

"I cannot undertake to lay my finger on that article of the Constitution which granted a right to Congress of expending, on objects of benevolence, the money of their constituents."

—James Madison, 1794

"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

"The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money."

—Margaret Thatcher, UK Prime Minister 1979-90

Arizona's immigration law (2010) **Petition to get Keith Olbermann out of Major League Baseball**
Mexico's immigration laws **Government (not Business) caused the Crash of 2008**
See You in November (video)

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 URL of this important photo-site has been updated on the External Links page.

Iraq's mass graves

<http://www.9neesan.com/massgraves/>

Dennis Hopper (17 May 1936-29 May 2010)

In addition to his work in movies, he was a prolific photographer, painter, and sculptor. As a boy, he studied painting under Thomas Hart Benton at the Kansas City Art Institute.

September 1, 2005: "I've been a Republican since Reagan. I voted for Bush and his father. I don't tell a lot of people, because I live in a city where somebody who voted for Bush is really an outcast." Signed 17 Aug 2006 LA Times ad ripping "terrorist organisations such as Hezbollah and Hamas."

One of his last films was the patriotic *An American Carol* (2008), in which he made an appearance as a judge who defends his courthouse by gunning down ACLU lawyers trying to take down the Ten Commandments.

Bio: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dennis_Hopper

Dennis Hopper: The Rebel Without a Cause

by *Wendy Ide*, 31 May 2010

...Hopper maintained more integrity in his little finger than many of the bland, bloodless stars of today can muster in their entire surgically enhanced bodies.

Even his failures — and his chaotic second directorial outing, *The Last Movie*, must count as one despite its subsequent cult status — were achieved on his own terms. And his career highs, in *Blue Velvet*, *River's Edge*, *Easy Rider*, *True Romance* and in the acclaimed first series of *24* — are the stuff of legend. It's Hollywood that's dead. Dennis Hopper will live on.

Full obit: http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article7140579.ece

Barack Obama's credibility hits rock bottom after oil spill and Sestak scandal

The combination of Obama's passivity over the Gulf oil spill catastrophe and his cynical political manoeuvrings could spell disaster for him.

by Toby Harnden, 29 May 2010

...When any political leader feels they have to declare that they are "fully engaged" in an issue, it is clear that they are in trouble...

...Central to Obama's appeal was his promise to be truly different. His failure to achieve that is now at the core of the deep disappointment Americans feel about him. At the press conference—the first full-scale affair he had deigned to give for 309 days—he appeared uncomfortable and petulant.

His approach to the issue was that of the law student suddenly fascinated by a science project... During those 63 minutes of soporific verbosity, about 800 barrels of oil poured into the Gulf. Obama engaged in the obligatory populist bashing of Big Oil and, of course, demonstrated the Obama administration's version of Tourette's Syndrome, blaming the previous administration for the situation when, by my reckoning, it's a full 16 months since Bush left office.

By Friday, he was sticking his finger in the sand at Grand Isle, Louisiana as part of a photo op self-consciously designed to contrast with Bush's famous looking down on the Katrina devastation from Air Force One. It was Obama's second visit to Louisiana in the 39 days since disaster struck. According to CBS's Mark Knoller, in the same period Bush visited the post-Katrina region seven times...

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/barackobama/7783408/Barack-Obamas-credibility-hits-rock-bottom-after-oil-spill-and-Sestak-scandal.html>

A brutal ambush at sea

by Ron Ben-Yishai, 31 May 2010

...The Navy commandos were prepared to mostly encounter political activists seeking to hold a protest, rather than trained street fighters. The soldiers were told they were to **verbally convince** activists who offer resistance to give up, and only then use **paintballs**. They were permitted to use their handguns only under extreme circumstances.

The planned rush towards the vessel's bridge became impossible, even when a second chopper was brought in with another crew of soldiers. "Throw stun grenades," shouted Flotilla 13's commander who monitored the operation. The Navy chief was not too far, on board a speedboat belonging to Flotilla 13, along with forces who attempted to climb into the back of the ship.

The forces hurled stun grenades, yet the rioters on the top deck, whose number swelled up to 30 by that time, kept on beating up about 30 commandos who kept gliding their way one by one from the helicopter. At one point, the attackers nabbed one commando, wrested away his handgun, and threw him down from the top deck to the lower deck, 30 feet below. The soldier sustained a serious head wound and lost his consciousness.

Only after this injury did Flotilla 13 troops ask for permission to use live fire. The commander approved it: You can go ahead and fire. The soldiers pulled out their handguns and started shooting at the rioters' legs, a move that ultimately neutralized them. Meanwhile, the rioters started to fire back at the commandos.

"I saw the tip of a rifle sticking out of the stairwell," one commando said. "He fired at us and we fired back. We didn't see if we hit him. We looked for him later but couldn't find him." Two soldiers sustained gunshot wounds to their knee and stomach after rioters apparently fired at them using guns wrested away from troops...

Full story: <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3896796,00.html>

Just a wild guess, but you probably won't be seeing this reported in the mainstream media any time soon.

Demonstrators use violence against Israeli navy soldiers attempting to board ship

IDFNAdesk, 31 May 2010

Early this morning, IDF Naval Forces boarded six ships attempting to break the maritime closure of the Gaza Strip. This happened after numerous warnings from Israel and the Israeli Navy that were issued prior to the action. The Israel Navy requested the ships to redirect toward Ashdod where they would be able to unload their aid supplies which would then be transferred over land after undergoing security inspections.

During the boarding of the ships, the demonstrators onboard attacked the IDF Naval personnel with live fire and light weaponry including knives and clubs. Additionally one of the weapons used was grabbed from an IDF soldier. The demonstrators had clearly prepared their weapons in advance for this specific purpose. As a result of this life-threatening and violent activity, naval forces employed riot dispersal means, as well as live fire.

According to initial reports, these events resulted in the deaths of nine demonstrators and seven naval personnel were injured, some from gunfire and some from various other weapons. Two of the soldiers are moderately wounded and the remainder sustained light injuries. All of the injured, Israelis and foreigners have been evacuated by helicopter to hospitals in Israel.

Reports from IDF forces on the scene are that it seems as if part of the participants onboard the ships were planning

to lynch the forces. The interception of the flotilla followed numerous warnings given to the organizers of the flotilla before leaving their ports as well as while sailing towards the Gaza Strip. . . .

Read more, and watch the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bU12KW-XyZE>

Close-up footage of *Mavi Marmara* passengers attacking IDF soldiers (with sound)

IDFNAdesk, 31 May 2010

Video taken by IDF naval boat shows the passengers of the *Mavi Marmara*, one of the ships in the 'Free Gaza' Flotilla, violently attacking IDF soldiers who were trying to board the ship after having sent repeated requests for the boat to change course.

Large groups of passengers surrounded soldiers and beat them with metal poles and chairs, and threw one soldier over the side of the ship. Some passengers grabbed pistols from the IDF soldiers and opened fire. As a result of the attacks, seven IDF soldiers were injured, and nine of the passengers were killed.

The 'Free Gaza' Flotilla had publicly insisted on their non-violent intentions, however their violent attack on the IDF soldiers was clearly premeditated. They had knives, metal rods, firebombs and other items ready to use.

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LulDJh4fWI>

What we owe our troops

by Ralph Peters, 30 May 2010

Each Memorial Day, we're treated to countless columns thanking our men and women in uniform for their service and honoring those we have lost or who suffered wounds. The rhetoric's well intentioned. But it isn't enough.

In the midst of war, we owe our troops far more than an annual pat on the back. Those who serve on the front lines and the vast array of military members supporting them have immediate and vital needs. On several important counts, we're letting them down. Here are five areas in which our troops deserve better. And we're going to give politicians and generals letter grades. . . .

Continue: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/what_we_owe_our_troops_4SNkzoHxijKDoiQ3jzr0CL

The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Vietnam War

by Phillip Jennings (2010)

http://www.amazon.com/Politically-Incorrect-Guide-Vietnam-Guides/dp/1596985674/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1275278229&sr=1-1

On Memorial Day, remember:

It is the veteran, not the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the veteran, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the veteran, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the veteran, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to assemble.

It is the veteran, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the veteran, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.

It is the veteran who salutes the Flag,

It is the veteran who serves under the Flag.



ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.

A little further down, Peter Wehner tells us that Barack Obama considers himself a virtuous and valorous hero. Here's a brief account of some *truly* virtuous, valorous heroes and what they did on June 4, 1942.

The Battle That Changed Everything

by Vin Suprynowicz, 30 May 2010

<http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/the-battle-that-changed-everything-95211924.html>

Obama, the Thin-Skinned President

by Peter Wehner, 27 May 2010

...In Obama's eyes, he is always the aggrieved, always the violated, always the victim of some injustice. He is America's virtuous and valorous hero, a man of unusually pure motives and uncommon wisdom, under assault by the forces of darkness. It is all so darn unfair. Not surprisingly, Obama's thin skin leads to self pity. As Daniel Halper of *The Weekly Standard* pointed out, in a fundraising event for Sen. Barbara Boxer, Obama said, "Let's face it: this has been the toughest year and a half since any year and a half since the 1930s."

Really, now? Worse than the period surrounding December 7, 1941 and September 11, 2001? Worse than what Gerald Ford faced after the resignation of Richard Nixon and Watergate, which constituted the worse constitutional scandal in our history and tore the country apart? Worse than what Ronald Reagan faced after Jimmy Carter (when interest rates were 22 percent, inflation was more than 13 percent, and Reagan faced something entirely new under the sun, "stagflation")?

Worse than 1968, when Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. were assassinated and there was rioting in our streets? Worse than what LBJ faced during Vietnam—a war which eventually claimed more than 58,000 lives? Worse than what John Kennedy faced in the Bay of Pigs and in the Cuban Missile Crisis, when we and the Soviet Union edged up to the brink of nuclear war? Worse than what Franklin Roosevelt faced on the eve of the Normandy invasion? Worse than what Bush faced in Iraq in 2006, when that nation was on the edge of civil war, or when the financial system collapsed in the last months of his presidency? Worse than what Truman faced in defeating imperial Japan, in reconstructing post-war Europe, and in responding to North Korea's invasion of South Korea?...

More: <http://www.politicsdaily.com/2010/05/27/obama-the-thin-skinned-president/>

Obamacare Taking On Water

by Jeffrey H. Anderson, 28 May 2010

... Since passage, reports have revealed that ObamaCare would cost over **\$1 trillion by any standard**, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), not “merely” \$940 billion as previously reported (while its total costs in its real first decade, 2014 to 2023, would continue to be well over **\$2 trillion**); that ObamaCare has prompted major corporations to discuss **dropping their employer-provided health-care plans**; that businesses would have to **file 1099s** not only for every person to whom they pay \$600 in wages but for every vendor with whom they do \$600 in business, thereby imposing a paperwork nightmare and incentivizing companies to avoid doing business with a myriad of small firms rather than a handful of big ones; that ObamaCare would create **159 new federal agencies**, offices, or programs; that the Obama administration’s Medicare Chief Actuary says ObamaCare would **raise U.S. health costs by \$311 billion** in relation to current law and would shift about 14 million people off of employer-provided insurance — and some of them onto Medicaid; that ObamaCare’s would **discourage employment**, as — for example — hiring a 25th worker would cost a business \$5,600 in addition to wages and benefits;

that ObamaCare would impose a **severe marriage penalty**, offering additional subsidies as high as \$10,425 a year if couples merely avoid marriage; that a lone provision in ObamaCare, which would penalize employers if their employees spend more than 9.5 percent of their household income on insurance premiums, would **cut the net income of businesses** like White Castle by more than half; that even though ObamaCare was supposed to get people out of emergency rooms and into doctors’ offices, those who **build emergency rooms** say the effect will be just the opposite and that they are gearing up for increased business; that doctors shortages are looming and would be accentuated by ObamaCare, both because more people would seek care (otherwise, what would the \$2 trillion be buying?) and because fewer people would likely enter a demanding profession that would now promise greater restrictions and lower pay; and that President Obama’s nominee to head Medicare and Medicaid under ObamaCare is an open advocate of the British National Health Services’ NICE (National Institute of Clinical Excellence) and its methods of **rationing care**.

These revelations appear to have taken a toll. Together, they seem to have made a notoriously unpopular law significantly less popular...

More, including some alternative (post-repeal) ideas:

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/blogs/beltway-confidential/obamacare-taking-on-water-95104599.html>

ObamaCare vs. Small Business

by Dan Danner, 27 May 2010

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704113504575264802756326086.html>

Barack Obama in crisis: Zzzz

by Michelle Malkin, 28 May 2010

... At his first press conference in 308 days, Obama fielded questions about the Gulf oil spill, immigration, the war in Afghanistan, and the mounting outrage over Pennsylvania Democratic congressman Joe Sestak's job-trading allegations with a sluggishness bordering on geriatric. His aplomb was a bomb. The commander-in-chief's mumbling, diffident tone contradicted the "I CARE" message of urgency that drifted across the teleprompter screen and rolled languidly off his tongue.

"I am angry and frustrated," he heaved. Rather unconvincingly. He was "singularly focused," he asserted. Rather distractedly. The president did manage to work up enough energy to condemn BP and then turned to a moment of obligatory self-aggrandizement: "I'm confident that people are going to look back and say that this administration was on top of what was an unprecedented crisis."

How "on top" was he? Well, not enough to take the time on Thursday morning before his much-hyped appearance to nail down the details of how and why his Interior Department chief of the Minerals Management Service, Liz Birnbaum, was no longer in office... When pressed to elaborate, he heaved again: "I don't know." Then, addressing all the ignorant Americans who have failed to appreciate his rescue efforts, Obama mustered up a semblance of indignation: "Those who think we were either slow in our response or lacked urgency don't know the facts. This has been our highest priority since this crisis occurred."

And this is the Obama definition of accountability: blaming everyone else for lacking the Ivy League-honed

comprehension skills to see the greatness of his fortitude and foresight...

Read the rest: <http://michellemalkin.com/2010/05/28/barack-obama-in-crisis-zzzz/>

King Barack the Verbose

He is less accountable than the older kind of royalty.

by *Mark Steyn, 29 May 2010*

One of the chief characteristics of Barack Obama's speechifying is its contempt for words as anything other than props of self-puffery. Consider, for example, his recent remarks to the graduating class of the United States Military Academy: "America has not succeeded by stepping out of the currents of cooperation — we have succeeded by steering those currents in the direction of liberty and justice."

"Steering those currents"? How could even a member of the president's insulated, self-regarding speechwriting team be so tin-eared as to write that line? How could the president be so tone-deaf as to deliver it in May of 2010? Hey, genius, if you're so damn good at "steering currents," why not try doing it in the Gulf of Mexico?...

Continue: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=MDU0NTE3ZjY4YWZhZTg3ZmJiZTgxYTIxMjMxNDMxY2U=>

We Are Better Than That!

Dale Peterson for Alabama Agriculture Commissioner

You'll want to move to there, just to vote for him:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jU7fhIO7DG0>

Every Day is Memorial Day

by *Ted Nugent, 28 May 2010*

...These brave American warriors and the warriors who have gone before them humble me to my core. There are no words to express my appreciation for their bravery, commitment and sacrifice. The same goes for their families, who are left behind to soldier on while their loved ones go off to war. God bless them all.

We owe it to these brave Americans and their families to win this war with our honor intact, not to telegraph to the enemy when we are packing up and leaving the battlefield. I'm no military tactician, but announcing when we are leaving the battlefield is analogous to putting an ad in your local newspaper to let all local punks and thugs know when you are going on vacation so they can plunder your home...

...As parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, we owe it to America's finest to educate the youth of the United States that many brave Americans have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom. Teach them that freedom isn't free. Teach them that the American military has freed more people from the shackles of tyranny and slavery than any other force in the history of the world. Teach them to remember this not just on Memorial Day, but every day...

More: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/may/28/every-day-is-memorial-day/>

Global Moral Decline and Who's to Blame for It

by *Dennis Prager, 25 May 2010*

One of the many beliefs—i.e., non-empirically based doctrines—of the post-Christian West has been that moral progress is the human norm, especially so with the demise of religion. In a secular world, the self-described enlightened thinking goes, superstition is replaced by reason, and reason leads to the moral good...

...But there were never any Christian Auschwitzes...nor were there Christian Gulags...

...The anti-religious Left offers two responses to these facts: The first is that modern technology made the Nazi and Communist murders of scores of millions possible; had the church been technologically able to do so, it would have made its own Auschwitz and Gulag. The second is that Nazism and Communism were religions and not secular doctrines.

The response to the first is that technology was not necessary for the Communist murders of over a hundred million innocent people in the Soviet Union, China, Cambodia and elsewhere. In Cambodia, millions were murdered with hammers, in Rwanda with machetes. The response to the second is that Communism and Nazism were secular movements and to deny that is to tell a gargantuan lie...

...And now the post-Christian world is getting worse. The moral news about the world in which we live is almost unremittingly negative...

Read the horrors: <http://article.nationalreview.com/434850/global-moral-decline-and-whos-to-blame-for-it/dennis-prager>

A Mosque at Ground Zero? Insane

by Rod Dreher, 27 May 2010

New York City officials have voted to allow construction of a \$100 million mosque near the site of the World Trade Center. I mean no disrespect to Muslims, but this is an unspeakably bad idea. The 9/11 hijackers brought down those towers, and killed thousands, in the name of Islam. Of course it is wrong to blame all Muslims for 9/11. But why on earth rub salt in the wounds of the 9/11 dead by allowing a mosque to go in just two blocks from where jihadists incinerated or crushed over 2,700 innocent victims, in service of their faith? Proponents of the project call it a "seed of peace", but tell me, would they call a Shinto shrine at Pearl Harbor a seed of peace? Would they call a German cultural center two blocks from the gates of Auschwitz a seed of peace?

Continue: <http://blog.beliefnet.com/roddreher/2010/05/a-mosque-at-ground-zero-insane.html>

Obama: I'm responsible (for zilch)

by Charles Hurt, 28 May 2010

It was yet another performance of the "full responsibility" flimflam. In a rare appearance before his adoring fans in the press corps yesterday, President Obama repeatedly took "full responsibility" for the blundering efforts to clog up the geyser of crude oil spewing into the Gulf of Mexico coating everything in sight.

At the same time, Obama repeatedly denied that his administration was complicit in allowing the catastrophe to happen in the first place, slow to realize the devastating nature of it, or ham-handed in the five-week effort to try to stem the toxic tide.

In other words, Obama—as he often does—took "full responsibility" for being awesome.

