

"After all, if you believe that no one was ever corrupted by a book, you also have to believe that no one was ever improved by a book (or a play or a movie). You have to believe, in other words, that all art is morally trivial and that, consequently, all education is morally irrelevant. No one, not even a university professor, really believes that."

—Irving Kristol (1920-2009)

"The millionaire or multi-millionaire is a highly economic animal. He sucks up with sponge-like efficiency from all quarters. In this process, far from depriving ordinary people of their earnings, he launches enterprise and carries it through, raises values, and he expands that credit without which on a vast scale no fuller economic life can be opened to the millions. To hunt wealth is not to capture commonwealth."

—Winston Churchill, *Great Contemporaries* (1939)

"The left can only take power through deception."

—Whittaker Chambers (1901-1961)

Allen West for Congress (Lt. Col. US Army Ret.)
Ilario Pantano for Congress (Lt. USMC Ret.)
Dan Benishek for Congress (Bart Stoolpack's seat)
Paul Ryan for Congress
Star Parker for Congress

Arizona's immigration law
Mexico's immigration laws
Petition to get Keith Olbermann out of MLB
Government, not business, caused the Crash of 2008

Help fight the Culture Wars:
Alliance Defense Fund
Thomas More Law Center
FIRE
Heritage Foundation
Claremont Institute
American Principles Project

No Mosque at Ground Zero (video)
Three Things About Islam (video)
See You in November (video)
America Rising (video)

William F. Buckley Jr. Award for Media Excellence Given to M. Stanton Evans

Michael W. Chapman, 29 Oct 2010

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/2010-william-f-buckley-jr-award-media-ex>

Anchorage CBS affiliate caught on voicemail conspiring against Alaska's GOP Senate candidate

by Publius, 31 Oct 2010

<http://biggovernment.com/publius/2010/10/30/anchorage-cbs-affiliate-caught-on-voicemail-conspiring-against-alaskas-gop-senate-candidate/>

George Clooney shocks *Real Time* audience by defending conservatives against Maher smear

by Walter Hudson, 31 Oct 2010

...Properly smacked down, Maher did not pursue the point further. How could he? Maher should have known better than to raise the point in the first place, since Clooney had mentioned working with church groups multiple times up to that point. Clooney apparently values actually helping people above cheap political rhetoric.

Again, this idea that conservatives have no heart—no capacity for empathy—is simply untrue. It is a frightening misconception, because it implies that the only way one can properly empathize is to pilfer a neighbor and give of that which is not theirs. That is a perversion of empathy. True empathy is just. True empathy looks at a situation from every angle, regarding each person as equal, and not valuing the needs of one above the rights of another.

Consider healthcare as an example. The rank and file leftist looks upon the uninsured and sees their plight in a vacuum. *How would you feel if you were sick and could not afford care?* That's where their empathy stops. It does not extend to the care provider, who works not only to serve their patients, but put food on their own table.

Conservatives empathize all around. When we look at the uninsured, we consider how we might lower their costs. We do not leverage one person's misfortune as an excuse to impose upon others. True empathy reveals **natural law**. The ability to place yourself in the proverbial shoes of another lets you see where their interest matches your own.

The Left's so-called empathy is a self-aggrandizing rationale for injustice. The leftist advocates **theft**, empathizing with one class of individuals, while wholly dismissing another...

More: <http://www.newsrealblog.com/2010/10/31/george-clooney-shocks-real-time-audience-by-defending-conservatives-against-maher-smear-1/>

Charles Johnson shreds the last of his credibility discussing the Stewart rally

by Aaron Worthing, 31 Oct 2010

<http://patterico.com/2010/10/31/charles-johnson-shreds-the-last-of-his-credibility-discussing-the-stewart-rally/>

Charles Johnson's 'Peace Train' to Islamofascism

by Donald Douglas, 30 Oct 2010

<http://americanpowerblog.blogspot.com/2010/10/charles-johnsons-peace-train-to.html>

Fatwa-endorsing singer featured at "Restoring Sanity" rally

by Ed Morrissey, 30 Oct 2010

...What I find amazing about this is that two stars from Comedy Central would share the stage with a man who supported the idea of murdering an artist for his remarks on Islam. The producers of *South Park* got death threats from radical Muslims for attempting to depict an image of Muhammed in one of their recent episodes, and the executive management of Viacom forced them to censor the show in fear of Muslim reaction. Now, two of Viacom's most recognizable television stars have linked themselves to a man who publicly endorsed that exact kind of threat — as a way to "restore sanity."...

