising the moon and the stars. But, after the marriage, on returning "home," they reverted to the patterns of their own repressive culture. Our problem with Hamid Karzai is that he's Afghan.

Read it all: http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/karzai_new_low_JfRxe6UV6zXCjdEalGAsLM

From Monday's *Hugh Hewitt Show*:

O.i.i.o.h.h. shirts

Well worth \$27. I like the ones with the water:

http://www.printfection.com/hughhewitt/T-Shirts/_s_345125

CPSC Commissioner Anne Northup

Consumer Products Safety Commission member [Anne Northup](#) was Hugh's guest. Her blog [Safety and Common Sense](#) ought to be a model for federal appointees dealing with controversial subjects like the CPSIA. Later this week, the transcript will be posted here: <http://www.hughhewitt.com/transcripts.aspx>

Mrs. Northup (R-KY) was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1997 to 2007. President Obama nominated her last summer because two of the five commissioners *must* be from the minority party.

Ethanol is crap. Expensive crap.

Stop 'Big Corn'

Washington Times editorial, 5 Apr 2010

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/apr/05/stop-big-corn/>

Bowing to Tehran

by Ben Stein, 5 Apr 2010

There are words for national leaders who attempt to appease their enemies while at the same time shaming and humiliating their friends. One of the kindest of the words is "naive." This comes to mind because of President Obama's recent overtures to the terrorist state of Iran, while shaming Israel.

In recent months and days, President Obama has, once again, reached out a supplicating hand to The Islamic Republic of Iran, only to be met by mockery, sarcasm, and rebuff. He has also agreed to only the most modest of sanctions against the Tehran regime to induce it to abandon its nuclear weapons program—a program which Tehran's Ahmadinejad has said he will not abandon no matter what the rest of the world does...

Continue: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/04/05/bowing-to-tehran>

Still waiting for that ObamaCare bounce

by Kyle Wingfield, 5 Apr 2010

...Pundits keep trying to guess how much longer the public will stomach hearing about health care, given that it has dominated the public debate since last summer. The conventional wisdom is that people will tire of hearing about health care, but I think that's only half-right. People may tire of hearing only about health care, but this kind of early hardening of opinion against ObamaCare suggests that it could easily remain at the heart of a broader election-year debate about the size and scope of government.

One piece of evidence for my thinking: The early results of the voting at ContractFromAmerica.com. The top three vote-getters so far are a requirement that Congress cite the specific provision of the Constitution that gives it authority to pass any given bill; the rejection of a cap-and-trade plan for CO2 emissions; and a balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution. Each of these ideas has received support from at least two-thirds of the participants so far; the online vote is still under way, and the full results will be announced April 15.

The president says it will take more than one week for public opinion of ObamaCare to improve. Fair enough. In the meantime, as the public learns more about what's in the new law, the hole is only getting deeper.

More: http://blogs.ajc.com/kyle-wingfield/2010/04/05/still-waiting-for-that-obamacare-bounce/?cxntfid=blogs_kyle_wingfield

The Way Forward for Republicans, Tea Partiers

by Clifford Asness, 5 Apr 2010

...So, here is the crux of the matter. Going forward, we must continue to make the difficult arguments. We must eschew the easy "sound bite" attacks. They have a short shelf-life, little resonance beyond their utterance, and only open us up to bizarre counter-attacks simply for the temerity of pointing out our opponents' failings. We must focus on how we truly differ from them. Essentially, we believe in small government and freedom, while they believe in big government and the accompanying tyrannies small and large. We believe in our way because it offers the best life for the most people, and, importantly, because liberty is the morally right answer. But, frankly, as odd as this may sound, their false argument is easier to make than our true one. Their argument is "look at all the free stuff government can give you, and look at all those evil corporations and Republicans who want to stop it."