He took "full responsibility" for being, well, nearly perfect...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/national/obama_responsible_for_zilch_6knEDUj0hvSrE3SXqNFhRM

Oil Spill Culprits Run Deep

by Charles Krauthammer, 27 May 2010

Here's my question: Why are we drilling in 5,000 feet of water in the first place?

Many reasons, but this one goes unmentioned: Environmental chic has driven us out there. As production from the shallower Gulf of Mexico wells declines, we go deep (1,000 feet and more) and ultra deep (5,000 feet and more), in part because environmentalists have succeeded in rendering the Pacific and nearly all the Atlantic coast off-limits to oil production...

...Why have we pushed the drilling from the barren to the populated, from the remote wilderness to a center of fishing, shipping, tourism and recreation? Not that the environmentalists are the only ones to blame. Not by far. But it is odd that they've escaped any mention at all.

The other culprits are pretty obvious... However, the railing against BP for its performance *since* the accident is harder to understand. I attribute no virtue to BP, just self-interest. What possible interest can it have to do anything *but* cap the well as quickly as possible? Every day that oil is spilled means millions more in losses, cleanup and restitution...

...Federal officials who rage against BP would like to deflect attention from their own role in this disaster...

...Obama didn't help much with his finger-pointing Rose Garden speech in which he denounced finger-pointing, then proceeded to blame everyone but himself... Two years ago next week, he declared that history will mark his ascent to the presidency as the moment when "our planet began to heal" and "the rise of the oceans began to slow." Well, when you anoint yourself King Canute, you mustn't be surprised when your subjects expect you to command the tides.

The rest: <http://www.ocreger.com/opinion/obama-250766-oil-deep.html>

Obama dodges, but Sestak questions won't go away

by Byron York, 28 May 2010

How interested is Barack Obama in discussing Rep. Joe Sestak's allegation that the White House offered him a big government job if he would not challenge Sen. Arlen Specter, the White House's favored candidate in the Pennsylvania Senate primary?

Well, when the president was asked about it at his news conference Thursday—the question didn't come up until the very last reporter was called on—the normally long-winded Obama spoke for a total of 32 seconds. "I can assure the public that nothing improper took place," Obama said, echoing earlier statements from White House officials who denied any wrongdoing. "There will be an official response shortly." And that was that.

Obama's brief answer brought a smile to Rep. Darrell Issa, who has been pursuing the Sestak issue in his role as ranking Republican on the House Committee on Government Oversight and Reform. "That means the answer will be forthcoming after the lights go out for the weekend," Issa said shortly after the news conference. "While the president is away and nobody's available, a statement will come out."

More: http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/politics/Obama-dodges_but-Sestak-questions-won_t-go-away-95071799.html

Big Labor's Payoff

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 25 May 2010

Those who give to politicians expect a lot in return. That's clear from the budget-busting payoffs directed largely at organized labor by Democrats in Congress and the White House.

A bill making its way through the Senate would bail out union pension funds to the tune of \$165 billion. The bill's author, Democratic Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, wants the public to pay for the gold-plated union retirement benefits that the funds have mismanaged into oblivion.

This has to be galling to average working saps who watch as their 401(k)s and IRAs plummet, only to be asked to pony up billions of dollars in subsidies for unionized workers — many of whom get to retire into the lap of unlabored luxury while still in their 50s.

Casey's bill isn't the only gift that the White House and Congress have for the unions.

Read on: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=535367&p=2>

President Luddite: The Collapsing Obama Presidency

by Hugh Hewitt, 28 May 2010

The president's performance yesterday was an extended pratfall, and headlines like those in the Washington Post — "Obama struggling to show he's in control of the oil spill" — reinforce the widespread sense that he is in way over his head dealing with a serious crisis requiring more than talking to reluctant Congressmen. As Peggy Noonan notes, this is the third major political disaster in a year-and-a-half, and with the Sestak affair as an example of the political ineptitude of his White House operation, there isn't much hope things will get better before they get worse...

More, including a major debunking of Obama's press conference answers:

<http://www.hughhewitt.com/blog/g/9187707d-28f4-4e8b-948b-0bfed582662a>

Study finds increased gov't spending results in unemployment

by Ed Morrissey, 27 May 2010

Don't color Veronique de Rugy shocked, *shocked* to find that government spending crowds out private investment, but the results of the new study by Harvard Business School will certainly shock some Keynesian academics — and high-ranking government officials. Instead of providing a stimulating effect to the economy, government spending creates pressures on private industry to reduce staff and investment. The study's authors count themselves as among the shocked...

More: <http://hotair.com/archives/2010/05/27/study-finds-increased-govt-spending-results-in-unemployment/>

While President Obama dreams of utopia, the world gets rougher

by Kevin O'Brien, 27 May 2010

An assessment of President Barack Obama's speech on Saturday to the graduating class at the United States Military Academy leads to one of only two possible conclusions: Either Obama does not live in the real world, or he wants Americans to believe that *they* don't live in the real world...

...In what it contains, in what it ignores and in what it willfully misinterprets, it stands as a remarkably clear and forthright statement of the utopian mind. The question of whether the president actually believes what he said is immaterial. The question that matters is how far this wistfully self-destructive longing for an internationalism that works will be allowed to drive American policy. Compare Obama's words with what's really true...

Brutally honest: http://www.cleveland.com/obrien/index.ssf/2010/05/while_obama_dreams_of_utopia_t.html

Obama's dereliction on the oil spill

Washington Examiner editorial, 27 May 2010

...What has been desperately needed from the beginning of this tragedy is leadership. What we've gotten instead from the White House has been blame shifting, bureaucratic gamesmanship, and political opportunism.

All three elements reached an apotheosis Wednesday when New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd wrote that a senior Obama official had lamented that the administration, in Dowd's words, "should have acted more urgently to re-examine the dark legacy of Cheney in the Energy and Interior Departments." That's just great—hundreds of thousands of gallons of raw crude oil have been erupting into the Gulf for more than a month and the president's men are trying to steer the blame to Dick Cheney? That Obama's most trusted advisers are indulging in such partisan lunacy in the second month of this crisis is a staggering commentary on how inadequate these people are to the demands of the moment...

All of it: http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/Obama_s-dereliction-on-the-oil-spill-94934369.html

Another liberal has had it with Dear Leader.

Where was Plan A?

by Kirsten Powers, 27 May 2010

...Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal is so frustrated with the lack of response to his plan to stop the slick with sand barriers that yesterday he called on the White House and BP to either "stop the oil spill or get out of the way."

"Plug the damn hole," President Obama reportedly barked at staffers in frustration after the explosion. That's right up there with "Heckuva job, Brownie" in terms of clueless statements uttered by presidents in the midst of nationally televised disasters...

...It also shouldn't be a secret that no matter how many inspections and safety requirements you have, you can't ever completely prevent disasters like this one. If you're going to permit offshore drilling, be prepared to respond to a spill. If he promised us anything, Obama promised us competence. Instead, we've gotten the Keystone Cops.

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/where_was_plan_rlt5oDKad55hkqHe64BggQM

Now That It's Over, The Grey Lady Sings

by Walter Russell Mead, 25 May 2010

In one of the most embarrassing news stories I've ever seen in the mainstream press, the *New York Times* has a comprehensive report on the catastrophic meltdown in the public's interest in global warming. The only problem: nothing in here is news, if by news you mean 'new'...

Read on: <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2010/05/25/now-that-its-over-the-grey-lady-sings/>

Just another act of deadly treason

by Ralph Peters, 26 May 2010

Yesterday, The New York Times published another front-page article based on a leaked classified document. This time, it was an order signed by Gen. David Petraeus authorizing black operations against adversaries and such dubious friends as Iran, Syria, Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Gee, thanks. We really needed to know that. The world's a better place now.

Yet the Times' sin was the lesser one. The paper has long since given up any pretense of patriotism. (Ugh! Yuck!) Its

editors are just publishing *and* perishing as citizens of the world. It's whoever *leaked* the document that bears the burn-in-hell blame...

Read on: http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/just_another_act_of_deadly_treason_wuz3iFD6YbSQiIzOHHDUM

America's new culture war: Free enterprise vs. government control

by Arthur C. Brooks, 23 May 2010

...The irony is that it is the 30 percent coalition, not the 70 percent majority, that is fundamentally materialistic. What do they consider the greatest problem of poor people in America? Insufficient income. What would be evidence of a fairer society? Greater income equality. For the leaders of the 30 percent coalition, money does buy happiness — as long as it is spread evenly. That is why redistribution of income is a fundamental goal and why free enterprise, which rewards some people and penalizes others, cannot be trusted.

The 70 percent majority, meanwhile, believes that ingenuity and hard work should be rewarded. We admire creative entrepreneurs and disdain rule-making bureaucrats. We know that income inequality by itself is not what makes people unhappy, and that only earned success can make them happy.

We must do more to show that while we use the language of commerce and business, we believe in human flourishing and contentment. We must articulate moral principles that set forth our fundamental values, and we must be prepared to defend them.

This defense is already underway, in a disorganized, grass-roots, American kind of way. Protests against the new statism have flared around the nation for more than a year. And while some have tried to dismiss the "tea party" demonstrations and the town hall protests of last summer as the work of extremists, ignorant backwoodsmen or agents of the health-care industry, these movements reveal much about the culture war that is underway.

Just compare the protests in America with those in Europe. Here, we see tea partiers demonstrating against the government's encroachment on the free enterprise system and protesting the fact that the state is spending too much money bailing out too many people. Why are people protesting in Greece? Because they want the government to give them even more. They are angry because their government — in the face of its worst economic and perhaps existential crisis in decades — won't pay the lavish pensions to which they feel entitled. There's no better example of the cultural difference between America and Europe today, yet it is toward European-style social democracy that the 30 percent coalition wants to move us...

Entire essay: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/21/AR2010052101854.html>

Weight Discrimination at Work

Obesity discrimination has become the most prevalent form of workplace bias.

How to protect yourself:

http://career-advice.comcast.monster.com/in-the-office/workplace-issues/weight-discrimination/article.aspx?WT.mc_n=comcast800

How about losing some weight, fatso!

The Christie Reform Agenda: Cap 2.5

by Gov. Chris Christie, 26 May 2010

<http://www.articleant.com/gen/80713-may-25--2010---the-christie-reform-agenda--cap-2-5---state-of-ne.html>

A classic example of the unintended consequences of overactive government.

Rear-end collisions jump at red-light camera intersections in West Palm Beach

by Charles Elmore, 24 May 2010

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/rear-end-collisions-jump-at-red-light-camera-706186.html>

Why Donald Berwick is Dangerous to Your Health

by Dr. Hal Scherz, 26 May 2010

President Obama's nomination of Donald Berwick M.D. to head HHS's Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) eliminates any lingering doubt he seeks to impose state-run medicine and a European style health care system on America...

... "I am romantic about the NHS. I love it." Dr Berwick says about probably the best-known case of socialized medicine—Britain's National Health Service (NHS). "...Any healthcare funding plan that is just, equitable, civilized and humane, must redistribute wealth from the richer among us to the poorer and the less fortunate. Excellent healthcare is by definition redistributive..."

... We see him as a White House Rose Garden, photo-op doctor with a borrowed white coat; an academic who runs a \$58 million institute, who analyzes numbers and reports and theories about populations but is now totally out of touch with his former peers and the patients that they treat every day. And this is the sobering point—Dr Berwick will not be there with us at the patient's bedside looking them in the eye and telling them that the life saving treatment that they need is not approved because they don't fit into the right demographic.

So US Senators might ask Dr. Berwick why he "loves" and is "romantic" about a British health care system that institutionalizes such moments. A health care system where patients have little or no choice about their provider and little access to specialists. A health care system where waiting lists for visits to specialists and for surgery can sometimes last a year, 40% of cancer patients never see an oncologist, rationing for kidney dialysis and open heart surgery is open and explicit, and minimum wait times have been instituted for hospital admission (of 122 days) to reduce costs, leaving 750,000 people on wait lists...

More: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/05/26/why_donald_berwick_is_dangerous_to_your_health_105730.html

Mass. health meltdown is your future

by Sally C. Pipes, 25 May 2010

The future of US medicine under ObamaCare is already on display in Massachusetts. The top four health insurers there just posted first-quarter losses of more than \$150 million...

...A Boston Globe story from earlier in the dispute over rate hikes says it all: "Two of the state's big health insurers face stiff fines after they submitted to the state revised premium rates for individuals and small businesses that differed from what regulators ordered."

There's no such thing as a market where bureaucrats set the price. Yet that's what health care has become in Massachusetts under its reform.

"I don't know how much clearer we could have been with them," complained Massachusetts Insurance Commissioner Jack Murphy. He told the Globe: "We communicated four times what rates we expected. We're considering all options. At minimum, both will face significant fines and potentially other penalties."

When insurers then complained that they'd post losses, the Patrick administration lambasted them as "outrageous," "uninterested in alleviating escalating health-care costs" and "in love with the status quo."

Government finally caring about the little guy? Hold your cheers—because the inevitable next step is rationing at the point of consumption. Massachusetts state Senate President Therese Murray has proposed putting an end to "fee for service" medicine in the next five years and moving to a system of capitated managed care, where doctors receive a flat fee for each assigned patient.

This "HMOs for all" approach is designed to lead to soft rationing—which, in medical terms, means people will have a hard time finding doctors or seeing the ones they have. It's already started. In Massachusetts, one doctor in two is not accepting new patients. Waits for treatment in Boston are the highest in the nation. And Medicare's chief actuary predicts the same fate under ObamaCare...

Full column: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/mass_health_meltdown_is_your_future_qA65Dx77kppzP5IHJN23pN

When the likes of David Gergen, James Carville, Chris Matthews, and Donna Brazile are criticizing the Lord High Obama, you know he's in a heap of trouble.

Oil spill response out of control

by David Gergen, 24 May 2010

...A month ago, it looked like the White House was on top of this problem, as Cabinet officers scurried here and there, the Coast Guard and others swung into action, there were talks with BP, and the president paid a personal visit. But increasingly, it has become apparent that the federal government may be present but is not in charge.

It keeps saying that BP bears ultimate responsibility. It is keeping the press away. No wonder James Carville, Chris Matthews and Donna Brazile exploded late last week. They are right on a basic point: Ultimately it is not the responsibility of BP or any other company to protect American interests but the responsibility of the federal government. Some Obama supporters have argued that the 1990 Oil Pollution Act limits the president's capacity to take action. Others disagree. Either way, in an emergency, laws can be changed.

Although this disaster is not an existential threat, it could be argued that if the U.S. government had fought World War II in the same way it has fought the oil spill, we might well be speaking German now...

More: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/05/24/gergen.oil.spill.leadership/>

The Era of Unlimited Government Is Here

Democrats are minding their own business—and everyone else's.

by *Deroy Murdock*, 24 May 2010

...In this Era of Unlimited Government, the Obama administration and congressional Democrats stick their snouts anywhere they will fit, without the guidance of common sense, frugality, or any sense of priorities. For today's federal government, it's everything, all the time.

Sen. Tom Harkin (D., Iowa) has moved to cap ATM fees at 50 cents per transaction. Between 1999 and 2009, the number of money machines has exploded from about 227,000 to 425,000 nationwide, reports CNNMoney.com. Independent operators spend \$9,000 to \$50,000 to purchase each ATM and \$12,000 to \$15,000 annually to operate it. If Congress slaps price controls on ATM transactions, these businesses will shrivel — perhaps fatally. And then who will install and maintain ATMs?

Harkin should ask himself this: Do ATM owners put pistols to consumers' heads so they will withdraw cash? Nope. May consumers use their own banks' ATMs for free or cheap, shop with credit cards, or pay with checks? Yup. So, would Tom Harkin kindly keep his nostrils to himself?

The Federal Communications Commission is **pushing** so-called "net neutrality." Although the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals **ruled** on April 6 that this agency has no jurisdiction over the Internet, FCCniks want to regulate cyberspace via the Communications Act of 1934, which was adopted to oversee telephones. The Internet does not pollute. It does not keep ten-year-olds busy making shoes or force people to transmit e-mails, purchase plane tickets online, or locate lovers with a mouse click. So, why can't the FCC back off and **enjoy some Internet pornography**, as did 28 on-duty Securities and Exchange Commission staffers? (None was fired.) Instead, Democrats want to eclipse one of this economy's few glimmers of sunlight. This is net **brutality**...

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/434613/the-era-of-unlimited-government-is-here/deroy-murdock>

The Top Ten Lessons of the Global Economic Meltdown

by *Walter Russell Mead*, 24 May 2010

...But even if we don't yet know where the economy is headed, we've already learned some important lessons about where we stand and where we are headed. Here are the ten most important so far:

1. The American Century isn't over. When the crisis first hit, commentators and pundits around the world fell all over themselves to declare the "post-American world" and the "end of the American era" to argue that the financial market panic meant the collapse of American power. This was junk commentary, the kind of mistake people make when they don't take history seriously — or when they let their hopes and fears get ahead of the facts...

2. Liberal capitalism works. If half the world's commentators and pundits spent the last 18 months announcing the collapse of American power, many of the rest spent their time hailing the death of the American capitalist model: Piratical 'Anglo-Saxon' capitalism was obviously less effective than the more civilized, more humanistic model of, say, Europe. Wrong again. The crisis did what crises usually do: it tested the world's companies, governments and currencies to see what they were made of. The preliminary results of that test are now in, and the United States again looks surprisingly healthy...

3. The rogue states are parasites. It may seem unkind or gloating to say so, but the point needs to be made: the pathetic pretensions of regimes like the ones in Iran and Venezuela to some kind of world leadership have been cruelly exposed. The governments of these countries are parasites on the global economy and far from representing alternatives to the global model, they are entirely dependent on capitalist success...

4. The old left is dead. Not even a global economic crisis can breathe new life into the world of Marxian socialism...

Read it all: <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2010/05/24/the-top-ten-lessons-of-the-global-economic-meltdown/>

Politicians Should Say No More Often

by Sen. Tom Coburn, 24 May 2010

... In the past decade the size of our government has doubled, increasing at more than four times the rate of inflation. This raises a devastating question for the establishment. After years of saying yes to more government and massive increases in spending are we better off? Clearly, we are not. **While families have been doing more with less, Washington has been doing less with more.**

In their everyday lives, working Americans know that when government does nothing they are able to do more of something else. Every dollar that government does not redistribute through stimulus schemes or earmarks is a dollar that an individual consumer or entrepreneur can use to create real wealth. Not all "government investments" are wasted, of course—or at least not wasted equally—but government spends money far less efficiently than individuals. As Milton Friedman often said, people are most careful about spending their own money on themselves while they are least careful about spending someone else's money on someone else. Welfare states across the world are in a death spiral for this very reason.