Includes several videos of Cat Stevens/Yusuf Islam:

<http://hotair.com/archives/2010/10/30/fatwa-endorsing-singer-featured-at-restoring-sanity-rally/>

Stewart-Colbert rally: skits, songs, empty message

by David Zurawik, 30 Oct 2010

http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/entertainment/zontv/2010/10/stewartcolbert_rally_to_restor.html

The Looming Rare Earths Train Wreck

by Robert Bryce, 29 Oct 2010

...The push to build more electric and hybrid cars will simply result in the U.S. trading one type of import dependence for another.

Those vehicles might cut oil consumption but they will dramatically increase America's thirst for rare earth elements. And therein lies a crucial choice: We can continue to rely on the liquidity, price transparency, and diversity of the global oil market, the biggest market in human history. Or we can choose the "green" route. And in doing so, we will have no choice but to rely on the market for lanthanides, which is rife with smuggling, has no price transparency, and depends almost wholly on a single producer, China.

The Chinese control about 95 percent of the global market in rare earths, a group of 17 elements that includes scandium, yttrium, and the 15 lanthanides, the elements that occupy the second-to-last row of the Periodic Table. The most famous of the lanthanides is probably neodymium, a critical ingredient in the high-strength magnets used in motor-generators in hybrid cars and wind turbines.

The possibility of a shortage of rare earths provides a critical lesson about the slow pace of energy transitions as well as the inherent limits of any major move to "green" technologies. Bill Reinert, the manager of Toyota's advanced technology group, told me that China's export cuts should force American policymakers to unplug their support for

electric vehicles because the all-electric machines are "far more lanthanide-intensive than hybrid vehicles. We should be thinking about the material inputs for these types of cars in the same way that we do any other type of energy security."

The diversity and size of the global oil market provides the U.S. with real energy security. The numbers tell the tale. In 2009, the U.S. imported an average of 11.7 million barrels per day of crude or refined oil products from 82 different countries while it exported—yes, *exported*—an average of 2 million barrels per day to customers in 83 countries...

More: http://www.realclearscience.com/articles/2010/10/29/the_looming_rare_earths_train_wreck_106226.html

Democrat Fail Video

by Cathy Higuera, 3 Oct 2010

An entertaining 4:56 of liberal idiocies: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_QhHrRqnQY4

(Hat tip: Charles V.)

Our Post-Election Agenda

Rush Limbaugh Show, 28 Oct 2010

...John Boehner and Mitch McConnell will come out on Wednesday or Thursday of next week and say, "Here's what we're gonna do. This is what's in store. We're gonna work to repeal health care. We're gonna make sure the EPA cannot universally implement cap and trade. We're gonna make sure the Bush tax cuts are made permanent. We are going to move immediately to make permanent the Bush tax cuts and also press for a single constitutional amendment limiting the size of the federal government by limiting the percentage of GDP the federal government can spend in any given year. We're gonna oppose any more radicals on the Supreme Court or elsewhere on the federal bench.

Win, lose, or draw they will be fighting for the right things.

Border security. Use resources in personnel and physical structures to secure the border. This is not even going to be controversial, unless you oppose national security and the rule of law. But the important thing here: Don't wait for the deficit reduction commission in December. I have a fear that some of our guys are going to do that. Don't wait for them. Don't wait for Alan Simpson. Don't wait for "Irkosome" Bowles. Establish your own agenda. Make permanent the Bush tax cuts. "Well, Mr. Limbaugh, I really (grumbling) think we should hold off on that. The deficit commission might recommend something opposite to that and we might have to agree with some of it."