Forget that their boogeyman—"Wall Street"—donated huge amounts to Democrats in the last election, forget that insurance companies were on board with their "reform" plan (to insurance companies' shame) until the Left turned on them after Scott Brown. We will never beat them by pointing out their hypocrisies. They smile and ignore it. We won't even beat them by pointing out the utter immorality of how they passed this horrific legislation, from bribes to threats to every legislative piece of legerdemain ever devised. We must beat them by repeatedly making the hard arguments as to why liberty works and why it is the moral choice.

We must win by explaining, no matter how long it may take and hard it may be, that free people acting in a free

market is what this country stands for, is the only ethical way to live, and happens to be the greatest anti-poverty and civil rights program on earth. This is harder than saying "here's some free stuff, now vote for us forever or you'll lose it." But, it's the right thing to do for America, and even the right thing to do politically. If the other party is trying to hook the American people by pushing drugs (entitlements and such) on them, we won't win elections by pushing slightly less attractive drugs! ...

More: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/04/05/the_way_forward_for_republicans_105047.html

Or: [http://www.stumblingontruth.com/articles/The%20Republican%20\(and%20Tea%20Party\)%20Way%20Forward.pdf](http://www.stumblingontruth.com/articles/The%20Republican%20(and%20Tea%20Party)%20Way%20Forward.pdf)

What 1946 Can Tell Us About 2010

by Michael Barone, 6 Apr 2010

It is interesting to look back at the biggest Republican victory of the last 80 years, the off-year election of 1946. What's similar and what's different today?

Recent polls tell me that the Democratic Party is in the worst shape I have seen during my 50 years of following politics closely. So I thought it would be interesting to look back at the biggest Republican victory of the last 80 years, the off-year election of 1946. Republicans in that election gained 13 seats in the Senate and emerged with a 51–45 majority there, the largest majority that they enjoyed between 1930 and 1980. And they gained 55 seats in the House, giving them a 246–188 majority in that body, the largest majority they have held since 1930. The popular vote for the House was 53% Republican and 44% Democratic, a bigger margin than Republicans have won ever since...

Fascinating: <http://www.american.com/archive/2010/april/what-1946-can-tell-us-about-2010>

Obama's 17-Minute Non-Answer Answer

by Debra Saunders, 6 Apr 2010

...The president's remarks at a North Carolina lithium battery plant last Friday were so tedious as to garner attention of, among others, the Washington Post's Anne E. Kornblut. In answer to a question from Doris of Lake Wylie, S.C., Kornblut wrote that Obama gave a 17-minute response that lulled "the crowd into a daze" as "his discursive answer—more than 2,500 words long—wandered from topic to topic."

The worst part: Obama didn't answer the question. He didn't even come close. This is what Doris asked: "In the economic times that we have now, is it a wise decision to add more taxes to us with health care?" She added, "Because we are overtaxed as it is."

Obama's answer, abridged: The prince of self-pity started with his usual lament about "misinformation" from his critics. "No. 1," he began, America is the only advanced country not to have health care for 50 million citizens.....

.....Then, 17 minutes after the query, he said, "I hope I answered your question." Actually, he had answered every question but the over-taxed question...

More: <http://www.creators.com/conservative/debra-saunders/obama-s-17-minute-non-answer-answer.html>

Video, part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fo1aTwOhzo>

Video, part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d12Lw0qiVv0>

Video, part 3: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZMjzLVRLGw>



Church gets an unfair rap

Pope has been at forefront of change.

by *George Weigel*, 4 Apr 2010

...In the United States alone, there are reportedly tens of millions of victims of childhood sexual abuse. In the years between 1991 and 2000, according to Virginia Commonwealth University researcher Charol Shakeshaft, 290,000 students were sexually abused in American **public** schools. Worse yet, studies indicate that 40 percent to 60 percent of sexual abuse takes place within families—often at the hands of second husbands or live-in boyfriends. Throughout the world, children seem to be the principal victims of lawlessness, wanton cruelty, the sexual revolution, and the hookup culture that treats sex as a contact sport: one in which everyone, of any age, is a potential player.

Yet amid this global squalor, one institution has begun to come to grips with its past failures to protect the young people in its care. One institution has acknowledged its grave failures in the past. One institution has brought perpetrators of abuse to book. That institution is the Catholic Church.