The American people know the consequences of a Congress that values "doing something" ahead of nothing. Congress did something to make housing more affordable and inflated the housing bubble. Congress did something to make college more affordable and caused tuition rates to skyrocket. Congress did something to make health care more affordable and created programs that are harming patients and threatening to bankrupt our country. The list goes on...

Read the rest: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/05/24/politicians_should_say_no_more_often.html

Tolerating intolerance

On the limits of cross-cultural respect.

by Roger Kimball and Hilton Kramer, May 2010

... As Peter Schmidt reported in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Scott, who identifies herself as a feminist, said "I actually think that his solution to the problem is not a bad one," because ... because why? Because (as Schmidt writes) "an end to stoning cannot be imposed on the Muslim world by the West." Our emphasis.

"Because an end to stoning cannot be imposed on the Muslim world by the West." When was the last time you heard something so fatuous? ("Just yesterday, actually, when I visited my local university." OK, point taken.) Let's rewrite that sentence: We can't insist on an end to cannibalism "because an end to cannibalism cannot be imposed on the Amazonian world by the West." Again: We can't insist that Nazis (or, come to that, Muslims) stop killing Jews "because an end to killing Jews cannot be imposed on the world by the West." What would this Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study have to say about that?...

... For our second observation, let us turn to the manly, judgmental policy promulgated by Sir Charles Napier, the British commander in India in the early nineteenth century. Told that immolating widows on the funeral pyres of their husbands was a cherished local custom, Napier said "Very well. We also have a custom: when men burn a woman alive, we tie a rope around their necks and we hang them. Build your funeral pyre; beside it, my carpenters will build a gallows. You may follow your custom. And then we will follow ours." What, we wonder, would Sir Charles have thought of covert apologists for barbarism like Tariq Ramadan or their "feminist" enablers like Joan Wallach Scott?

More: <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Tolerating-intolerance-5314>

Feeding America's Twilight

by Colin McNickle, 23 May 2010

Something is in dangerous intellectual disrepair in America. And if we don't fix it, America will be lost. Here are just a few of the scores of examples:

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called ObamaCare "an entrepreneurial bill" that should encourage Americans to be "creative," and be, say, "a musician." Quit your job, she urged; "focus on your talent" and don't worry about not having health care.

Perhaps that's because other hardworking, tax-paying schmucks are paying for this freeloader's socialist care?

Continue: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/opinion/columnists/s_682379.html

Obama's Oily Beaches and Wetlands

by Hugh Hewitt, 24 May 2010

... "The Corps just doesn't get it," Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) said Thursday. "The regular Corps timetable won't work. Thick oil has already gotten behind our existing barrier islands and is infiltrating our marsh. Yet the Corps is showing no sense of urgency."

It isn't the Corps that doesn't get it, Senator Vitter, it is President Obama who is clueless about executive leadership in such a situation. The delay in approving the dredging has now gone on so long that approval-followed-by-success would itself be an indictment of Team Obama, so expect more foot dragging.

As with every other episode in this presidency, the president talks a great game, but when he delivers a result at all, it is flawed, ineffective, and wildly expensive. In this case he is avoiding any action at all, preferring a purely political strategy of blaming BP and acting as though everything that could be done has been done when in fact it is obvious—obvious—that the president and his team are doing very little indeed...

More: <http://www.hughhewitt.com/blog/g/f7a6fe94-2985-4a55-bcc0-8f8e97bb3da4>

Profiles in Treason: John Brennan

by Don John, 24 May 2010

He's Obama's Deputy National Security Advisor; also known by various other titles.

In February 2010, during an ISNA-sponsored speech at NYU, he referred to "al-Quds," which is the terrorist name for Jerusalem. At one point, he spoke at length in Arabic, ending with a joke, and then (in English) told the audience not to repeat the joke to anyone who doesn't speak Arabic.

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2010/02/18/hamas-linked-isna-facilitated-brennans-nyu-speech/>

<http://michellemalkin.com/2010/02/17/national-security-nightmare-john-brennan-and-the-notorious-flying-imam/>

http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2010/02/white-house-proterrorism-john-brennan-speechifies-in-arabic-equates-terrorists-with-shoplifters-lawm.html

On 18 May 2010, he said the Obama Administration wants to reach out to the moderate (!) elements of Hezbollah.

<http://gatewaypundit.firstthings.com/2010/05/crazy-dangerous-john-brennan-says-team-obama-will-reach-out-to-moderate-elements-of-hezbollah-terror-group-video/8>

Bam's daze of the weak

by Michael Goodwin, 23 May 2010

... Welcome to a double disaster. America now has a foreign policy that is a dangerous flop and a homeland as bitterly divided as ever. And don't forget 10 percent unemployment and skyrocketing deficits and debt. Heckuva job, Mr. President.

That's the Obama record. Just because he won't face it—or even answer questions about it—doesn't mean the rest of us must ignore it. America is in trouble, and Obama can't be counted on to save her.

For the dead-enders who held out hope he would moderate his drive to neuter America in the image of European welfare states, it's give-up time. The error of his ways are so abundant and obvious that Obama's determination to plunge ahead must be seen as a fully informed choice. He's not going to change. He is who he is, and what you see is what you are going to get for as long as he is president.

Obama has made two fundamental decisions, and both are making us weaker. He is putting America on bended knee around the world, and he is centralizing in the political class more and more power over the domestic economy...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/national/bam_daze_of_the_weak_EiUUfDbjnfUa3SxyR0d24O

Let's Cut the Euphemisms and Speak the Truth

by Thomas McClanahan, 22 May 2010

... Since the '60s at least, those on the leftish end of the spectrum have had an annoying tendency to place themselves above the nation and what it stands for. They have a profound discomfort with the notion that the country must be defended, an effort that sometimes requires military force.

Some of the more exotic of the species, the Jane Fondas and Susan Sontags, blatantly identified with our adversaries. In the late 1960s, both of these characters popped up in Hanoi and blathered about the nobility of the North Vietnamese

struggle against the vile imperialist Americans.

It's hard to avoid the conclusion that a lot of the people who came to Washington with Obama carry intellectual residue from this era. How else to explain the comical difficulty they have in coming up with a straightforward term for an enemy that turned airlines into missiles and revels in the slaughter of innocent civilians?

For decades, various people on both the right and left have mined this rich lode. One of the latest is Paul Berman, a member of the editorial board of Dissent, the leftist magazine, and author of the new book, "The Flight of the Intellectuals." Berman is also an increasingly rare species: He is a liberal hawk...

Full column: <http://www.kansascity.com/2010/05/22/1963963/lets-cut-the-euphemisms-and-speak.html>

63% Favor Repeal of National Health Care Plan

Rasmussen Reports, 24 May 2010

Support for repeal of the new national health care plan has jumped to its highest level ever. A new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey finds that 63% of U.S. voters now favor repeal of the plan passed by congressional Democrats and signed into law by President Obama in March...

...Sixty-three percent (63%) of all voters expect the health care plan to increase the federal deficit. Just 12% expect the bill to push the deficit down, while 13% say it will have no impact.

Fifty-five percent (55%) say the plan will make the quality of health care in the country worse. Twenty percent (20%) expect it to improve the quality of health care, and 18% think quality will stay about the same.

Fifty-five percent (55%) also expect the health care plan to drive up the cost of health care rather than achieve its stated goal of causing those costs to go down. Only 18% believe health care costs will indeed go down because of the plan's passage. Another 16% expect costs to stay about the same... While sizable majorities of Republicans and voters not affiliated with either major party continue to favor repeal of the plan, most Democrats remain supportive.

More: http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/current_events/healthcare/march_2010/health_care_law

The Fox network series *24* concludes its final season with a 2-hour episode, on May 24 at 8pm EDT.

Saying Goodbye To America's Post-9/11 TV Hero

by Claudia Rosett, 1 Apr 2010

...Jack is the man you want in your fox hole. When he goes to work to stop terrorists, he doesn't quit. No matter if his bosses betray him, his colleagues shun him, Congress tries to pillory him and the terrorists just keep coming. He finds a gun, phones Chloe for some hi-tech backup and soldiers on.

That job has been getting ever tougher. In Season 6, three years ago, Jack returned to the U.S. dazed and angry after an interlude in which Washington let him languish in a Chinese prison. When Season 7 opened, he had the U.S. law on his tail and was living in self-imposed exile in Africa. The current season began with Jack in New York, newly become a grandfather, declaring he was fed up with counter-terrorism, and wanted nothing more than to fly back to California with his daughter and her husband and spend his days in tranquil retirement, dandling his grandchild.

But each time a fresh crisis yanks him back into action. He is the only man who can stop the



next attack. Except after May he will be gone. It seems there are plans for a Jack Bauer movie to follow, also starring Sutherland. But that won't be the same as that weekly hour of escape that since Sept. 11 has allowed us to forget the endless absurdities of real-world politics and watch a guy whose mission in life is to protect us, no matter what obstacles the bureaucrats and politicians—not to mention the terrorists—throw in his way. That might just be the definition of a modern hero.

More: <http://www.forbes.com/2010/03/31/jack-bauer-television-terrorism-opinions-columnists-claudia-rosett.html?boxes=opinionschannellighttop>

Mexico City, Washington Gang up on Phoenix

by Debra J. Saunders, 23 May 2010

...Some senators and representatives frequently applauded during Calderon's speech. What a spectacle. Senators and House members were cheering a foreign leader for bashing an Arizona law intended to bolster the federal immigration laws passed by—who else?—senators and House members.

Washington keeps pushing the envelope on craven. For his part, President Obama is a virtuoso at talking out of both sides of his mouth on immigration. He calls the immigration system broken, then proposes to fix the system by paving a path to citizenship for those who broke the law. He has called SB1070 misguided in order to appeal to the lathered-up pro-illegal immigration corner. Then he appeals to "misguided" voters by assuring them that he is gung-ho when it comes to enforcing the immigration laws.

The best part is, Obama never has to deliver on his campaign promise to push through an immigration bill with a path to citizenship in his first year. Or his second year. As long as pro-illegal immigration forces focus on Arizona, Obama and Washington get a free pass...

The complete column:

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/political_commentary/commentary_by_debra_j_saunders/mexico_city_washington_gang_up_on_phoenix

No surprises at the U.N.

On the latest bureaucratic boondoggling.

by Roger Kimball and Hilton Kramer, May 2010

The headline on Fox News encapsulated the essence of the story: "U.N.'s Ballooning \$732 Million Haiti Peacekeeping Budget Goes Mostly to Its Own Personnel." Did anyone really expect otherwise? The amazing thing about the United Nations is that this sinkhole of corruption has managed to retain any public credibility whatsoever. Consider: "The United Nations has quietly upped this year's peacekeeping budget for earthquake-shattered Haiti to \$732.4 million, with two-thirds of that amount going for the salary, perks, and upkeep of its own personnel, not residents of the devastated island." The official term for this is BAUUN: "business as usual at the U.N."...

...The kicker in all of this is the American involvement in this financial fiasco. "Under a cost-sharing formula, the U.S. pays a 27 percent share of the entire \$732.4 million peacekeeping tab for Haiti during this 12 month period, or about \$197.7 million." This is in addition to the direct aid the United States provided to Haiti in the aftermath of its latest emergency...

...We've always felt that Le Corbusier could have atoned somewhat for his architectural monstrosity on the East River if he had only provided a mechanism for detaching the U.N. building from land and floating it out into the Atlantic...

Read it all: <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/No-surprises-at-the-U-N--5304>

The 9/11 Mosque's Peace Charade

by Pamela Geller and Robert Spencer, 18 May 2010

A massive fifteen-story mosque and Islamic Center going up in what was once the shadow of the World Trade Center

claims to offer “the opposite statement to what happened on 9/11.” The Center organizers, the America Society for Muslim Advancement (ASMA), have worked hard in the media to portray themselves as Islamic moderates working for peace on the exact spot where their belligerent coreligionists perpetrated murder and mayhem in the name of their religion. But the words and deeds of the leader of the effort, the Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, suggests a more ominous reality: Abdul Rauf is a master of deceptive, Orwellian use of language, manifesting a deep contempt for non-Muslims and full accord with the supremacist goals of the 9/11 hijackers...

More: <http://biggovernment.com/pgeller/2010/05/18/the-911-mosques-peace-charade/>

High schooler objects to *Sicko* final exam, says teacher called her a ‘teabagger’ in front of class

by Bob McCarty, 17 May 2010

Read: <http://bobmccarty.com/2010/05/17/high-schooler-objects-to-sicko-final-exam/>

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgYfRoe9-rY>

The Limbaugh Victory

by Zev Chafets, 19 May 2010

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/20/opinion/20chafets.html?scp=1&sq=limbaugh%20victory&st=cse>

This is still the best summary of the policies the Mexicans use.

Mexico's Immigration Law: Let's Try it Here at Home

by Michael J. Waller, 6 Apr 2006

<http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=14632>

Leave Them Tubes Alone

The trouble with net neutrality.

by David Harsanyi, 22 May 2010

As there is no real problem with the Internet, it's not surprising that some of our top minds have been working diligently on a solution.

In a 2001 interview (one that only recently has gone viral and caused a brouhaha), Cass Sunstein, now the nation's regulatory czar, is overheard advocating for government to insist all websites offer opposing viewpoints—or, in other words, a "Fairness" Doctrine for the Web. This was necessary because, as hundreds of millions of Internet users can attest, ferreting out competing perspectives online is all but impossible. (A search for "Cass Sunstein" on Google, for instance, barely generated 303,000 results in 0.19 seconds.)...

Continue: <http://reason.com/archives/2010/05/21/leave-them-tubes-alone>

Obama's Lazy Tribute to Daniel Pearl

by Mark Steyn, 21 May 2010

...This is what the president of the United States said: "Obviously, the loss of Daniel Pearl was one of those moments that captured the world's imagination because it reminded us of how valuable a free press is."

Now Obama's off the prompter, when his silver-tongued rhetoric invariably turns to sludge. But he's talking about a dead man here, a guy murdered in public for all the world to see. Furthermore, the deceased's family is standing all around him. And, even for a busy president, it's the work of moments to come up with a sentence that would be respectful, moving and true. Indeed, for Obama, it's the work of seconds, because he has a taxpayer-funded staff sitting around all day with nothing to do but provide him with that sentence.

Instead, he delivered the one above, which in its clumsiness and insipidness is most revealing. First of all, note the passivity: "The loss of Daniel Pearl." He wasn't "lost." He was kidnapped and beheaded. He was murdered on a snuff

video. He was specifically targeted, seized as a trophy, a high-value scalp. And the circumstances of his "loss" merit some vigor in the prose. Yet Obama can muster none. . .

..But what did the "loss" of Daniel Pearl mean? Well, says the president, it was "one of those moments that captured the world's imagination." Really? Evidently it never captured Obama's imagination because, if it had, he could never have uttered anything so fatuous. . .

...Notice how reflexively Obama lapses into sentimental one-worldism: Despite our many zip codes, we are one people, with a single imagination. In fact, the murder of Daniel Pearl teaches just the opposite—that we are many worlds, and worlds within worlds. Some of them don't even need an "imagination." . . .

More: <http://www.ocregister.com/opinion/pearl-249812-daniel-obama.html>

The simple truth about illegal immigration

by Mark Landsbaum, 20 May 2010

On the matter of illegal immigration, ideally, people should be permitted to do whatever doesn't infringe on another's God-given rights. In fact, in most cases, this greater freedom results in greater benefits for everyone concerned.

Employers should be free to hire whomever they want. Employees should be free to seek work wherever they want. National borders impede this free-market concept by impeding immigration—but that's not really the problem. Instead, our immigration problem stems from built-in institutional evils.

Milton Friedman **made this point** some years back: "You cannot simultaneously have free immigration and a welfare state." It follows that you can't build a fence high enough, or round up enough illegal immigrants to deport, or punish businesses with fines enough to discourage billions of people from seeking something for nothing. . .

Continue: <http://orangepunch.freedomblogging.com/2010/05/20/the-simple-truth-about-illegal-immigration/26465/>

Funny, but he forgets to mention Obama's attempts to take over the auto industry, banks, student loans, and medicine.

The Rise of State Capitalism

by Ian Bremmer, 21 May 2010

The fall of communism did not mark the final triumph of free-market capitalism because it did not put an end to authoritarian government. The Chinese and Russian governments in particular have learned to compete internationally by embracing market-driven capitalism. But they know that if they leave it entirely to market forces to decide winners and losers from economic growth, they risk enabling those who might use that wealth to challenge their political power. Certain that command economies are doomed to fail but fearful that truly free markets will spin beyond their control, these and other authoritarian governments have invented something new: state capitalism.

Using this system, governments dominate key domestic economic sectors. They use state-owned and politically loyal privately owned companies to intervene in global markets for energy, aviation, shipping, power generation, arms production, telecommunications, metals, minerals, petrochemicals, and other industries. The oil companies they own now control three quarters of the world's crude-oil reserves. These governments also control enormous investment vehicles known as sovereign wealth funds that have become vitally important sources of capital. In each case, the state is using markets to create wealth that can be directed as political officials see fit. And in each case, the ultimate motive is not economic (maximizing growth) but political (maximizing the state's power and the leadership's chances of survival).

The main characters in this story are the men who rule China, Russia, and the Arab monarchies of the Persian Gulf, but the apparent success of this new model has attracted imitators throughout much of the developing world. . .

More: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/05/21/the_rise_of_state_capitalism_105677.html

Huffington Post and Media Matters: journalists, or arms of the SEIU press office?

by Larry O'Connor, 20 May 2010

It looks like "reporter" Arthur Delaney has a new moonlighting gig as Assistant Communications Director for SEIU and he's so tired he accidentally posted a PR piece for the beleaguered union at his day job at the [Huffington Post](#).

As noted at [Big Government](#) today, a gang of SEIU intimidators stormed the front lawn of Bank of America Deputy General Counsel Greg Baer this past weekend in an attempt to bully him into changing B of A's policies toward foreclosures, or so they claimed.

Read on: <http://bigjournalism.com/sright/2010/05/20/huffington-post-and-media-matters-journalism-or-arms-of-the-seiu-press-office/>

The Fruits of Weakness

by Charles Krauthammer, 21 May 2010

... But the deeper meaning of the uranium-export stunt is the brazenness with which Brazil and Turkey gave cover to the mullahs' nuclear ambitions and deliberately undermined U.S. efforts to curb Iran's program.