I'm sure that's the mind-set of some of the Republicans. It's very simple: Win, lose, or draw. You don't have to win these things. We're not unrealistic. We know Obama can veto all this, but you make him veto it! You make them show themselves! You make them illustrate who they are! You start the campaign for 2012 next week by spelling out and articulating (which will then educate and inform) what we are for. Don't accept any of their premises.

You know, the premise is that this deficit reduction commission is going to have all the power. It has none. They do not have the authority to implement one or any of their recommendations. They can be totally blown off. They can be totally ignored...

Read it all: http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site_102810/content/01125111.guest.html

It's Liberal Day on the Deck

Two pieces by liberals, and another quoting one at length.

A good column by an open-minded liberal.

Hail the American Work Ethic

by Froma Harrop, 28 Oct 2010

<http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20101028/discuss/710299951/>

A watershed column by two noted and esteemed liberals, in advance of next Tuesday's deluge. It's bad enough to lose Dana Milbank, Jon Stewart, and independent voters. Losing guys like Caddell and Schoen means Obama is ready to be slathered with butter and jelly.

Our divisive president, redux

by Patrick H. Caddell and Douglas E. Schoen, 30 Oct 2010

President Obama's post-partisan America has disappeared, replaced by the politics of polarization, resentment and division... What a change two years can bring. We can think of only one other recent president who would display such indifference to the majesty of his office: Richard Nixon.

We write in sadness as traditional liberal Democrats who believe in inclusion. Like many Americans, we had hoped that Obama would maintain the spirit in which he campaigned. Instead, since taking office, he has pitted group against group for short-term political gain that is exacerbating the divisions in our country and weakening our national identity. The culture of attack politics and demonization risks compromising our ability to address our most important issues—and the stature of our nation's highest office.

Indeed, Obama is conducting himself in a way alarmingly reminiscent of Nixon's role in the disastrous 1970 midterm campaign. No president has been so persistently personal in his attacks as Obama throughout the fall. He has regularly attacked his predecessor, the House minority leader and—directly from the stump—candidates running for offices below his own. He has criticized the American people suggesting that they are "reacting just to fear" and faulted his own base for "sitting on their hands complaining."

Obama is walking a knife's edge. He has said that the 3.5 million "shovel-ready jobs" he had referred to as justification for the passage of the stimulus bill didn't exist—throwing all the Democratic incumbents who had defended the stimulus in their campaigns under the proverbial bus. Although he said, as part of his effort to enact health-care reform, that the health-care mandates were not taxes, now his administration acknowledges in court papers that they are, in fact, taxes...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/29/AR2010102905966.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>

Requiem for the Pelosi Democrats

Veteran Democratic Rep. Brian Baird says that job creation should have been priority 'number one, two and three.'

by John Fund, 30 Oct 2010

...Mr. Baird, 54, is a loyal Democrat who voted for all of Speaker Nancy Pelosi's legislative priorities, including the stimulus bill, cap and trade and ObamaCare. But he admits all three have serious flaws.

Mr. Baird recalls that he was "very excited" when his party took control of Congress in 2006, but he saw ominous signs early on. Before the 2006 election, he says, Mrs. Pelosi had 30 members working on a rules package to make the House more ethical and deliberative. "We abandoned all that work after the election, and leaders told us we should trust them to clean things up. I don't know a single member of the Democratic caucus who saw the final rules package before they voted on it."

Democrats also watered down efforts to practice fiscal responsibility. "We initially had numbers a bit more honest than the Republicans—we at least included war costs in the budget," he says. "Now we're authorizing programs for three years instead of five in an attempt to pretend we're saving money."...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303284604575582320752384384.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Paul Krugman and the last gasp of America's liberal elites

by Nile Gardiner, 29 Oct 2010

...Not only is Krugman's article one of the most ridiculous pieces of scare-mongering in the history of modern American journalism, but it is the pathetic whimper of a decaying liberal Ancien Regime that is spectacularly crumbling. It also illustrates just how out of touch liberal elites are with public opinion, as well as economic reality. The tired old blame Bush line no longer works, and as a recent poll showed, the former president's popularity is rising again.