Far more than the public schools, far more than the teachers' unions, far more than other organizations that regularly work with young people, and far more than countries that turn a blind eye on sex trafficking and childhood prostitution, the Catholic Church has addressed what Pope Benedict XVI has called the "filth" in its own house...

More: http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/20100404_Church_gets_an_unfair_rap.html

Justice Arrested in Venezuela

Oswaldo Álvarez Paz's arrest is evidence of Chávez's abuse of the legal system and the silencing of his critics.

by *Vaclav Havel*, 3 Apr 2010

...Under Chávez's rule, a radical form of state-sanctioned lawlessness has taken hold in the country. You could say that Venezuela now exists as a "lawless legality", a political system within which officials deny that in making or interpreting laws they are bound in any way by the spirit of justice that underpins those laws.

But the idea of arbitrary power exercised by any leader or political movement, no matter how much he or it claims to represent the poor and downtrodden—as Chávez does—is alien to all concepts of liberty. It is the legalism of the barbarian, and the instinctive political philosophy of all who are in revolt against democratic norms of behaviour.

The world must demand of Venezuela's authorities that they release Álvarez Paz immediately... The OAS needs to act soon, because Venezuelans are due to vote for a new parliament this coming September.

Last year, Chávez won a referendum that he had called to abolish term limits for presidents and other senior elected officials. Now, opinion polls are showing unprecedented levels of discontent over crime, inflation, and power and water shortages. There were big antigovernment protests in Caracas after a privately owned cable television channel, RCTV, was shut down. Venezuelans appear to be prepared to stop their country's steady drift toward dictatorship, which may also explain why Álvarez Paz was arrested...

Read the rest: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2010/apr/03/hugo-chavez-venezuela-arrest-alvarezpaz>

Rush Limbaugh, Chris Matthews and the 'regime' question

by *Byron York*, 3 Apr 2010

...By using the word "regime," Limbaugh was doing something he does all the time: throwing the language of the opposition back in their faces. In the Bush years, we often heard the phrase "Bush regime" from some quarters of the left. So Limbaugh applied it to Obama.

Apparently some people didn't get it. On MSNBC, Chris Matthews appeared deeply troubled by the word. "I've never seen language like this in the American press," he said...Matthews didn't stop there. "I never heard the word 'regime,' before, have you?" he said to NBC's Chuck Todd. "I don't even think Joe McCarthy ever called this government a 'regime.'"

It appears that Matthews has suffered a major memory loss. I don't have the facilities to search for every utterance of Joe McCarthy, but a look at more recent times reveals many, many, many examples of the phrase "Bush regime." In fact, a search of the Nexis database for "Bush regime" yields 6,769 examples from January 20, 2001 to the present...

And where do you think "Bush regime" was found most often?

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/blogs/beltway-confidential/Rush-Limbaugh-Chris-Matthews-and-the-regime-question-89848762.html>

Progressives Gone Wild?

by Jonathan Gurwitz, 4 Apr 2010

...John Avlon, author of *Wingnuts: How the Lunatic Fringe is Hijacking America*, writes on the Daily Beast that acts of vandalism and threats against Democratic lawmakers create "parallels, intentional or not, to the Nazis' heinous 1938 Kristallnacht, or 'Night of Broken Glass,' so-named for the 7,000 storefront windows that were smashed."

Got that? The shameful vandalism of a handful of Democratic offices means the Third Reich is emerging in America. But broken windows at Republican offices and an actual threat to kill a Jewish GOP lawmaker aren't even worthy of a mention.

The people doing the condemning also need to keep some sense of balance. Where were they when Photoshopping George W. Bush's face onto the body of Hitler or carrying signs equating him with Nazism represented the height of rhetorical creativity? Where were they when anti-Bush progressives made the fantasy snuff film *Death of a President*? Where are they now as the game "Kill George Bush" racks up visitors on Internet video game sites?...