The real news is that already notorious photo: the president of Brazil, our largest ally in Latin America, and the prime minister of Turkey, for more than half a century the Muslim anchor of NATO, raising hands together with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the most virulently anti-American leader in the world.

That picture—a defiant, triumphant take-that-Uncle-Sam—is a crushing verdict on the Obama foreign policy. It demonstrates how rising powers, traditional American allies, having watched this administration in action, have decided that there's no cost in lining up with America's enemies and no profit in lining up with a U.S. president given to apologies and appeasement...

... This is not just an America in decline. This is an America in retreat—accepting, ratifying and declaring its decline, and inviting rising powers to fill the vacuum. Nor is this retreat by inadvertence. This is retreat by design and, indeed, on principle. It's the perfect fulfillment of Obama's adopted Third World narrative of American misdeeds, disrespect and domination from which he has come to redeem us and the world...

Full column: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=ZDQ0MzkzNTk4NDEyOTgwOTdkYmQyZjdiYjJkMDU1YmY=>

Rand Paul and Civil Rights

A rookie mistake feeds a left-wing smear.

by James Taranto, 20 May 2010

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703559004575256283217096358.html?mod=WSJ_newsreel_opinion

Republicans Should Repudiate Rand Paul's Civil Rights Stand

by Peter Wehner, 20 May 2010

<http://www.politicsdaily.com/2010/05/20/rand-pauls-civil-rights-stand-out-of-sync-with-republicans/>

Not just their Big Fat Greek Funeral

As lazy, feckless, corrupt and violent as Greece undoubtedly is, it's not that untypical.

by Mark Steyn, 20 May 2010

... Unlovely as they are, the Greek rioters are the logical end point of the advanced social democratic state: not an oppressed underclass, but a pampered overclass, rioting in defence of its privileges and insisting on more subsidy, more benefits, more featherbedding, more government.

Who will pay for it? Hey, not my problem, say the rioters. Maybe those dead bank clerks' clients, assuming we didn't burn them to death, too. The problem facing the Western world isn't very difficult to figure out: we've spent tomorrow today, and we can never earn enough tomorrow to pay for what we've already burned through. When you're spending four trillion dollars but only raising two trillion in revenue (the Obama model), you've no intention of paying it off, and the rest of the world knows it.

In Greece, the arithmetic is starker. To prop up unsustainable welfare states, most of the Western world isn't "printing money" but instead printing credit cards and pre-approving our unborn grandchildren. That would be a dodgy proposition at the best of times. But in the Mediterranean those grandchildren are never going to be born. As I pointed out in my bestselling hate crime *America Alone* four years ago, Greece has one of the lowest fertility rates on the planet—1.3 children per couple, which places it in the "lowest-low" demographic category from which no society has recovered and, according to the UN, 178th out of 195 countries. In practical terms, it means 100 grandparents have 42 grandkids. Greek public sector employees are entitled not only to 14 monthly paycheques per annum during their "working" lives, but also 14 monthly retirement cheques per annum till death. Who's going to be around to pay for that?

Welcome to My Big Fat Greek Funeral...

Read it all: <http://www2.macleans.ca/2010/05/20/not-just-their-big-fat-greek-funeral/>

The Party of Debt

by Gary Andres, 20 May 2010

Two seemingly unrelated news stories unfolded in Washington last week—developments that could further stoke the flames of voter discontent across America. Taken together, these reports could also label the Democrats with an ugly and hard to erase moniker heading into the November elections: They are now the Party of Debt.

The first piece of news concerned Congressional Democrats' plan to forgo passing a budget blueprint this year—an unprecedented display of fiscal policy malpractice...

...The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) provided a second piece of troubling money news last week, demonstrating the health care reform bill won't reduce the federal deficit after all. According to the CBO, the health care law will cost \$115 billion more than original projections. This new estimate means the overall price tag of the Democrats' bill will top \$1 trillion...

More: <http://www.weeklystandard.com/blogs/party-debt>

Today is Draw Mooton Day. Everybody Grab Your Crayons!

Pamela Geller, 20 May 2010

http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2010/05/today-is-draw-mooton-day.html

Why Everyone in the Civilized World Must Support 'Everybody Draw Muhammad Day'

by Brad Thor, 19 May 2010

<http://bighollywood.breitbart.com/bthor/2010/05/19/why-everyone-in-the-civilized-world-must-support-everybody-draw-muhammad-day/>

Bill Maher's bigotry insults common sense, MLK, my mom

by Jason Whitlock, 18 May 2010

<http://www.kansascity.com/2010/05/18/1954139/bill-mahers-bigotry-insults-common.html>

Is Marquette Free to be Catholic?

by Patrick McIlheran, 19 May 2010

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/94302644.html>

Politics in 2010: Now that's entertainment!

by George F. Will, 20 May 2010

The candidate who on Tuesday won the special election in a Pennsylvania congressional district is right-to-life and pro-gun. He accused his opponent of wanting heavier taxes. He said he would have voted against Barack Obama's health care plan and promised to vote against cap-and-trade legislation, which is a tax increase supposedly somehow related to turning down the planet's thermostat. This candidate, Mark Critz, is a Democrat.

And that just about exhausts the good news for Democrats on a surreal Tuesday when their presumptive candidate for the U.S. Senate in Connecticut—the state's attorney general, Richard Blumenthal—chose to hold a news conference at a Veterans of Foreign Wars hall to discuss why he had falsely said he fought in a foreign war. National Democrats may try to find a less damaged candidate for Connecticut, but first they may have to do that in Illinois.

Their candidate to hold the Senate seat Obama held, Alexi Giannoulias, has a problem: The failure of the bank owned by his family—it made loans to Tony Rezko, the convicted developer who helped Obama with a 2006 property transaction—may cost taxpayers many millions. Proving his credentials as a disciple of the president, Giannoulias blamed

the bank's failure on George W. Bush...

It gets better and better: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=534547>

The Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act (known before its enactment as Arizona Senate Bill 1070 or simply Arizona SB 1070) is legislation signed into law in state of Arizona by governor Jan Brewer on 23 Apr 2010. Don't be like Eric Holder and all the other millions of mind-numbed, knee-jerk Obama-bots. Read the law! It's only about 10 pages long:

<http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/2r/bills/sb1070s.htm>

Wall Street "Reform" Just More Crony Capitalism

by Rep. Paul Ryan, 20 May 2010

...Republicans, who profess their zeal for democratic capitalism as the greatest source of human flourishing, all too often have aided the "kings of industry" in pulling the drawbridge up after they've taken the castle. Conservatives must recover the fundamentals of what is needed to defend the free enterprise system. We can begin by rejecting the current financial regulatory overhaul moving through Congress, and by offering alternatives that apply the essential principles that form a true free enterprise system.

The financial regulatory overhaul is not reform. Its fundamental architecture expands and centralizes power in Washington, doubling down on the root causes of the 2008 crisis. It is based on a vision that government can foresee future crises and avert them, despite the fact that an army of regulators never saw the most recent crisis coming.

The complex array of new councils, agencies, and bureaucracies creates endless channels for crony capitalists to penetrate. A financial system that once thrived on entrepreneurial risk and low barriers to entry for investment will now deny admittance to everyone except those sophisticated enough, connected enough, and flush enough with campaign contributions to do business with government and pay the price of entry...

More: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/05/20/wall_street_reform_just_more_crony_capitalism_105659.html

New Threats To Freedom

edited by Adam Bellow (2010)

A collection of 30 essays on emerging and dangerous threats to the liberties we simply assume will always be part of the American landscape.

http://www.amazon.com/New-Threats-Freedom-Adam-Bellow/dp/1599473518/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1274045266&sr=8-1

Slow Learners at the Ninth Circuit

by George F. Will, 19 May 2010

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is a stimulus package for the Supreme Court, which would rather not have one. The 9th Circuit, often in error but never in doubt, provides the Supreme Court with steady work: Over the last half-century, the 9th has been reversed almost 11 times per Supreme Court term, more than any other circuit court. This week, the Supreme Court should spank it again and ask: Is it too much to ask that you pay some attention to our precedents?

On Thursday at 9:30 a.m., the justices are expected to meet to decide whether to dignify the 9th's latest misadventure—an impertinence, actually—with a full hearing, including additional briefing and oral arguments, or whether to summarily reverse it. They should do the latter by 9:35 a.m.

The case concerns an Arizona school choice program that has been serving low- and middle-income families for 13 years. The state grants a tax credit to individuals who donate to nonprofit entities that award scholarships for children to attend private schools—including religious schools. Yes, here we go again...

Continue: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/18/AR2010051803989.html>

Don't Blame Taxpayers For the Deficit

by Steven Malanga, 19 May 2010

It's become fashionable to pin the blame for our outsized national debt (to say nothing of staggering state and local obligations) on ordinary Americans who apparently want more government than they are willing to finance. In this respect, it seems, we're really no better than those Greek protesters we've been sneering at. And until we own up to the fact that we are the problem, so the commentary goes, we shouldn't expect elected leaders in Washington (or Sacramento, or Albany, or Springfield) to offer reasonable solutions to our deficit woes.

The problem with this assessment is that it is starkly at odds with the facts. A simple review of Washington's priorities during the last two administrations ought to make that clear, especially when we compare what Washington gives us to what Americans say they want from government...

More: http://www.realeclearmarkets.com/articles/2010/05/19/dont_blame_taxpayers_for_the_deficit_98475.html

Time for war-story windbag to surrender

by Charles Hurt, 19 May 2010

...When Connecticut Attorney General and Senate Democratic hopeful Richard Blumenthal tries claiming he only inadvertently said—repeatedly—that he served alongside America's bravest and most selfless in the Vietnam War, he really cannot be taken seriously...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/time_for_war_story_windbag_to_surrender_nllF6rQQDdjwci5eNkccEM

China's century is not yet upon us

by Joseph Nye, 18 May 2010

China's current reputation for power benefits from projections about the future. Some young Chinese use these projections to demand a greater share of power now, and some Americans urge preparation for a coming conflict similar to that between Germany and Britain a century ago. One should be sceptical about such projections...

Read the rest: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/649e807a-62aa-11df-b1d1-00144feab49a.html>

No, You Can't Keep Your Health Plan

Defensive business arrangements designed to blunt ObamaCare's economic impacts will mean less patient choice.

by Dr. Scott Gottlieb, 18 May 2010

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703315404575250264210294510.html>

The Coming Constitutional Debate

by Stephen Markman, 25 Feb 2010

...As various advocates of a 21st century constitution have urged, a privilege or immunity might be interpreted to allow the invention of a host of new "rights," and thus be construed to guarantee social or economic equality. However pleasing this might sound to some people, there should be no mistake: adopting this interpretation will supplant representative decision-making with the decision-making of unelected, unaccountable, and life-tenured judges. Should the privileges or immunities clause be used in this way, as a charter of positive rights, ours will become an America in which citizens are constitutionally entitled to their neighbors' possessions; in which economic redistribution has become as ingrained a principle as federalism and the separation of powers; in which the great constitutional issues of the day will focus on whether porridge should be subsidized and housing allowances reimbursed at 89 or 94 percent of the last fiscal year level; and in which a succession of new "rights" will be parceled out as people are deemed worthy of them by berobed lawyers in the judiciary...

...Another looming constitutional battleground concerns the meaning of the Ninth Amendment to the Constitution: "The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people." Many 21st century constitutionalists understand this amendment to say that there is some unknown array of unenumerated rights that lie fallow in the Constitution, waiting only to be unearthed by far-sighted judges.

Professor Thomas Grey of the Stanford Law School has suggested, for example, that the Ninth Amendment constitutes a “license to constitutional decisionmakers to look beyond the substantive commands of the constitutional text to protect fundamental rights not expressed therein.” Rights to abortion, contraception, homosexual behavior, and similar sexual privacy rights have already been imposed by judges detecting such rights in the Ninth Amendment. The problem is that, in the words of Justices Stewart and Black, this understanding of the amendment “turns somersaults with history” and renders the courts a “day-to-day constitutional convention.”...

...In practice, transnationalism would legitimize reliance by American judges upon foreign law in giving meaning to the United States Constitution; it would bind federal and state governments to international treaties and agreements that had never been ratified by the United States Senate much less enacted into law by the Congress; it would render both the domestic and international conduct of the United States increasingly beholden to the review and judgment of international tribunals in Geneva and the Hague; it would expose American soldiers and elected leaders to the sanctions of international law for “war crimes” and “violations of the Earth”; and it would replace the judgments of officials representing the American people, and holding paramount the interests of the United States, with the judgments of multinational panels of bureaucrats and judges finely balancing the interests of the U.S. with those of other nations—including authoritarian and despotic governments—throughout the world...

It's crucial: <http://www.hillsdale.edu/news/imprimis/archive/issue.asp?year=2010&month=04>

David Horowitz handles snotty jihadi b*tch at UCSD

10 May 2010

video: <http://www.breitbart.tv/for-it-muslim-student-in-san-diego-confesses-she-wants-a-second-holocaust/>

(Hat tip: Greg K.)

Iran's Nuclear Coup

Ahmadinejad & Lula expose Obama's hapless diplomacy.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 18 May 2010

What a fiasco. That's the first word that comes to mind watching Mahmoud Ahmadinejad raise his arms yesterday with the leaders of Turkey and Brazil to celebrate a new atomic pact that instantly made irrelevant 16 months of President Obama's "diplomacy." The deal is a political coup for Tehran and possibly delivers the coup de grace to the West's half-hearted efforts to stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear bomb.

Full credit for this debacle goes to the Obama Administration and its hapless diplomatic strategy...

Read on: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703315404575250172000040654.html>

Polarization May Be Our Best Hope

by Mona Charen, 18 May 2010

... More than 70 percent of Republicans in the electorate describe themselves as conservative or very conservative, while only 40 percent of rank-and-file Democrats call themselves liberal or very liberal."

Two possible reasons for this spring to mind. 1) Many liberals, like some of those at the *Washington Post*, don't think of themselves as liberals. They imagine that they occupy the sensible center whereas you, well, you are an extremist. 2) Even acknowledging that self-labeling can be problematic, there are nearly twice as many self-identified conservatives (40 percent according to a 2009 Gallup survey) as liberals (21 percent) in the U.S.

The *Post* regrets that this polarized electorate prevents "anything from getting done," which is an odd complaint in a year that has witnessed an \$800 billion stimulus bill, the federal acquisition of General Motors and AIG, a more than \$1 trillion health bill, the multibillion-dollar mortgage bailout, and the nation's deliverance from the curse of salty food...

...The *Post* is expressing a slightly more refined version of the broader liberal assault on conservative activism. In this construct, massive rallies for Obama are a sign of hope and human progress, but massive rallies against Obama's health care plan are evidence of "fringe sentiments" (Gov. Jennifer Granholm) or "fear" (Rep. Steve Driehaus), or are "un-American" (Rep. Steny Hoyer). When Michael Moore asked, during the Bush administration, "Dude, Where's My Country?" that was social commentary. When tea partiers say similar things, they are proto-fascists...

More: <http://www.creators.com/conservative/mona-charen/polarization-may-be-our-best-hope.html>

"Enough Money"

by Thomas Sowell, 17 May 2010

One of the many shallow statements that sound good—if you don't stop and think about it—is that "at some point, you have made enough money."

The key word in this statement, made by President Barack Obama recently, is "you." There is nothing wrong with my deciding how much money is enough for me or your deciding how much money is enough for you, but when politicians think that they should be deciding how much money is enough for other people, that is starting down a very slippery slope. Politicians with the power to determine each citizen's income are no longer public servants. They are public masters...

The rest: <http://article.nationalreview.com/434341/enough-money/thomas-sowell>

A Slow-Burn Bonfire of Liberties

by Mark Steyn, 13 May 2010

...With bigotry and racism running rampant, it was inevitable that homophobia would raise its ugly head. Dale McAlpine, a practising (wait for it) Christian, was handing out leaflets in the town of Workington and chit-chatting with shoppers when he was arrested on a "public order" charge by police officer Sam Adams (no relation), a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community outreach officer. Mr. McAlpine said homosexuality is a sin. "I'm gay," said Officer Adams. Well, it's still a sin, said Mr. McAlpine. So Officer Adams arrested him for causing distress to Officer Adams...

...The other day, upholding the sacking of a black Christian for declining to provide "sex therapy lessons" to gay couples, Lord Justice Laws ruled that "law for the protection of a position held purely on religious grounds is irrational, divisive, capricious, arbitrary." Actually it's the law of Lord Justice Laws that is increasingly "irrational, divisive, capricious, arbitrary." Or as George Orwell, in *Animal Farm*, formulated it: all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others. In the land of Laws, a gay is more equal than a Christian. A Muslim is more equal than anybody. A black man is more equal than a white man, unless the white man is gay and the black man a Christian. An eco-zealot is more equal than an Anglican...

...Once you establish the principle that the state has the right to police ideas, sooner or later one of yours will catch their eye... Big Government is dismantling civic identity, and the slow-burn bonfire of liberties in Europe and North America will eventually consume us all.

Read the whole piece: <http://www2.macleans.ca/2010/05/13/a-slow-burn-bonfire-of-liberties-2/print/>

Is the Cure Worse Than the Disease?

ObamaCare is already failing.

by Peter Suderman, 14 May 2010

...Small businesses, meanwhile, have discovered that their tax preparation costs just went way up. The PPACA will require small business owners and the self-employed to fill out 1099s for every company they do more than \$600 worth of business with. That means any freelancer who buys a mid-range laptop from Best Buy will technically be required to fill out a 1099, no matter if the retailer is an indifferent chain giant. As with the drug subsidy modification, the idea is to beef up compliance and raise additional revenue—about \$17 billion worth.

Yet if it works, it will drive up compliance costs—how many home-based freelancers are likely to generate a docket of 1099s, complete with tax identification numbers, for big corporate suppliers all by themselves? And if, as seems likely, the requirement is widely ignored, it will have the exact opposite of its intended effect, pushing more and more taxable transactions into illegal, unrecorded territory.

At the same time, cost projections continue to spiral upwards. The Congressional Budget Office now reports that the law will require an additional \$115 billion in previously unreported (and yet unpaid-for) discretionary spending. Medicare's actuary has reported that total medical spending in the U.S. will actually go up and that crucial cuts to Medicare—cuts being used to pay for the law's new entitlement spending—aren't likely to happen, but that Medicare benefits are likely to be reduced...