More: http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/Progressives_gone_wild.html?showFullArticle=y

He's not Churchill. He's not Reagan. He's not Thatcher. Not yet. But then, he's only 40. Give him time.

Should America Bid Farewell to Exceptional Freedom?

Speech by Rep. Paul D. Ryan to the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, Oklahoma City, 31 March 2010

...Americans are preparing to fight another American Revolution—this time, a peaceful one with election ballots—but the "causes" of both are the same:

Should unchecked centralized government be allowed to grow and grow in power—or should its powers be limited and returned to the people?

Should irresponsible leaders in a distant capital be encouraged to run up scandalous debts without limit that crush jobs and stall prosperity—or should the reckless be turned out of office and a new government elected to live within its means?

Should America bid farewell to exceptional freedom and follow the retreat to European social welfare paternalism—or should we make a new start, in the faith that boundless opportunities belong to the workers, the builders, the industrious, and the free?

We are at the beginning of an election campaign like you've never seen before!

We are challenged to answer again the momentous questions our Founders raised when they launched mankind's noblest experiment in human freedom. They made a fundamental choice and changed history for the better. Now it's our high calling to make that choice: between managed scarcity, or solid growth; between living in dependency on government handouts, or taking responsibility for our lives; between confiscating the earnings of some and spreading them around, or securing everyone's right to the rewards of their work; between bureaucratic central government, or self-government; between the European social welfare state or the American idea of free market democracy.

What kind of nation do we wish to be? What kind of society will we hand down to our children and future generations? In the coming watershed election, the nature of this unique and exceptional land is at stake. We will choose one of two different paths. And once we make that choice, there's no going back. This is not the kind of election I would prefer. But it was forced on us by the leaders of our government...

Read it all: http://www.freespeechamerica.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2280:should-america-bid-farewell-to-exceptional-freedom

NASA data worse than Climate-Gate data, space agency admits

by Blake Snow, 30 March 2010

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2010/03/30/nasa-data-worse-than-climategate-data/>

New health care law isn't what this doctor ordered

by Marc Siegel, 1 Apr 2010

...I am one of those doctors who believe the new law is bad for doctors and, therefore, patients. Unfortunately, no one has listened to us. So get ready, America. Here's how I see health care changing under this new law:

Insurance premiums are bound to go up as patients with pre-existing conditions are covered. We've seen this time and again, most recently in 2006 after Massachusetts passed universal health insurance. If Congress institutes national caps on premiums, private insurers will need to cut services to maintain even slight profits. If at the same time, Medicare is gutted by half a trillion dollars — as the new law intends — a decrease in services and reimbursements will follow. Private insurers will follow Medicare's lead.

The bottom line: I will be seeing more patients for less money amid increasing federal oversight and an inevitable restriction in services. This will be a disaster for doctors like me who are struggling to keep offices open as expenses soar (nearly 20% annually over the past nine years), as well as doctors just starting out, often saddled with hefty student loans.

My waiting room is already filled with patients whom I see more for a sense of personal satisfaction than any recompense....

More: <http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2010/04/column-new-health-care-law-isnt-what-this-doctor-ordered-.html>

Barack Obama's Helter-Skelter, Insane Clown Posse, Alinsky plans to 'deconstruct' America

by Andrew Breitbart, 2 Apr 2010

<http://bigjournalism.com/abreitbart/2010/04/02/barack-obamas-helter-skelter-insane-clown-posse-alinsky-planes-to-deconstruct-america/>

The **corrupt** Senator **Dodd** is retiring from **politics** this year, because his poll numbers finally went as **low** as his morality. Another Democrat will take over his seat next January. This is **Dodd's** parting shot, capping **decades** of willful **harm** to his country.

A Grotesquerie

by Steve Forbes, 3 Apr 2010 (April 12 issue)

...Senator Chris Dodd's (D-Conn.) recently unveiled package of financial regulatory reforms is a neosocialist's dream. It is also destructively stupid. The bill doesn't address the key causes of the recent economic crisis: the Fed's too loose monetary policy, the behavior of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in buying or guaranteeing almost \$1.5 trillion in junk mortgages and the failure to properly regulate credit default swaps and other derivatives.