Full column: <http://reason.com/archives/2010/05/14/the-cure-is-worse-than-the-dis>

America's War On Islamist Terror...Or Is It?

by Andrew C. McCarthy, 5 March 2010

...*Habeas corpus*: “You shall have the body.” It is known as “the Great Writ,” an inheritance from the Magna Carta and British common law that was formally established in the American colonies in the 1690s. When the Constitution was adopted in 1787, it became part of our fundamental law, enshrined in Article I, Section 9: “The Privilege of the Writ of *Habeas Corpus* shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.” The writ, in short, is a time-honored bulwark against tyranny...

...It has become fashionable these days to invoke the “rule of law” as if it means the rule of lawyers—and in particular, the rule of judges. But that has never been the term’s meaning. In the U.S., the rule of law is embodied in the Constitution and resides in the statutes, treaties, rules, and regulations adopted pursuant to the Constitution. The rule of law does not refer either to judges or to elected officials, who are themselves servants of the Constitution.

It has also become trendy in recent years, especially among our legal elites, to declaim piously that “the Constitution is not suspended in wartime.” And, of course, no true patriot believes that the Constitution could ever be suspended. But the Constitution is not—nor has it ever been—the imposition of judicial rule. Indeed, the Constitution imposes strict limitations on the judicial power, just as it does on Congress and the executive branch. It has never been the case that where judicial power ends, anarchy begins...

...At the time Lincoln suspended *habeas corpus*, the survival of the Union hung in the balance, with Confederate sympathizers sabotaging railways and otherwise impeding the movement of Union forces and supplies. It is for just such exigencies that the Suspension Clause exists. As Lincoln reasoned in a message to a special session of Congress on July 4, 1861, if the writ of *habeas corpus*—“fashioned with such extreme tenderness to the citizens’ liberty”—were as sacrosanct as Taney contended, it would allow “all the laws, but one, to go unexecuted, and the government itself to go to pieces, lest that one be violated.”...

...How do we get from the decisive actions of Jackson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt to the Obama administration’s stunning mishandling of Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab?...

Clear and brilliant: <http://www.hillsdale.edu/news/imprimis/archive/issue.asp?year=2010&month=03>

Where do they go to get their reputations back?

by Jonathan Gurwitz, 15 May 2010

...Last week, a military jury delivered the same verdict for Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew McCabe that two previous juries had given Petty Officer 1st Class Julio Huertas and Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Keefe — not guilty...

...Should these indictments have ever been brought? “I allowed these charges to go forward because I truly believe that the best process known for uncovering the truth, when the facts are contested, is that process which is found in our adversarial justice system,” read a statement from Maj. Gen. Charles Cleveland, Commander of Special Operations for U.S. Central Command, after McCabe's acquittal.

Cleveland is a decorated soldier. But those are the words of an officer who has been cowed into submission by civilian leaders intent on turning the war on terror into a legal briefing, who have given greater priority to Mirandizing terrorists than gleaning valuable intelligence from them, who believe Abu Ghraib is the rule rather than the exception and for whom the presumption of innocence prevails for those who want to destroy this nation while, as the late John Murtha infamously observed, those who gallantly defend it are assumed to be cold-blooded killers.

McCabe, Huertas and Keefe have been acquitted. But instead of earning distinction for capturing a terrorist who butchered four Americans, they will forever be known as the three SEALs who faced courts-martial for beating a detainee and lying to cover it up. Which office do these brave men go to to get their reputations back?

The rest: http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/columnists/jonathan_gurwitz/ridiculous_prosecution_of_navy_seals_ends_with_acquittal_93804069.html?showFullArticle=y

Defending Arizona's Education Law

by Melik Kaylan, 14 May 2010

...In a legally vague but otherwise rather compelling phrase, the bill bans teachings that “advocate ethnic solidarity instead of treating pupils as individuals.” It was the formidably intellectual literary editor of the *New Republic*, Leon Wieseltier, who once said that a “multicultural society should produce multicultural individuals.” Chicano education

courses do no such thing. Indeed, sad to say, multicultural societies tend to produce monocultural enclaves, united, if at all, in the endless struggle to empower their own kind.

It's certainly true that the Arizona law both by intent and effect will target Mexican kids studying Mexican or Latino courses—palpable evidence of anti-ethnic, not to say racist, bigotry say the critics. Never mind that the courses being banned might be accused of just that. No, in various interviews Horne has been at pains to point out that he is all for a variety of cultures being taught, but just not in a spirit of resentment or grievance. Doesn't that automatically censor the history of injustice toward, say, Native Americans or African-Americans? Ah, there's the rub, for it rather depends on what gets tagged onto the historical facts. That is, it all depends on whether you're teaching history or politics, or put another way, using history to buttress a political agenda. If so, the state should absolutely demand that opposing viewpoints be included. Namely, for example, that the history of this country undeniably included problems of race, but also of triumphs in overcoming them. Exhibit one: the president.

There's another not so minimal issue we are supposed to never mention in discussions of this kind. As we laud and empower minority cultures for their vibrancy, when do we (or they) get to point out their shortcomings?...

Read the rest: <http://www.forbes.com/2010/05/14/arizona-education-minorities-opinions-columnists-melik-kaylan.html?boxes=opinionschannellatest>

Tide is turning in favor of Arizona immigration law

by Robert Robb, 15 May 2010

...When the law was passed, opponents reacted swiftly and fiercely and spun it as a civil-rights issue. Opponents charged that Arizona was relegating Latinos to second-class status. The law was racist and xenophobic. Allusions to police states, the segregated South and even Nazi Germany abounded.

It's become clear, however, that most Americans see this principally as a law-enforcement issue. A steady stream of national polls consistently show the same thing: A solid majority of Americans (usually around 60 percent) believe that local law enforcement should be doing the kind of things the Arizona law provides. Moreover, a solid majority of Americans also believe that Arizona was right to take action on its own, rather than wait for the federal government. That changes the game. It's easy for critics to depict a small state as a bunch of racist rubes. Harder to do that for the entire country.

Attorney General Eric Holder's admission, in a House committee hearing, that he hasn't read the Arizona law is also likely to be a turning point. Holder has denounced the Arizona law. He has said that the federal government would be closely watching its implementation and will consider suing to keep it from going into effect. All without actually reading the bill.

Holder's admission was both breathtaking and unsurprising. Opponents of the bill routinely and grossly mischaracterize its provisions. Even national news accounts are far more often inaccurate than accurate in describing them. I suspect that among those denouncing the law and Arizona, Holder is more the rule than the exception...

More: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/viewpoints/articles/2010/05/15/20100515arizona-immigration-law-robb.html>

A Hidden History of Evil

by Claire Berlinski, Spring 2010 issue

In the world's collective consciousness, the word "Nazi" is synonymous with evil. It is widely understood that the Nazis' ideology—nationalism, anti-Semitism, the autarkic ethnic state, the Führer principle—led directly to the furnaces of Auschwitz. It is not nearly as well understood that Communism led just as inexorably, everywhere on the globe where it was applied, to starvation, torture, and slave-labor camps. Nor is it widely acknowledged that Communism was responsible for the deaths of some 150 million human beings during the twentieth century. The world remains inexplicably indifferent and uncurious about the deadliest ideology in history...

...For instance, the documents cast **Gorbachev** in a far darker light than the one in which he is generally regarded. In one document, he laughs with the Politburo about the USSR's downing of Korean Airlines flight 007 in 1983—a crime that was not only monstrous but brought the world very near to nuclear Armageddon. These minutes from a Politburo meeting on October 4, 1989, are similarly disturbing...

...According to Zagladin's reports, for example, **Kenneth Coates**, who from 1989 to 1998 was a British member of the European Parliament, approached Zagladin on January 9, 1990, to discuss what amounted to a gradual merger of the European Parliament and the Supreme Soviet...

...Stroilov's documents suggest that **François Mitterrand** was maneuvering with Gorbachev to ensure that

Germany would unite as a neutral, socialist entity under a Franco-Soviet condominium...

...The former leader of the British Labour Party, **Neil Kinnock**, approached Gorbachev—unauthorized, while Kinnock was leader of the opposition—through a secret envoy to discuss the possibility of halting the United Kingdom's Trident nuclear-missile program...

...**Baroness Catherine Ashton**, who is now the European Union's foreign minister, was treasurer of Britain's **Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament** from 1980 to 1982. The papers offer evidence that this organization received "unidentified income" from the Soviet Union in the 1980s. Stroilov's papers suggest as well that the government of the current Spanish EU commissioner for economic and monetary affairs, **Joaquín Almunia**, enthusiastically supported the Soviet project of gradually unifying Germany and Europe into a socialist "common European home" and strongly opposed the independence of the Baltic states and then of Ukraine...

...Bukovsky's book about the story that these documents tell, *Jugement à Moscou*, has been published in French, Russian, and a few other Slavic languages, but not in English. **Random House** bought the manuscript and, in Bukovsky's words, tried "to force me to rewrite the whole book from the liberal left political perspective..."

More: http://www.city-journal.org/2010/20_2_soviet-archives.html

The Other European Volcano

When Greece started to erupt, the volcanic ash spread over the social democrats' smug vision of a perfect European Union. by *Victor Davis Hanson, 14 May 2010*

...Once the bureaucratic scab comes off, we are going to see many of the European Union's raw wounds as never before. The Greek riots are instructive, as the world watches in shock as the prospective recipients of world largesse rage at their benefactors. Draping the Acropolis with the hammer-and-sickle seems an odd way to convince capitalists to bail out socialists at the beginning of the life-saving tourist season. But, then, when does any dependent either voluntarily cut back, or feel gratitude toward its patron? We may well see far more violence as the crisis spreads throughout southern Europe. An entire generation nursed on socialism as a birthright — with no direct memory of the hardship of the Depression, World War II, the postwar rebuilding, or the fault lines from left-right violence in Spain, Italy, and Greece — will very soon be "asked" to give much of it up.

As the statist economy goes, so too will go much of the European posturing about state-subsidized radical environmentalism, pooh-poohing of Islamic radicalism, and holding up of the bogeyman of American imperialism. Those were always pipe-dream ideologies of an affluent and subsidized populace. They are certainly luxuries beyond the means of a far poorer, far angrier citizenry that now must live in the unkind world...

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=MTJkNzFiYzU3ZWFiZDJhNTdiYjk2YTM1M2YyNDVmM2M=>

Guess What Greece Has To Jettison

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 13 May 2010

Greece was told that if it wanted a bailout, it needed to consider privatizing its government health care system. So tell us again why the U.S. is following Europe's welfare state model.

The requirement, part of a deal arranged by the IMF, the European Union and the European Central bank, is a tacit admission that national health care programs are unsustainable. Along with transportation and energy, the bailout group, according to the New York Times, wants the Greek government to remove "the state from the marketplace in crucial sectors."

This is not some cranky or politically motivated demand. It is a condition based on the ugly reality of government medicine. The Times reports that economists—not right-wingers opposed to health care who want to blow up Times Square—say liberalizing "the health care industry would help bring down prices in these areas, which are among the highest in Europe."

Of course most of the media have been largely silent about the health care privatization measure for Greece, as it conflicts with their universal, single-payer health care narrative...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=534021>

Europe Is No Model

The genius of American politics.

by Jeffrey Bergner, 10 May 2010 (May 17 issue)

...The political left in the United States seizes on one thread out of the complex American political fabric—equality—and emphasizes it to the exclusion of all else. The left displays scant concern about using the federal government to force equality of condition; it displays even less concern for prudence in what it asks the government to do; and of late it displays virtually no concern at all for fiscal responsibility and the welfare of future generations. It chafes under constitutional and procedural restrictions on its ability to advance its agenda. And it seeks to stifle the free expression of religious and dissenting views in the public square.

The American left has turned its back on the incomparably rich and sophisticated political tradition that has been bequeathed to us. The narrative of the left has this great tactical virtue: It is simple, even simple-minded, in its conception, lacking the slightest nuance. Perhaps this accounts for the left's singularly empty rhetoric; beneath its ad hominem attacks, faux emoting, and tactical calculation, its intellectual architecture could not support a feather.

America owns a finer political tradition. Restoring it requires new and better policies through which to express the equality Tocqueville calls the "chief passion which stirs men." Our policies cannot and should not oppose equality, but must find ways to express equality consistent with the love of liberty and respect for diversity that we have inherited...

3,900 beautifully written words: <http://weeklystandard.com/articles/europe-no-model>

A good column overall, but take it with some skepticism. Among his top 10 contenders for the GOP nomination, Mr. McKinnon includes Joe Scarborough (!), Mike Huckabee, and Rick Santorum—none of which have a snowball's chance.

The GOP's Fresh 2012 Faces

by Mark McKinnon, 13 May 2010

As they near the first turn toward November 2012, the GOP dark horses are picking up speed. Early betting had focused largely on Republican front-runners Mitt Romney and Tim Pawlenty (both of whom would instantly be challenged by the favored filly, Sarah Palin, if she runs). But given the political environment we are in now, and likely will be for awhile, conventional wisdom should be tossed out the window.

So who is likely to gain traction and interest, and perhaps ultimately the nomination? The odds increasingly favor someone like Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels or South Dakota Senator John Thune...

Read on: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-05-13/the-gops-fresh-2012-faces/full/>

Krugman Misleads On Greece

In 10 years, under Obama's budget plan, the USA will likely be in same debt position as Greece is now.

by John Stossel, 14 May 2010

<http://stossel.blogs.foxbusiness.com/2010/05/14/krugman-misleads-on-greece/>

Kerry's Powerless America Act

Investors Business Daily editorial, 12 May 2010

Call it cap-and-trade or bait-and-switch, but John Kerry and Joe Lieberman continue to tilt at windmills with a bill to restrain energy growth in the name of saving the planet. The bill introduced Wednesday and sponsored by the two senators is called the American Power Act, an Orwellian phrase if ever there was one. Like President Obama's offshore drilling program, for every "incentive" there is a restriction. It's as if Hamlet were to be appointed Secretary of Energy...

..."This bill is a compilation of just about every bad idea that has emerged in the energy debate," said Patrick Creighton, spokesman for the Institute for Energy Research, a free-market think tank. "Two things are certain if this bill becomes law: Energy prices will skyrocket, and jobs will be shipped overseas."

It is a scam built upon a scam, introduced just as the mercury in Chicopee, Mass., dropped to 26 degrees at about 5 a.m., beating the previous record for the chilliest May 11 set back in 1962...

Read the rest, and view the shocking list of new government roadblocks:

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=533800>

3,800 illuminating words.

The Varieties of Liberal Enthusiasm

The Left's political zealotry increasingly resembles religious experience.

by Benjamin Plotinsky, *Spring 2010 issue*

http://www.city-journal.org/2010/20_2_liberal-enthusiam.html

And the "widely reprinted speech" by Michael Crichton:

<http://www.crichton-official.com/speech-environmentalismaseligion.html>

The Smiley Face Medal

Washington Times editorial, 14 May 2010

...The current rules of engagement in Afghanistan, adopted in July, were meant to decrease civilian casualties and help win hearts and minds. But an ABC News poll taken in Afghanistan last December showed 43 percent of Afghans saying ISAF's record of avoiding civilian casualties has gotten worse, against 24 percent saying it has improved. Afghan Interior Ministry data from March 21 to April 21 show almost six civilians a day being killed in Afghanistan, a 33 percent increase over the same period in 2009. Meanwhile, U.S. troop fatalities in Afghanistan for the first three months of 2010 were double the number over the same period in 2009. Since April, they have been triple. All of those statistics are moving in the wrong direction, and a smiley face medal is not the solution...

... Adding this medal to the already complex calculus troops face in those tense moments is a needless complication—and it could wind up getting Americans killed...

Full editorial: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/may/14/the-smiley-face-medal/print/>

"Sweden Is Our Country, Too!"

by Baron Bodissey, 13 May 2010

This will probably be the final video we post of Tuesday's attack on Lars Vilks. I Mitt Sverige has posted the definitive record of the entire incident, from when the "Allah ho gay bar" video started playing until the police finally started making people leave the lecture hall. As you watch this ten-minute video, pay close attention to what the Muslims shout at the police (subtitles in English)...

...Sweden is rapidly approaching the endgame of the multicultural socialist state. The current regime cannot be maintained much longer, and the strain is starting to show. The inevitable animosity generated by the clash of civilizations has brought society to the verge of breakdown in immigrant-rich areas. Consider the implications of some of the words shouted by Muslims in this video: **1. Sweden is our country, too!**

The man who keeps shouting this is exactly correct: his assertion echoes the central dogma of Multiculturalism, which has been drilled into him as well as the "persons of Swedish background" who formed the vast majority of the country's inhabitants until a generation ago. The country belongs to the people who happen to live there, not to a nation or culture, and most certainly not to the descendants of all those Swedes who toiled and sacrificed for centuries to build a civilized society out of a chilly wilderness...

...**2. If he had stopped the film, this couldn't have happened.** In other words, if Mr. Vilks had moderated his actions to take into account the sentiments of Sweden's Muslim community, nobody would have tried to kill him. From the enrichers' standpoint, this makes perfect moral sense. Immigrants in Sweden have learned that this is their right: their religion is to be respected at all times and by everyone. When an irresistible multicultural force meets an immovable free-speech object, guess which one has to yield?...

...**4. Isn't it illegal for you to draw your gun? Then we will report you, too!** ... They know that Swedes are not allowed to fight back, that guns in police holsters are only for show, and that the Swedish social and political system will tremble at the first hint of violent retaliation. They know that if they are brought up on charges, useful idiots in the Swedish legal system with rush to their aid, and that even if they are convicted, any punishment they receive will be so light as to be meaningless...

Read it all, and watch the video: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/05/sweden-is-our-country-too.html#readfurther>

Who's the Coward Now, Mr. Holder?

Tom Bevan, 13 May 2010

In testimony before the House Judiciary Committee, the man who famously slammed America as a "nation of cowards" for not having frank discussions on the issue of race spends the better part of two very long minutes dancing around a direct question of whether "radical Islam" might have played a role in motivating the three terrorism incidents in the United States in the last year.

Watch: <http://realclearpolitics.blogs.time.com/2010/05/13/whos-the-coward-now-mr-holder/>

INTERPOL: tool of totalitarian repression

Iran Targeting Dissidents Through Global Police

by Erick Stakelbeck, 13 May 2010

...Homayoun said he can't believe the irony of it all. He spends his days on TV speaking out against terrorism committed by the Iranian regime, which funds groups like Hezbollah and Hamas. Now that very regime is accusing him of acts of terror in order to silence him—and INTERPOL seems to be playing right along. "You have a terrorist regime in Iran—they whack their own dissidents inside the country. They've murdered over 200 opposition people outside the country. And now they're using the international police organization to go after those same dissidents," Iran expert Ken Timmerman said.

Timmerman told CBN News that INTERPOL should have thrown out the Iranian warrant against Homayoun immediately. "INTERPOL should not be taking the word of the Iranian regime, a terrorist organization, to the bank," he said. "They should not be, without any kind of critical examination, accepting arrest warrants from the Iranian regime against people that they can easily verify their activities have nothing to do with terrorism, like Sharham Homayoun."

INTERPOL helps facilitate cooperation and information sharing among law enforcement agencies across the world. It is funded in part by U.S. taxpayer dollars and is headquartered in Lyon, France...

...Critics fear a recent move by the Obama administration could give INTERPOL free reign inside America and lead to the targeting of more U.S. residents like Homayoun. President Obama issued a controversial executive order late last year that grants INTERPOL the ability to operate on U.S. soil without the usual restraints that apply to domestic law enforcement agencies, like the FBI...

Full story: <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2010/May/Iran-Targeting-Dissidents-with-Global-Police/>

The Bounds of Silence

Obama's Supreme Court pick looks wobbly on freedom of speech.

by Jacob Sullum, 12 May 2010

...There is evidence in Kagan's academic articles that her overzealous defenses of federal censorship were more than a function of her job. In a 1993 essay published by *The University of Chicago Law Review*, for instance, she suggested how supporters of bans on pornography and "hate speech" could pursue their goals despite that pesky First Amendment...

...More fundamentally, Kagan's understanding of First Amendment law, described most fully in a 1996 *University of Chicago Law Review* article, suggests a tolerance for censorship when it is appropriately disguised by euphemisms. In Kagan's view, the main goal of First Amendment doctrine is not to maximize freedom or promote robust debate but to ferret out impermissible motives for speech restrictions...

More: <http://reason.com/archives/2010/05/12/the-bounds-of-silence>

Human Rights Just a Joke At the U.N.

by Anne Bayefsky, 11 May 2010

Once upon a time, the United Nations was about protecting human rights and Eleanor Roosevelt was the chairman of its premier human rights agency, the Human Rights Commission. This week, the U.N.'s top human rights body, renamed the Human Rights Council, is poised to add Libya to its membership. Libya will be elected by the U.N. General Assembly through a secret ballot in a process that champions geographic and religious loyalties over anything remotely resembling the actual protection of human rights.

The Obama administration is making no moves to call for the defeat of Libya or any of the other soon-to-be human rights specialists now running for a seat. And yet, the 2009 State Department Human Rights Report says that in Libya

there is routine torture and abuse of detainees, legally-sanctioned amputations and flogging, sentencing of political opposition members without trial, indefinite detention of women and girls “suspected of violating moral codes,” homosexuality is criminalized, and their president claims that “the Christian Bible and the Jewish Torah are forgeries.”...

...The Obama administration’s “speak no evil” approach when it comes to choosing U.N. human rights authorities marks the second time in less than a month that the administration has kept silent about handing a global platform to human rights offenders...

More: <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2010/05/11/anne-bayefsky-iran-united-nations-human-rights-council-libya/>

Cut Spending Today to Save Tomorrow

by Tony Blankley, 11 May 2010

...Sunday on *Meet the Press*, he reacted to Utah's Republican Sen. Robert F. Bennett's third-place finish in the Republican primary with the uncharacteristic statement: "This is a damn outrage." He went on to say that Mr. Bennett was "a good conservative who was trying to get things done;" that he was "bravely" working with Democrats to help pass the Troubled Asset Relief Program and health care bill. "Now, he's losing his career over that. And it's just a damn outrage."

By contrast, I and others, as members of the shocked and appalled group, know the senator to be a fine, intelligent and honorable man, usually conservative, but not doctrinaire. In normal times, his commitment to working the interstices of the two parties on behalf of getting something done would be both admirable and useful. But, while sorry for him as a person (he deserves a better career end than this) I was delighted to see him lose because the next Congress is going to need a lot of a certain type of politician—and Mr. Bennett is not that type.

We need determined men and women who share the view of us shocked and appalled Americans that we are in crisis—and that we cannot wait until 2013 to stop the madness and start the rollback. Winning a majority of Republicans in November without electing a majority for radical, immediate rollback will be essentially as good as losing...

The whole column: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/may/11/cut-spending-today-to-save-tomorrow/>

President Obama, No One In Arizona Is Laughing

Governor Jan Brewer et al., 7 May 2010

Watch here: <http://www.breitbart.tv/arizona-governor-has-serious-video-message-for-president-obama/>

Or here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLgZ1LWLlko>

(Hat tip: Richard D.)

See You in November

by Misterdregs (*Chris Link MD*), 28 March 2010

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJRIdeoec4>

Cernan, Armstrong, and Lovell: "a blueprint for a mission to nowhere."

Former Astronauts unhappy with Obama space plan

by Jim Abrams (AP), 12 May 2010

<http://www.comcast.net/articles/news-politics/20100512/US.Congress.Space/>

Two-faced Times

by Steve Cuozzo, 12 May 2010

There they go again at The New York Times—trashing "corporate welfare" in the form of tax breaks for companies that pledge to keep or create jobs in the city. It's an axe they're entitled to grind, even in stories that are supposed to report news rather than disseminate propaganda. But a Times piece yesterday, like so many before, neglected to mention how the bleeding "paper of record" has *itself* so lavishly and greedily benefitted from "corporate welfare."...

Continue: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/two_faced_times_G7gQ1O14r1IPzGA6jjTXaJ

Who Will Bail Out America?

by Peter Ferrara, 12 May 2010

Social Security, Medicare and the retirement of the baby boom generation wasn't enough of a burden for the American taxpayer. We will now be paying as well for the generous pensions of Greek bureaucrats retiring in the warm Mediterranean sun at age 55, thanks to the foresighted leadership of our very own international statesman, Barack Obama.

Just last year President Obama proposed, and his overwhelmingly Democrat Congress approved, an additional \$100 billion line of credit from the USA to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). On Sunday, the IMF approved a contribution of \$40 billion to the Greek bailout, with America voting yes for yet another raid on its own taxpayers. But this is only the beginning. . . Indeed, voters in Spain, Italy, Portugal, and elsewhere may well think they should get their share of those bailout funds too, voting out leaders who try to be responsible, and voting in the worst demagogues trying to take advantage of the situation to gain political power.

Imagine if each of the American states could run deficits with a federal bailout fund to back them up. Could we count on the voters of California, New York, New Jersey, Michigan, and Illinois to support candidates promising crippling austerity budgets, with draconian benefit cuts and skyrocketing taxes, so they can do the responsible thing? This is the system the EU has just adopted. What that means is get ready for still more IMF bailouts financed by American taxpayers. . .

. . . Indeed, everything critical to the American economy of today is the reverse of what it was during the economic boom starting in 1983-1984, reflecting that President Obama's policies are the opposite of Reagan's. . . Moreover, the 1983-1984 recovery was launched just as the Reagan marginal tax rate cuts became fully effective. But today we are set for historic tax rate increases to kick in next year. . .

. . . Rest assured that when the credit markets tell America "No Mas" to record-shattering borrowing, there will be no one to bail out the USA. No one is big enough to even try it. Rather, the vultures will circle. The only possible bailout will come on Election Day, 2010. Unless the American people send a message that rocks Washington like never before, 2012 may well be too late.

Read it all: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/05/12/who-will-bail-out-america>

The Welfare State's Death Spiral

by Robert Samuelson, 10 May 2010

. . . The welfare state's death spiral is this: Almost anything governments might do with their budgets threatens to make matters worse by slowing the economy or triggering a recession. By allowing deficits to balloon, they risk a financial crisis as investors one day—no one knows when—doubt governments' ability to service their debts and, as with Greece, refuse to lend except at exorbitant rates. Cutting welfare benefits or raising taxes all would, at least temporarily, weaken the economy. Perversely, that would make paying the remaining benefits harder. . .

. . . If only a few countries faced these problems, the solution would be easy. Unlucky countries would trim budgets and resume growth by exporting to healthier nations. But developed countries represent about half the world economy; most have overcommitted welfare states. They might defuse the dangers by gradually trimming future benefits in a way that reassured financial markets. In practice, they haven't done that; indeed, President Obama's health program expands benefits. What happens if all these countries are thrust into Greece's situation? . . .

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/09/AR2010050902443.html>

Are the Greek Riots a Picture of Our Future?

by Bill Frezza, 10 May 2010

. . . What the world's political leaders and those who elect them need most right now is a shocking example of the only possible outcome of trying to practice redistributive justice on a national or even global scale. Rescuing Greece is a mistake. What they deserve is a good hard dose of exactly what they are asking for—unvarnished socialism.

Throw Greece out of the European Union. Let them default on their debts. Teach buyers to beware before they invest in sovereign bonds. Dare Greece to print Drachmas by the wheelbarrow. Put the whole country on the public payroll then challenge them to demonstrate what a truly egalitarian society looks like. Maybe a dramatic spectacle of what a workers

paradise looks like under the media's glare will teach us what's in store if we don't change our ways.

Democracy is broken. You can't mix Freedom and Free Lunch...

Read the rest: http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2010/05/10/are_the_greek_riots_a_picture_of_our_future_98456.html

Barney Frank, Franklin Raines, Jamie Gorelick, Jim Johnson, Kent Conrad, Christopher Dodd—and Barack Obama.

In Bed With Fannie and Freddie

Washington Times editorial, 10 May 2010

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/may/10/in-bed-with-fannie-and-freddie/>

Please bear in mind, as you read any piece criticizing Elena Kagan: she is one of the *least* horrible picks Barack Obama could have made, from among the collection of Star Wars bar-scene leftist loonies he could have chosen for the Supreme Court.

Vital questions for Kagan

Washington Examiner editorial, 11 May 2010

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/Vital-questions-for-Kagan-93306779.html>

The Case for Federalism

The Founders' forgotten formula for freedom.

by Rep. Bob Bishop, 6 May 2010

...While "federalism" may not be a commonly understood or appreciated term today, it is the only constitutionally based, effective, and theoretically consistent means to bring about the systemic change of government that people want. A large majority of people care about choice, options, flexibility, and freedom. Those things are precisely what federalism brings.

Federalism should not be just one proposal among many; it should be America's fundamental vision for government. If we hope to finally control the federal government, federalism needs to be the framework that undergirds all our proposals.

Federalism need not be a partisan issue. Liberals need to understand that a smaller federal government doesn't necessarily mean less government overall — it just means a government closer to the people. It means less concentration of power, and the right of local governments to grow or shrink according to the desires of the people who reside in the area. Meanwhile, conservatives need to understand that there are people in this country who do want a robust public sector, and that in regions where this desire is common, federalism will create one.

This is not yesterday's states'-rights arguments. It's much bigger than that. This is about better governance. This is about greater policy choice and flexibility. This is about breaking up big, inefficient, unresponsive government and returning power to the people...

Read it all: <http://article.nationalreview.com/433539/the-case-for-federalism/rep-rob-bishop>

Islam's Nowhere Men

by Fouad Ajami, 10 May 2010

...In an earlier age—I speak here autobiographically, and not of some vanished world long ago but of the 1960s when I made my way to the United States—the world was altogether different. Mass migration from the Islamic world had not begun. The immigrants who turned up in Western lands were few, and they were keen to put the old lands, and their feuds and attachments, behind them. Islam was then a religion of Afro-Asia; it had not yet put down roots in Western Europe and the New World. Air travel was costly and infrequent.

The new lands, too, made their own claims, and the dominant ideology was one of assimilation. The national borders were real, and reflected deep civilizational differences. It was easy to tell where "the East" ended and Western lands began. Postmodernist ideas had not made their appearance. Western guilt had not become an article of faith in the West itself.

Nowadays the Islamic faith is portable. It is carried by itinerant preachers and imams who transmit its teachings to all

corners of the world, and from the safety and plenty of the West they often agitate against the very economic and moral order that sustains them...

...The secular parents and the radicalized children is also a tale of Islam, that broken pact with modernity, the mothers who fought to shed the veil and the daughters who now wish to wear the burqa in Paris and Milan...

...This is a long twilight war, the struggle against radical Islamism. We can't wish it away. No strategy of winning "hearts and minds," no great outreach, will bring this struggle to an end. America can't conciliate these furies...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703338004575230142684329162.html>

A "Duty to Die"?

by *Thomas Sowell, 4 May 2010*

...Back in the days of Aunt Nance Ann, nobody in our family had ever gone to college. Indeed, none had gone beyond elementary school. Apparently you need a lot of expensive education, sometimes including courses on ethics, before you can start talking about "a duty to die."

Many years later, while going through a divorce, I told a friend that I was considering contesting child custody. She immediately urged me not to do it. Why? Because raising a child would interfere with my career.

But my son didn't have a career. He was just a child who needed someone who understood him. I ended up with custody of my son and, although he was not a demanding child, raising him could not help impeding my career a little. But do you just abandon a child when it is inconvenient to raise him?

The lady who gave me this advice had a degree from the Harvard Law School. She had more years of education than my whole family had, back in the days of Aunt Nance Ann.

Much of what is taught in our schools and colleges today seeks to break down traditional values, and replace them with more fancy and fashionable notions, of which "a duty to die" is just one. These efforts at changing values used to be called "values clarification"...

The full column: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/thomas-sowell/a-quot-duty-to-die-quot.html>

When Elena Met Antonin and Anthony

by *Ed Morrissey, 10 May 2010*

Most people who oppose Elena Kagan's nomination to the Supreme Court will focus on either her defense of Harvard's attempt to bar military recruiters from the campus or her lack of judicial experience. However, as HA reader Frank points out, her record as Solicitor General will provide an argument on competence, too. Kagan didn't do her homework before arguing the *Citizens United* case on behalf of the Obama administration and the FEC — which her probably-soon-to-be colleagues on the Supreme Court wasted no time in pointing out...

Read on: <http://hotair.com/archives/2010/05/10/when-elena-met-antonin-and-anthony/>

Containing Iran vs containing the Soviets: the Cold War and the present day compared, in 5,200 fascinating words.

Iran and the Costs of Containment

Before we say containment is "the only viable option" in dealing with Iran, we need to calculate its costs.

by *Michael Anton, 3 May 2010*

<http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=N2IxNmQ0YjU5NTZkMzFjODNINzcyMzAzM2QyNmFlOWU=>

Is there anyone left with America's interests at heart?

by *Diana West, 7 May 2010*

...Instead, the early narrative dwelt on the "suburban" family man who had lost his home—a two-story, grayish brown Colonial, we gratuitously learned. "One would have to imagine that that brought a lot of pressure and a lot of heartache on that family," said CNN's Jim Acosta.

One sure would, but only if "one" had remained blind to advancing global Islamization, eight-plus years and 15,247 acts of Islamic terrorism (as tallied by thereligionofpeace.com) since 9/11, and therefore to the possibility that Shahzad,

who received five months of weapons training in Pakistan before assembling his car bomb, might be part of it.

But no. Indeed, "there was a part of me that was hoping [the Times Square bomber] was not going to be anybody with ties to any kind of Islamic country," said MSNBC host Contessa Brewer. Of course, she inadvertently revealed there was a part of her that strongly suspected otherwise.

But that tiny voice of reason, Brewer and her peers seem to believe, is from the dark side. Brewer explains: "There are a lot of people who want to use terrorist intent"—jihad!—"to justify writing off people who believe in a certain way"—people who believe in jihad!—"or come from certain countries"—that is, countries that practice Shariah and promote jihad!—"or whose skin color is a certain way." This last bit, a non-applicable race card, works like a last-ditch sympathy trigger. "I mean," she said, "they use it for justification for really outdated bigotry."

Welcome to your world, where self-defense is bigotry, and thus worse than death by fireball, ax or vaporizing over the Atlantic. This is as ridiculous as it is obscene. There is no "bigotry" in understanding jihad as the engine of Islamic supremacism driven by the imperative to spread Islamic law (Shariah). Our leading lights shrink from this basic truth lest its clean logic wither the fuzzy, cultural-relativism-based universalism that orders our society.

If our leaders faced facts, you see, they might also have to act. They might have to consider such measures as halting Islamic immigration to stop the demographic spread of Shariah...

Full column: <http://www.dianawest.net/Home/tabid/36/EntryId/1384/Is-There-Anyone-Left-with-Americas-Interests-at-Heart.aspx>

Will Napolitano Be Fired For Times Square Incompetence?

by Tim Cavanaugh, 9 May 2010

...Napolitano's rhetorical slip is a little too serious to be palmed off with some linguistic woolgathering. She has made clear repeatedly that she believes people with Gadsden flag bumper stickers are a greater threat to domestic tranquility than out-of-the-closet terrorists who receive training and material assistance in foreign terror centers. She has been wrong about this every time, and she will continue to be wrong until Americans actually die.

This is an obvious politicization of her office. Napolitano's favored targets—health care protesters and disgruntled veterans—are distinguished not by their propensity toward violence but by their opposition to the administration...

More: <http://reason.com/blog/2010/05/09/will-janet-napolitano-be-fired>

Red flags over Web regulation

Denver Post editorial, 9 May 2010

...The whole Internet regulatory debate revolves around the notion of "net neutrality," the idea that network operators should not be allowed to treat some content and users differently than others.

In the abstract, it is easy to support that egalitarian idea. But what if some users are using a whole lot more of your system capacity than others? Shouldn't an operator be allowed to charge those heavy users more, or reasonably manage the traffic, such as slowing access, for example, to those who might be downloading movies when the system is close to overloading? We think so...

More: http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_15034478

L.A. Teacher Calls for Mexican Revolt in the U.S.

by StandWithArizona, 8 May 2010

Santee H.S. history teacher Ron Gochez, La Raza Rally at UCLA: "Where we now stand is stolen, occupied Mexico"...More gems: 'Communist Revolution', 'Frail, racist white people', 'La Raza' (the Race), Fidel Castro, 'Northern Front of Latin Revolution'...'40 million...revolutionaries...in the belly of the beast...Our enemy is capitalism and imperialism."

Sedition, anyone?

"We are a revolutionary Mexican organization here. We understand that this is not just about Mexico. Its about a global struggle against imperialism and capitalism At the forefront of this revolutionary movement is La Raza. We will no longer fall for these lies called borders. We see America as a northern front of a revolutionary movement. Our enemy is capitalism and imperialism."

Ron Gochez is NOT a professor at UCLA. Gochez is currently a HISTORY teacher (yikes) at Santee H.S. in Los Angeles.