Dodd's punting on swaps is astonishing. Years ago Washington should have mandated that such instruments go through clearinghouses so there'd be full transparency and proper margin requirements. After all, classic derivatives such as soybeans and currency futures have had margin requirements and clearing mechanisms.

In the name of fighting Washington's too-big-to-fail doctrine for major financial institutions, Dodd's bill is a de facto institutionalization of them...

...The Dodd bill is an open invitation for government to micromanage the whole breadth of finance in America, including even your local pawnshop. Nationalizing the U.S. financial system without formally nationalizing it—Karl Marx would be drooling in delight...

More: http://www.forbes.com/2010/03/24/fact-and-comment-opinions-steve-forbes_print.html



.rushlimbaugh.com

No Speech for You

by David Harsanyi, 2 Apr 2010

...In the letter, Waxman asserts, "The new law is designed to expand coverage and bring down costs, so your assertions are a matter of concern." And everyone knows that it is impossible for legislation to have unintended consequences. Whom are you going to believe, numbers or Joe Biden?...

...Boy, if only these corporations had something akin to a Congressional Budget Office. Bean counters could conceal costly programs on separate balance sheets and add bogus cost-saving measures to the ones they present to shareholders. Then again, what works for Congress amounts to a prison term out in the corporate world...

...The ironic part of Waxman's abuse of power is that he also demands that CEOs show up with "any documents, including e-mail messages, sent to or prepared or reviewed by senior company officials related to the projected impact of health care reform."

Would it not be helpful for Congress to first provide taxpayers with any and all documents—including e-mail messages sent to or prepared or reviewed by elected officials—regarding this historic health care reform bill? Maybe if Congress applied a fraction of the transparency it demands from corporate America to its own dealings, it wouldn't have to rely on pompous bullies like Waxman to stifle free speech.

Read the rest: http://www.denverpost.com/harsanyi/ci_14803607

Father Joseph Fessio lays out the facts versus media reportage in the Church abuse scandal

Hugh Hewitt Show, 1 Apr 2010

<http://www.hughhewitt.com/transcripts.aspx?id=bf729acb-9c19-44c4-9666-c763f6e0dd9d>

Just like Lenin, Stalin, Mussolini, Hitler, and Gore, he molds the "facts" to match his lies.

Obama thinks we're all as stupid as Joe Biden

Don John, 2 Apr 2010

March 25: Looking relaxed and upbeat, he mocked Republicans for acting as if the bill would lead to Armageddon. "After I signed the bill, I looked around to see if there were any asteroids falling, some cracks opening up in the earth," Obama said, adding it turned out to be a nice day and "birds were chirping, folks were strolling down the mall."
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N25229523.htm>

April 1: "It's only been a week, folks," Obama said to cheers and laughter from about 2,500 supporters in Portland, Maine. "Before we find out if people like health care reform, maybe we should wait until it actually happens." Mocking the political doomsayers, Obama went on: "Can you imagine if some of these reporters were working on a farm? You planted some seeds, and they came out the next day, and they looked, and nothing's happened! There's no crop! We're going to starve! Oh, no! It's a disaster!"

http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2010/04/02/2010-04-02_obama_doses_out_healthy_sarcasm.html

Obama to Crush Economy with Massive CO2 Taxes as Early as Next Week

by Fred Dardick, 1 Apr 2010

...President Obama has made the decision that getting energy tax legislation through Congress with the approval of the American people is just too much of a pain to bother with. Instead he will have the EPA declare as early as next week that CO2 is a dangerous global warming gas and will start regulating its emissions immediately.

Obama's promise to open up vast stretches of ocean on the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico to energy exploration is simply a ruse to soften up the public for soon to be announced draconian regulations...

...It means \$8 for a gallon of gas and 2-3 times higher electricity bills. It also means the loss of millions more sorely needed jobs as businesses are hit with higher operating costs and the transfer of whatever remains of our manufacturing sector to China where energy is cheaper and they aren't so concerned about CO2.