Watch the video, and see how to contact this Communist traitor's high school, school district, and Board of Education:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/StandWithArizona>

Athens or Washington, It's the Size of Government

by Mona Charen, 7 May 2010

...One in three Greeks works for the government. Government employees enjoy higher wages, more munificent benefits, and earlier retirements than private sector employees. Civil servants can retire after 35 years of service at 80 percent of their highest salary and enjoy lavish health plans, vacations, and other perks. Because they are so numerous, and because Greece is highly centralized, public sector unions hardly have to negotiate. They simply vote in their preferred bosses. Some civil servants receive bonuses for using computers, others for arriving at work on time. Forestry workers get a bonus for outdoor work. All civil servants receive 14 yearly checks for 12 months' work. And it's impossible to fire them—even for the grossest incompetence.

Public sector unions are growing in the U.S. More than 50 percent of all union members are now public employees who have negotiated sweet deals with local, state, and federal governments. As economic historian John Steele Gordon points out, "Federal workers now earn, in wages and benefits, about twice what their private-sector equivalents get paid. State workers often have Cadillac health plans and retirement benefits far above the private sector average: 80 percent of public-sector workers have pension benefits, only 50 percent in the private sector. Many can retire at age 50." While private employers were shedding jobs during the recession, state and local governments hired 110,000 new workers...

...And in a corrupt feedback loop that may not be so very different after all from the Greek practice, public employee unions give generously to Democratic candidates, both in cash contributions and by manning phone banks, getting out the vote, and so on. It's no coincidence that the states with the most powerful public sector unions—New Jersey, California, and New York—are facing the most severe budget crises...

More: <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/charen050710.php3>

Curse the Suns for becoming political

by Robert Robb, 7 May 2010

...I'm not a supporter of the law. I wrote in opposition to it. And I have no problem with being "Los Suns" on Cinco de Mayo, in honor of the Valley's Latino culture and even as a subtle statement about the new immigration law.

But the Suns weren't interested in symbology or subtlety. They made it clear that, to a man—ownership, management, and players—they wanted to make an in-your-face statement in opposition to the new law.

And then, in their public comments, they demonstrated that they didn't understand what the new law actually does and, more importantly, what it does not. The most egregious was General Manager Steve Kerr...

Read the rest: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/articles/2010/05/06/20100506robb07.html>

Coming Soon: The Real Stock Disaster

by Reihan Salam, 7 May 2010

...Many have seen the recent stock market rally as further evidence that the U.S. economic recovery is real and sustainable, and the labor market really is in somewhat better shape. The despair that prevailed as recently as a year ago seems to be lifting, and that's very good news for the millions of families that have been ravaged by the recession. But my fear is that returning to normal is exactly what we *don't* want to be doing. "Normal," or rather what's passed for normal for at least the last 15 years, is precisely the problem.

The increase in equity prices, and the broader perking up of the economy, can be traced back to the re-leveraging of the economy. Far from paring back debt levels, the root cause of our balance sheet recession, we're increasing them at a rapid clip. A year ago, it really did seem as though middle-class households were adapting to a tougher economic environment as the personal savings rate went from zilch to a modest but still encouraging 5 percent. Since then, however, the personal savings rate has tumbled to 2.7 percent, and there's every reason to believe that it will continue to decline...

...And from the perspective of the political class, the key advantage of a credit expansion is that it was a form of

redistribution that happened off the books... Far from abandoning aggressive credit expansion as an instrument of policy, we've doubled down on it, teeing up a new crisis that might prove worse than the last one... Our leaders, Democrats and Republicans, are extremely reluctant to bite the bullet and pursue a serious, sweeping overhaul of our broken financial system... My worry is that the United States is far more like Greece or Portugal or Spain than it is like Ireland, and that our political leadership would sooner tell us what we want to hear than what we need to hear.

More: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-05-07/what-if-it-wasnt-a-glitch/full/>

SEALs 3, Pentagon 0

New York Post editorial, 8 May 2010

Not guilty. Not guilty. Not guilty.

The third and final Navy SEAL to be court-martialed in the alleged roughing-up of a brutal terrorist in Iraq was acquitted on all counts Thursday—leaving Pentagon brass a pathetic 0-3 in the proceedings.

Surely, justice was done for Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew McCabe, just as it was for his comrades, Petty Officer 1st Class Julio Huertas and Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Keefe, who were cleared last month.

But none of these heroes should've been charged in the first place...

Continue: http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/editorials/seals_pentagon_DMf89BGBbCAeE6zBp9Rd6L

Not Their Finest Hour

Britain's elections ended in an anti-climax, revealing a crisis of governance.

by Gerard Baker, 8 May 2010

...But towards the end it was hard to avoid the curious sense that, for all the excitement, the political debate was a rather elaborate theatrical production, carefully scripted to avoid any real discussion of the overwhelming challenge facing the nation.

The U.K. has, according to data from the European Commission published last week, the largest fiscal deficit in the European Union, at 13% of national income, even larger than the U.S. deficit. The scale of Britain's spending crisis is vast on either side of the ledger: Public spending has risen above 50% of gross domestic product in the last two years, while revenues have fallen below 40%, to their lowest level since the 1960s....

...The political challenge of rolling back that growth—something all parties are at least notionally committed to—is that any effort by politicians to cut spending is met with howls from those who get hit by cuts.

In the U.K., the universal principle behind much of the public spending—a free-at-service national health service for example, or a child benefits program that awards tax credits to all families with children, whatever their income levels—entrenches still further the role of the state—and weakens still further the resolve of politicians to tackle it.

Consider this: In Scotland—the birthplace of the intellectual founder of free-market economics—the state now accounts for 60% of national income.

The political consequences are unsurprising. The Conservative party, once the staunchest defender of Adam Smith's ideas, is now the fourth party north of the border: On Thursday it won one of the 59 parliamentary seats there.

It's hardly surprising, then, that in the U.K. as a whole, the Conservatives, confronted with an alarming slide in the opinion polls, retreated from an earlier warning that, if elected, they would need to pursue a policy of austerity, and fell back instead on vague promises of cuts that threatened no real hurt to the large army of recipients of public money...

More:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703338004575230473663589314.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_MIDDLENexttoWhatsNewsTop

Denial over the bomb plot

by Joan Vennochi, 6 May 2010

Americans can handle the truth. But when it comes to terrorist acts on American soil, government officials are reluctant to give it to us straight from the start.

Instant analysis of the Times Square bomb scare kicked off with the usual official disclaimers: Don't presume a Muslim extremist had anything to do with it. It was likely a "lone wolf" operation, suggested Senator Charles E. Schumer of New York, or, as New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg speculated, "somebody with a political agenda who doesn't like the health care bill or something." Janet Napolitano, secretary of Homeland Security, said it was being treated as a

"potential terrorist attack" but it could be a "one-off" or isolated incident.

The arrest of Faisal Shahzad, a Pakistani-American, quickly ended alternative theories...

More: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/05/06/denial_over_the_bomb_plot/

No, this is not a Saturday Night Live skit.

Al Franken takes over the U.S. Senate floor to explain a newspaper cartoon to the waiting nation

May 7, 2010

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2010/05/al-franken-tom-toles-wall-street.html>

Why Charter Schools Fail the Test

by Charles Murray, 4 May 2010

...As an advocate of school choice, all I can say is thank heavens for the Milwaukee results. Here's why: If my fellow supporters of charter schools and vouchers can finally be pushed off their obsession with test scores, maybe we can focus on the real reason that school choice is a good idea. Schools differ in what they teach and how they teach it, and parents care deeply about both, regardless of whether test scores rise.

Here's an illustration. The day after the Milwaukee results were released, I learned that parents in the Maryland county where I live are trying to start a charter school that will offer a highly traditional curriculum long on history, science, foreign languages, classic literature, mathematics and English composition, taught with structure and discipline. This would give parents a choice radically different from the progressive curriculum used in the county's other public schools.

I suppose that test scores might prove that such a charter school is "better" than ordinary public schools, if the test were filled with questions about things like gerunds and subjunctive clauses, the three most important events of 1776, and what Occam's razor means. But those subjects aren't covered by standardized reading and math tests. For this reason, I fully expect that students at such a charter school would do little better on Maryland's standardized tests than comparably smart students in the ordinary public schools.

And yet, knowing that, I would still send my own children to that charter school in a heartbeat. They would be taught the content that I think they need to learn, in a manner that I consider appropriate. This personal calculation is familiar to just about every parent reading these words...

More: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/05/opinion/05murray.html?ref=opinion>

A man who needed nasal surgery supposedly couldn't find a price lower than \$33,127 in the U.S. But Dr. Weiss checked with the facility where that price was allegedly quoted, and found that they actually charge \$3,440. The Crescent News Network lies, as usual.

Most Trusted Name? CNN Runs Outrageous Health Care Tale

by Dr. Peter Weiss, 7 May 2010

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/most-trusted-name-cnn-runs-outrageous-health-care-tale/?singlepage=true>

Labour has lost and the Conservatives deserve a chance to govern

The scale of David Cameron's achievement cannot be overstated.

Telegraph editorial, 7 May 2010

Even if his party remains short of an overall majority in Parliament, David Cameron should over the next few days be installed as the youngest prime minister since Lord Liverpool in 1812. The shameless attempts by Labour Party leaders to contemplate the possibility of a coalition with the Liberal Democrats in order to keep their discredited government in office are the final insult to an electorate that has emphatically rejected them. Nick Clegg's failure to translate his apparent success in the televised leaders' debates into gains for his party also militates against any stitch-up by the so-called "progressive left." Furthermore, Mr Clegg has previously stated that the party with the most seats and votes should have the

right to try to form a government. That would appear to be the Conservatives.

It is highly unlikely that Mr Cameron will seek a coalition with other parties and he would be wise to avoid doing so. As he said in the early hours during his count in Witney, the country needs stability and leadership. The results suggest that can only be provided by the Tories. When all the votes are counted later today, the Tory leader should have enough seats to form the first minority government since 1974 and get a Queen's Speech through Parliament with the informal support of the minor parties, who will not wish to trigger another election by voting it down. . .

. . . Most incoming administrations look forward eagerly to making their mark, implementing long-cherished plans. This one, in contrast, faces a long, thankless slog repairing the damage. Dealing with the deficit is the most pressing priority and will require cuts of a scale and duration this country has never before experienced, though these were hardly mentioned during the campaign. They are likely to involve cutting public sector pay and freezing benefits, raising taxes and postponing defence procurement programmes. None of it is going to be easy. But it has often been the historic task of the Conservative Party to clear up the economic mess created by a Labour government. It looks like it will be once again.

Read the rest:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/election-2010/7689481/General-election-2010-Labour-has-lost-and-the-Conservatives-deserve-a-chance-to-govern.html>

See also:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article7119226.ece>

<http://blogs.wsj.com/ianmartin/2010/05/07/brown-losing-last-gasp-fight-for-power-prepare-for-cameron-as-pm/>

Stinko de Mayo

School administrators need a lesson in right and wrong.

Washington Times editorial, 7 May 2010

On May 5, five students at Live Oak High School in Morgan Hill, Calif., were sent home for wearing clothing featuring the American flag. Their offense: trespassing on Mexican heritage during Cinco de Mayo. Administrators called the flag-wearing "incendiary" and likely to cause violence. The school district overrode the decision, and the boys were allowed to return to school. In response yesterday, about 200 students staged a walkout carrying Mexican flags. The question is: Who taught these kids to hate America so much?

There should be nothing disrespectful about the U.S. flag to Americans of Mexican descent or to any other immigrant group. Teaching children that their heritage is at odds with their citizenship promotes disunity and divisiveness. While the high school's administrators may have been responding to a real public-safety threat, that threat was the product of their failure to instill a sense of national pride in their students. . .

Continue: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/may/07/stinko-de-mayo/>

The Appalling Media Double Standard on Reporting Political Violence

When it comes to leftist violence, the media sees no evil, hears no evil, and especially speaks no evil.

by Bob Owens, 7 May 2010

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/the-appalling-media-double-standard-on-reporting-political-violence/?singlepage=true>

How can we thwart future Islamist attacks?

by M. Zuhdi Jasser, 5 May 2010

. . . More importantly, in the long term, our nation desperately needs to wake up to the war of ideas. We have taken major steps backward in the past year, too many to mention here. While the Obama administration wastes its time striking the words "Islam," "Islamic," "Islamist" and "Jihadist" from the government lexicon, the Jihadists continue to virally spread their unopposed narrative that "American society, government, and media are against Islam and against Muslims."

As a nation, we have been missing in action in the war of ideas. We continue to give the victim-mongering Islamist groups in America a giant pass on how recklessly they facilitate that same victim-obsessed narrative which feeds the minds of future radical Islamists. The arc of radicalization will only accelerate until the American Muslim community develops a palpable pro-liberty, anti-Islamist response. This war of ideas has been nearly impossible with much of the media, government, and academe unwilling to engage in the tough work of theo-political discussions of necessary Muslim reform. . .

More: <http://www.mzuhdijasser.com/7257/future-islamist-attacks>

One of the best columns ever by this great columnist.

Convenient Moral Blindness

by Caroline Glick, 5 May 2010

...But none have attacked the administration for agreeing to the false moral equivalence between Iran's nuclear program and Israel's nuclear program. None have condemned Obama for discussing Israel's purported nuclear program at a time when Iran, which has declared its intention to destroy Israel, is racing toward the nuclear finish line.

Then too, the American Jewish community is silent as Obama strong-arms Israel into indirect, administration-mediated talks with the Palestinians. It is silent even as it is widely reported that Obama has threatened Israel that if it builds homes for Jews in Jerusalem or refuses to accept a Palestinian state by next year, he will impose his own "peace plan." The American Jewish community is all but mute as Obama does to Israel what Berkeley is doing to Israel.

The fact of the matter is that defending Israel against its enemies isn't a freedom of speech issue. It is an issue of right vs. wrong. Israel is the state of the Jewish people. It is a great ally of the US. Judea and Samaria and Jerusalem were legally allocated to the Jewish people by the League of Nations Mandate in 1922 and that allocation has never been cancelled or superseded. Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria and neighborhoods in united Jerusalem are not illegal. The IDF did not commit war crimes in Gaza or anywhere else. Arabs are full citizens in Israel. When Israel fights, it fights to defend itself from aggression.

The aggression launched against Israel is conducted by societies and states that refuse to recognize its right to exist. It is launched by societies and states that ignore the laws of war, that refuse to respect even the most basic human rights of their own citizens, let alone of Israelis. The Palestinians have yet to find even one leader who is willing to accept Israel's right to exist or the Jewish people's right to self-determination in our land.

This is the truth. This is where the defense of Israel begins...

Read the entire piece: <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Columnists/Article.aspx?id=174593>

Civilian terror trials are the violation

by Robert F. Turner, 4 May 2010

President Obama's deadline for closing the prison facility at Guantanamo Bay expired 102 days ago, and Attorney General Eric Holder has now admitted that at least 40 detainees will be held indefinitely, without trial.

Enough, already: It's time to rescind the order, rule out any civilian trials—and explain to the world why holding the detainees at Gitmo is *the* right thing to do under the Law of Armed Conflict (which subsumes what was long known as the Laws of War).

Obama and Holder have repeatedly acknowledged that America is "at war," as did Congress by invoking the War Powers Resolution by a combined vote of 519-1 on Sept. 18, 2001. And the Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that this war is governed by the Law of Armed Conflict—which permits detention without charge or trial for the duration of hostilities. Indeed, detaining enemy combatants for the duration of hostilities without charge or trial is a long-recognized and lawful practice. Thus, the United States held more than 400,000 German POWs (and many Italians, too) at detention camps spread across 40-plus states—without lawyers, charges or trials—until World War II ended...

Continue: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/civilian_terror_trials_are_the_violation_irA81LHSMcsL1gVEw6OtRM

The Bully Party

When bipartisan debate fails, Dems fall back on a knuckle-sandwich approach to politics.

by Matthew Continetti, 3 May 2010 (May 10 issue)

The omens are everywhere. Iran is close to obtaining nuclear weapons. The eurozone is in crisis. The U.S. unemployment rate is near 10 percent. America's social insurance programs threaten to bankrupt the country. And—most unusual—the Washington Nationals are above .500.

But rest easy. None of this is distracting the Obama administration and congressional Democrats from their fulltime occupation: demonizing the political opposition...

...For the president, the only middle ground is where he's standing. Reasonable alternatives to his policies simply do not exist. It is Obama alone who determines which arguments are "legitimate" and which are "misleading." It's rhetorical

blackmail: Agree with me, the president is saying, or I'll call you a liar and a hack...

Not long ago, of course, sophisticated opinion was offended by a president who divided the world into good and evil. But no one seems to care anymore...

...The Democratic response to dissent is a lot like their governing style: partisan, arrogant, and self-righteous. In recent weeks, various Democratic factotums have lectured the public about "extreme" rhetoric, insinuating that the Tea Party takes its cues from *The Turner Diaries*. Some liberals suffer from a pathological inability to refer to the Tea Party by its name, preferring a crude and infantile sexual epithet. The folks waving signs and holding peaceful rallies have been insulted as fakes, wackos, ignoramuses, racists, nihilists, and hicks suffering from status anxiety. But when a poll revealed the Tea Party movement is better educated and wealthier than the electorate at large, a prominent *Washington Post* columnist summarily dismissed the movement as the "populism of the privileged." The lines of attack change, but the message is always the same: Go home. Shut up. Let us do what we want...

More: <http://weeklystandard.com/articles/bully-party>

Blaming the citizen

by *Ralph Peters, 3 May 2010*

American and European leftists share the conviction that the immigrant, legal or illegal, is always right—and the native-born citizen's always wrong. This bigotry toward the law-abiding American, Brit, Frenchman or Italian doesn't help the immigrant in the end. Instead, it's a powerful engine driving divisiveness.

There are deep differences between Europe's experience with legal immigrants intent on importing intolerant lifestyles and our problem with illegals responsible for social friction and violent criminality.

But the left's blame-game is identical: Anyone who doesn't elevate the "rights" of the immigrant over the rights, safety and desires of the citizen is a bigot. No exceptions. Could there be a formula better designed to excite anti-immigrant sentiment?

In Europe, right-wing movements once consigned to the fringe have gained electoral traction from the Netherlands to Hungary as desperate citizens, ignored by political elites, struggle to preserve their way of life...

Continue: http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/blaming_the_citizen_RXEV0CdMKmfm5mPSxqBWfL

While Oil Slick Spread, Interior Department Chief of Staff Rafted with Wife on "Work-Focused" Trip in Grand Canyon

by *Jake Tapper, 5 May 2010*

<http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2010/05/while-oil-slick-spread-interior-department-chief-of-staff-rafted-with-wife-in-grand-canyon-.html>

Ms. Eilperin is a global warming hysteric. But even she has to admit that this exemption didn't happen under Reagan or either Bush. It was granted under Obama.

U.S. exempted BP's Gulf of Mexico drilling from environmental impact study

by *Juliet Eilperin, 5 May 2010*

...The decision by the department's Minerals Management Service (MMS) to give BP's lease at Deepwater Horizon a "categorical exclusion" from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) **on April 6, 2009**—and BP's lobbying efforts just 11 days before the explosion to expand those exemptions—show that neither federal regulators nor the company anticipated an accident of the scale of the one unfolding in the gulf...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/04/AR2010050404118.html?hpid=topnews>

Why Left Talks About 'White' Tea Parties

by *Dennis Prager, 27 Apr 2010*

Opponents of the popular expression of conservative opposition to big government, the tea parties, regularly note that tea parties are overwhelmingly white. This is intended to disqualify the tea parties from serious moral consideration.

But there are two other facts that are far more troubling:

The first is the observation itself. The fact that the Left believes that the preponderance of whites among tea partiers invalidates the tea party movement tells us much more about the Left than it does about the tea partiers. It confirms that the Left really does see the world through the prism of race, gender and class rather than through the moral prism of right and wrong...

More: http://townhall.com/columnists/DennisPrager/2010/04/27/why_left_talks_about_white_tea_parties?page=full&comments=true

Big-time airhead celebrities earn many times what financial CEO's do.

Exactly who 'makes enough money' in Obama's eyes?

by Kyle Wingfield, 30 Apr 2010

http://blogs.ajc.com/kyle-wingfield/2010/04/30/exactly-who-makes-enough-money-in-obamas-eyes/?cxntfid=blogs_kyle_wingfield

Marine hero Ilario Pantano wins GOP nomination in NC-7

5 May 2010

<http://www.pantanoforcongress.com/posts/first-we-give-thanks-and-glory-to-god-with-god-all-things-are-possible-matthew-1926>

<http://www.pantanoforcongress.com/posts/nrcc-press-release-regarding-primary-win-in-nc-7>

<http://www.wect.com/Global/story.asp?S=12427987>

<http://www.wect.com/Global/story.asp?S=12427668>

<http://www.myfox8.com/news/sns-ap-nc--ushouse-nc7thdistrict,0,7540397.story>

<http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20100504/ARTICLES/100509860?Title=Pantano-leads-in-Republican-race-for-U-S-House>

<http://www.fayobserver.com/articles/2010/05/05/995820?sac=Home>

The Shock Troops of Bankruptcy

America will never be Greece, but our public-sector unions operate by Greek rules.

by Rich Lowry, 4 May 2010

...Public wages and pension payments absorb half of the Greek national budget. The government doesn't know exactly how many people are in the civil service, since that would require competence. It's now undertaking a census of civil servants. The guess is that it's about one-in-three people. The constitution guarantees these jobs for life.

During the past decade, public-sector workers have seen their pay double. They get bonuses of an extra two months' pay annually no matter what, and cushy pensions. According to the New York Times, the author of *The Guide to Granting Civil Service Pensions in Greece* retired at age 60, and 13 years later has a pension that pays better than his salary when he quit...

...One lesson of Greece is that once the markets stop believing a debt-riddled government, they can turn on it quickly and savagely. It's best not to get anywhere close to that point.

By the calculations of Jagadeesh Gokhale of the Cato Institute, Greece's debt is 875 percent of its GDP when pension obligations are included. Sounds outlandish. But the figure for the U.S., including programs like Medicare and Social Security, is 500 percent. The worst thing we could do is to add to the burden with an onerous new spending program, pushed by the unions and justified with Greek-style budgetary math. Of course, that's a working definition of ObamaCare...

More: <http://article.nationalreview.com/433348/the-shock-troops-of-bankruptcy/rich-lowry>

The Sky is Blue; The List is Black

by Andrew Klavan, 3 May 2010

Over the last forty years, leftism has failed in every particular but one: it has succeeded in demonizing the opposition.

Leftists will blacklist you—then if you complain, they'll attack you for whining. They will call you racist and compare your leaders to Hitler—then if you return the insult, they'll scream about the decline of civility. They will do everything in their power to cut you off from media and artistic outlets—then when you create outlets of your own they will

savage them for their bias. Like the mobster in a Raymond Chandler novel, they will beat your teeth out, then kick you in the stomach for mumbling.

As a result of their success in marginalizing dissenting opinions, nothing now creates a greater commotion in modern American discourse than speaking the obvious truth...

Continue: <http://www.andrewklavan.com/2010/05/03/the-sky-is-blue-the-list-is-black/>

Oooh! The R-word! That is soooooo racist and hurtful!

The Great Reneger

song by Michael Fischer, 22 Feb 2010

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdKmc9aBELM>

(Hat tip: Virginia J.)

Strong Brew

by Jennifer Harper, 5 May 2010

...The term "tea-bagger" is like uttering the "n" word, some say. Though he aspires to promote civility, evidence has surfaced that **President Obama has added "tea-bagger" to his public lexicon**, though it's considered a cheap and tawdry insult by "tea party" activists. Watchdogs at Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) barked when they saw the proof, tucked in a sneak peak of Newsweek columnist Jonathan Alter's new book, *The Promise: President Obama, Year One*, to be released May 18. Indeed, it appears the president joined certain partisan critics and the liberal media, and took the tea-bag plunge.

"This remark is the equivalent of using the 'n' word. It shows contempt for middle America, expressed knowingly, contemptuously, on purpose, and with a smirk. It is indefensible to use this word. The president knows what it means, and his people know what it means. The public thought we reached a new low of incivility during the Clinton administration. Well, the Obama administration has just outdone them," ATR president Grover Norquist tells Inside the Beltway.

There is not always parity in these situations. There were outraged calls for Rep. Dan Burton's resignation and massive press coverage after the Indiana Republican called President Clinton a "scumbag" during the Monica Lewinsky matter in 1998...

More: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/may/05/strong-brew/>

Starting in left field, Keith Olbermann:

He's embraced by MLB and the NFL while Limbaugh was shunned

by S.E. Cupp, 5 May 2010

...Now there's another menace lurking in the shadows of the dugout, someone so ugly, so vindictive, so polarizing that with every word he utters he is bastardizing whatever sanctity remains of the game. His name is Keith Olbermann.

Last week, From the Right Radio, a small, grass-roots broadcast outfit based in Indiana, launched a Web site called <http://www.respectthegreatgame.com/> to bring attention to the fact that Olbermann (pictured above), one of MSNBC's most controversial commentators, is blogging for MLB.com, the official Web site of Major League Baseball.

There you can sign a petition asking Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig why, exactly, "America's pastime is working with hate speech merchant Keith Olbermann." If you think this sounds a little fringy and paranoid, well, you be the judge...

Read it all: [http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2010/05/05/2010-05-](http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2010/05/05/2010-05-05_starting_in_left_field_keith_olbermann_hes_embraced_by_mlb_and_the_nfl_while_lim.html?page=0)

[05_starting_in_left_field_keith_olbermann_hes_embraced_by_mlb_and_the_nfl_while_lim.html?page=0](http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2010/05/05/2010-05-05_starting_in_left_field_keith_olbermann_hes_embraced_by_mlb_and_the_nfl_while_lim.html?page=0)

A Constructive Suggestion from Senator Lieberman

by Jennifer Rubin, 4 May 2010

...Although there are already laws allowing the government to strip the citizenship of Americans caught fighting in the army of another nation the U.S. is at war with, Lieberman's legislation would create new authority to address

individuals like Faisal Shahzad, the naturalized American accused of attempting to detonate a car bomb in Times Square on Saturday...

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/rubin/289201>

Reverend Predicts Revolution

a talk by Rev. James David Manning, 10 March 2010

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-6a8-QDGww>

Many more: <http://atlah.org/atlahworldwide/>

(Hat tip: Greg K.)

Obama Should Heed His Own Advice

by Peter Wehner, 4 May 2010

...President Obama lacerates his critics for engaging in the very activity he denounces. And he does so in the haughtiest way imaginable, always attempting to portray himself as hovering above us mere mortals, exasperated at the childish and petty quality of the political debate, weary of the name-calling. How hard it must be to be the embodiment of Socratic discourse, Solomonic wisdom, and Niebuhrian nuance in this fallen and broken world...

...I am reminded of the line from Emerson: "The louder he talked of his honor, the faster we counted our spoons."

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/wehner/289041>

Paul Krugman's Sarcastic Headline: 'The Oil Spill Is Obama's Fault'

by Noel Sheppard, 30 Apr 2010

...But what Krugman forgets to point out is that if this happened when Bush was President, the Left and their media minions including all the New York Times writers, columnists, and editorial department would have already blamed it on the President.

So, snark away, Mr. Krugman. We learned under George W. Bush that ALL disasters are the President's fault, including the natural ones like hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and droughts.

As a post facto aside, conservative talk radio host Mark Levin **pointed out** Thursday that it took the Obama administration eight days to do anything about this oil spill. Why aren't media attacking Obama for this delay in much the same way they excoriated Bush for taking so long to respond to Katrina?...

More: <http://newsbusters.org/blogs/noel-sheppard/2010/04/30/paul-krugmans-sarcastic-headline-oil-spill-obamas-fault>

Democrats at Ramming Speed

by Fred Barnes, 4 May 2010

President Reagan had a sign on his desk that said, "It's amazing how much you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit." If President Obama had a sign, it would say, "It's amazing how much you can accomplish if you don't care what the public thinks."

Washington has never been held in lower esteem by Americans than it is today. Yet those in control of Washington—President Obama and congressional Democrats—are bent on enacting a series of sweeping domestic policy changes this year that have one thing in common: They are unpopular, in whole or in part...

Continue: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704423504575212150317543616.html>

It's a little complex for the layman (of which I'm certainly one). But it's illuminating.

Why Our Current Budget Situation Is a Crisis

by Arnold Kling, 4 May 2010

There is no precedent for reducing the ratio of debt to GDP by simply growing our way out of it.

At the end of World War II, the United States had a federal debt of more than 100 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). In fiscal year 2009, federal debt was 53 percent of GDP, and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects it will rise to at least 90 percent of GDP by 2020 and continue rising thereafter, unless either policy changes or investors lose confidence in American fiscal policy and refuse to extend further credit.

Given that the United States recovered from its WWII debt burden, could we recover again? I think it helps to analyze how the debt evolved over the past several decades, in order to see what lessons history might teach us...

Read on: <http://www.american.com/archive/2010/may/why-our-current-budget-situation-is-a-crisis>

Geithner and GM tell a whopper

Washington Examiner editorial, 3 May 2010

...Whitacre sounds convincing in a down-home sort of way in the TV spot, but the reality is that this statement is a blatant misrepresentation. And Whitacre knows it. He's probably not worried about that fact, however, because it was endorsed by none other than Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner, who issued a supportive statement saying, "We are encouraged that GM has repaid its debt well ahead of schedule and confident that the company is on a strong path to viability."

Here are the facts, according to Neil Barofsky, inspector general for the Troubled Assets Relief Program. His most recent quarterly report explained that, "the source of funds for these quarterly [debt] payments will be other TARP funds currently held in an escrow account."

In other words, as Reps. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., and Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, said in a letter to Whitacre, the GM chairman's words come "dangerously close to committing fraud... Your false statements may expose GM to millions of dollars in damages, further reducing the value of the taxpayer-owned company. The American people, as the majority shareholders of GM, have a right to know the truth behind the cost of the GM bailout and GM's genuine financial condition."...

More: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/Geithner-and-GM-tell-a-whopper-92632519.html>

Mr. President, Your Animus Is Showing

That President Obama has initiated a definite shift in policy toward Israel has become evident even to the *New York Times*.
by John Podhoretz, May 2010

...Obama's open hostility toward Netanyahu and his disproportionate reaction to the unintentional slight delivered to Biden are important, and deadly serious, because there is no doubt they were authentic expressions of real emotion. We've seen Obama be a little churlish and somewhat peevish, but rarely more openly negative than that. Nothing in the course of his presidency has made him angry, so far as we know, in the way that Israel and Netanyahu have made him angry. Not Iran's defiance and game-playing. Not the supposed chicanery of Wall Street and the monstrous insurance companies that have served as his populist targets. Not even Rush Limbaugh.

This is meaningful. It suggests not merely that Obama differs with Israel on matters of policy but also that he takes these differences personally. And that, in turn, demonstrates there is an animus at work here, a predisposition to think badly of Israel—to view the Jewish state at best as an impediment to the good working order of a fairer world and at worst as a sower of discord...

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/Mr--President--Your-Animus-Is-Showing-15420>

Coming Up Short

What Michael Lewis' book *The Big Short* gets right—and wrong—about the financial meltdown
by Anthony Randazzo, 26 Apr 2010

...To illustrate just how out of control the trust in ratings had become, Lewis tells the infamous story of a \$724,000 mortgage given to a strawberry picker earning \$14,000 per year...

...Similarly, investors lost sight of basic market principals as the housing bubble grew and Wall Street's success surged forward. Simple lessons like "don't invest in something you don't understand" were left behind. In hindsight, Lewis argues, it seems unconscionable that well-educated men like Wing Chau, a "CDO manager" who created demand for the riskiest stuff out there, would make such a dumb bet. But the herd mentality was dominant. And as Lewis points out, it wasn't all malicious, blood-sucking vampire squids operating in the market... Lewis also accurately points out how banks

were able to game the system through clever accounting tricks that got around capital requirements...

...But to say, as Lewis does, that no one outside of his merry cast of investment sages knew what was going on is hyperbole for the sake of literature. There were more than a few academics who commented that housing prices would eventually come down and plenty of seminars on mortgage risks at industry conferences...

...Lewis falsely assumes that the perfect storm of failures at mortgage brokers, rating agencies, Wall Street firms, and regulators is the outcome of free market "hypercapitalism." But in fact those problems are all symptoms of a government-manipulated market that didn't allow for failure and had government subsidies favoring housing investments over other sectors of the economy. One of *The Big Short*'s biggest shortfalls is failing to examine how federal policy drove investors to get things wrong while Lippman, Eisman, Burry, and the Cornwall Capital boys managed to get it right...

More: <http://reason.com/archives/2010/04/26/coming-up-short>

Obama is victim of Bush's failed promises

by Chuck Green, 7 Feb 2010

<http://www.aurorasentinel.com/articles/2010/02/07/opinion/columnists/doc4b6af63781c92027520167.txt>

(Hat tip: Ann Marie M.)

One of his very best essays, full of fascinating history and context going back to the French Revolution.

What Kind of Socialist is Barack Obama?

by Jonah Goldberg, May 2010 issue

...When conservatives dare to suggest, tentatively or otherwise, that Obama or his party might be in the thrall of some variant of socialism, they are derided for it. In the wake of health care's passage, for example, a Salon article mocked conservatives for thinking that Americans now live under "the Bolshevik heel." When the RNC was debating its resolution in 2008, Robert Schlesinger, the opinion editor of *U.S. News & World Report*, responded: "What's really both funny and scary about all of this is how seriously the fringe-nuts in the GOP take it." Similarly, in a May 2009 interview, *Newsweek* editor Jon Meacham mocked the president's critics for considering Obama to be a "crypto-socialist."...

...And yet when liberals themselves discuss socialism and its relation to Obama, the definition of the term "socialist" seems to loosen up considerably...

...Indeed, very few successful socialist propagandists ever bothered to focus on the empirical case for socialism. Rather, when trying to sell socialism as a policy or a movement, its preachers testify about "social justice," "humane policies," "fairness," and "equality." In short, socialism—be it Marxist, Fabian, nationalistic, progressive—is merely one of many pseudo-empirical rationalizations of the deeper psychological impulse of Blair's "social-ism." The true case for socialism is not to be found in GDP or employment numbers, but in the promise of leaping out of History into a better society where we are all loved and respected as members of the same family...

All 4,595 words: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/what-kind-of-socialist-is-barack-obama--15421?page=all>

Border disorder

by Ralph Peters, 29 Apr 2010

...The Mexican narco-insurgency, in which well-armed guerrilla forces confront the authority and presence of the state, is our No. 1 security challenge. The chaos in northern Mexico has far deeper implications for our country than Islamist terror or even an Iranian nuclear capability (as grim as those threats are). The rule of law has *collapsed* from Tijuana on the Pacific's edge to Matamoros and the Gulf of Mexico. Major cities are now "ungoverned spaces," as our diplomats refer tidily to distant trouble spots. More people now die violently on our southern border than in Somalia, Yemen or even Afghanistan. But Washington doesn't know what to do about Mexico. So Washington does nothing much. Our ruling class simply doesn't feel the pain.

So the DC elite demonizes Arizona's desperate effort to shove the narco-revolution's disorder back across the border. Murdered ranchers, overwhelmed emergency rooms and soaring crime rates in our border states mean less to the White House than a terrorist detainee's claims of abuse. Our governing elite pretends that illegal immigration, torrential crime where illegals cluster, overcrowded prisons, Mexico's narco-insurgency, legal cross-border commerce and the drug trade are separate issues, to be addressed discreetly...

More: http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/border_disorder_rfy8ccTuYvAzNeDzP7qmsM

A Short Money Treatise for the D.C. Dummies

by *Steve Forbes*, 2 May 2010

<http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2010/0510/opinions-steve-forbes-fact-comment-short-money-treatise.html>

Obama: Drop in GDP growth rate means we're on the right track, or something

by *Ed Morrissey*, 30 Apr 2010

Er, come again? The White House crowed endlessly about the 2009Q4 annualized GDP growth rate of 5.7% in January, even after most of it was shown to come from inventory adjustments. Now Barack Obama wants to treat today's announcement of a 3.2% annualized GDP growth rate as a continuing improvement, when (a) it failed to meet analyst expectations of 3.5%, and (b) it's a significant drop from the last report. Don't worry, though, because as Obama explains in this clip provided by Greg Hengler at Townhall, he has a different measure of progress...

More, including that video clip:

<http://hotair.com/archives/2010/04/30/obama-drop-in-gdp-growth-rate-means-were-on-the-right-track-or-something/?print=1>

Immigration concerns: both in Britain (e.g. Mrs. Duffy, below) and in America (e.g. Arizona's new law).

What Arizona Must Live With

by *Mark Steyn*, 1 May 2010

<http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=NTBkNTMwMjViZmQxZGY3OTZmOTEyMWQ3NWE4YTYwZjI=>

(*Hat tip: Virginia J.*)

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 Despot 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>