In the first week alone, American businesses estimated that ObamaCare will cost them \$14 billion. By most estimates this latest Obama nightmare will be far more expensive and may literally destroy the economy in less than 20 years.

More: <http://www.canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/21566>

The Party's Over for Steele

by Linda Chavez, 2 Apr 2010

GOP Chairman Michael Steele is a talented guy: smart, affable, telegenic, with a gift for gab. He ran a great race for U.S. Senate from one of the toughest states in the nation for a Republican to win, Maryland. I should know, I lost my own race for U.S. Senate in 1986 and no Republican has won the seat in 30 years. But the best thing Steele could do now for the Republican Party is to step aside as chairman of the Republican National Committee...

Here's why: <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=36311>

These 8,300 elegant words show that Darwinism is based on blind faith, and its opponents are grounded solidly in reason. Evolution may be real, but the Darwinist view of it simply isn't borne out by facts.

The Deniable Darwin

by David Berlinski, June 1996 (originally published in *Commentary*)

<http://www.rae.org/dendar.html>

Pope Benedict and the Milwaukee Molester

by Hugh Hewitt, 31 March 2010

Lawrence Murphy was a serial molester of deaf boys during his 25 year tenure as head of St. John's School for the Deaf in Milwaukee, from 1950 to 1975. Murphy died in 1998.

In recent days, charges have been leveled at Pope Benedict alleging that the pope was somehow complicit in the shameful conduct of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

The priest in charge of the Church's prosecution of Murphy is Fr. Thomas Brundage, who wrote [this article](#) this week about the allegations. He was my guest today, and the transcript of that conversation is posted [here](#). Key exchanges...

More: <http://www.hughhewitt.com/blog/g/6e1fa8e1-a310-44d5-9486-8b7be6dd336d>

Teatime at the *Times*

by Andrew Ferguson, 1 Apr 2010

The tiny corner of the *New York Times* empire where David Barstow works is called the investigative unit. The name has an impressive urgency to it, like the title of a TV spin-off—*CSI: Times Investigative Unit*. You can imagine guys in Weejuns and khakis getting a hot tip and springing into action, yanking their tweed coats off the backs of chairs and shouting something irreverent and ironical over their shoulders as they bolt for the newsroom door.

Perhaps a new “torture memo” has been leaked; maybe a politician has committed an act of creative accounting on

Supplement B (3) subpart vii of his financial-disclosure form. Or maybe a large number of Americans way out there in the land beyond the Bronx have been caught holding political opinions that are dangerously bizarre. TIU is on the case...

Continue: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/teatime-at-the—i-times-i—15416?page=all>

Are Cuba's true martyrs a portent of a new 1989?

by *Alvaro Vargas Llosa, 31 March 2010*

...In a godforsaken corner of the Western hemisphere, as if taking it upon themselves to restore the old tradition of martyrdom, a group of people have decided to die for a cause and harm no one else in the process. For weeks the world has followed the drama of the Cuban prisoners of conscience, many of them black, who have started a chain of hunger strikes demanding the liberation of their fellow prisoners...

More: <http://m.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/are-cubas-true-martyrs-a-portent-of-a-new-1989/article1517696/?service=mobile>

Break Up the Banks

by *Arnold Kling, 31 March 2010 (April 5 issue)*

Big banks are bad for free markets. Far from being engines of free enterprise, they are conducive to what might be called “crony capitalism,” “corporatism,” or, in Jonah Goldberg’s provocative phrase, “liberal fascism.” There is a free-market case for breaking up large financial institutions: that our big banks are the product, not of economics, but of politics...

Read the rest: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=MTcyMmFmZDc3Yml4ODdiOWE2NmYwOTg5NTNiNGE5Nzg=>

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:

The Descent of Liberalism by *Michael Knox Beran*

The State Despotism by *Mark Steyn*

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

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

Just Make Stuff Up by *Victor Davis Hanson*

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

Health Care Mythology by *Clifford Asness*

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>