Whether Krugman likes it or not, the American people are turning overwhelmingly against Barack Obama's Big Government agenda, and are looking for free market solutions to getting the country back on its feet, creating jobs and cutting the nation's debt. As poll after poll shows, Americans are rejecting the liberal status quo and embracing the political revolution sweeping the country. My guess is that historians will look back on November 2010 not as a "catastrophe," as Krugman declares, but as the beginning of a powerful new era for the United States...

More: <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/nilegardiner/100061401/paul-krugman-and-the-last-gasp-of-america%E2%80%99s-liberal-elites/>

Voter Fraud Watch: A Primer on What to Watch For

Our resident expert on election law explains the ins and outs of how to detect voter fraud.

by *J. Christian Adams, October 27, 2010*

There's been lots of talk about voter fraud this election season. Already machines have purportedly preselected candidates and in other places, documents demonstrate non-citizens are registered to vote. Anyone who says voter fraud doesn't exist has no credibility. I've covered elections for over 10 years. I've seen it over and over again with my own eyes. I've proved it in federal court. It is significantly more common than Sasquatch.

But what does voter fraud look like? What can citizens be on the lookout for when they participate in their election? Let me share some examples:...

Very important: <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/voter-fraud-watch-a-primer-on-what-to-watch-for/>

Thank You, Lord Barack, for the Great Awakening

by *Stuart Schwartz, 29 Oct 2010*

It is time to thank Barack Obama—or Lord Barack, as our media elites might prefer, having declared him a "sort of God." He said memorably in April that the Tea Partiers "should be saying thank you" for the great job he's been doing. And now, as Election Day approaches, vast swathes of the country are ready to give him the acknowledgment he seeks. Thank you, Mr. President, for giving back our country.

Now, it certainly is not what he had in mind. His point, of course, was that the Tea Party, instead of protesting, should be grateful for the transformation he has been bringing about. He has been vocal about an ungrateful electorate that doesn't understand the magnitude of his accomplishments. Instead, we disappoint, suffering from what Charles Krauthammer calls "Obama Underappreciation Syndrome."

The ungrateful masses look at what Obama hath wrought and see a federal government taking over their lives, debt biblically extending to "our children's children," and a ruling class that lives large while taxpayers now spend a quarter of their lives working to pay for its excesses. Taxpayers are footing the bill for unprecedented self-indulgence, prompting one American Thinker blogger to comment on the arrangements for the Obama's post-election jaunt to India: "Suleiman the Magnificent would have been embarrassed by the luxury Mr. and Mrs. B.O. intend for themselves." The inimitable James Taranto in the Wall Street Journal called him "the America Nero," acting more like an "emperor" than a president.

Even the reliably obtuse traditional media, which are to insight what Bill Clinton is to feminism, can see the staggering "elitism and condescension" in which Washington is awash...

Continue: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/10/thank_you_lord_barack_for_the.html

Our Norman Rockwell and Theirs

by *James Bowman, October 2010 issue*

...Putting such a self-contradiction into his mouth is thus an implicit acknowledgment by the always cutting-edge *Simpsons* writers that the myth of the nonexistent American past has itself assumed mythic status by now. How delicious to think that the myth of the myth should henceforth be obliged to don the same quotation-mark epaulettes as the myth itself.

But the news seems to have passed by Mr. Blake Gopnik, whose review in the *Washington Post* this past summer of an exhibition of the art of Norman Rockwell at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art slammed the long-dead celebrity "illustrator" (as Rockwell called himself) as the perpetrator of "an art of unending cliché." Mr. Gopnik treats the *ur*-myth of the wholesome American past as if he has just discovered it instead of something that has now become at least as much a cliché as anything Norman Rockwell ever drew. Indeed, much more so for, in this criticism, Mr. Gopnik appears not to know his own critical business. Rockwell was a sentimentalist, if you like, but he didn't deal in clichés. His images were not in the least hackneyed or familiar ones at the time he produced them. If they have become so since he created them, that is no more his fault than it is Shakespeare's for writing what have since become so many familiar quotations...

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/10/29/our-norman-rockwell-and-theirs>

He's ba-ack!

Stimulating Government

by Mark Steyn, 26 Oct 2010

...So what replaces those three million lost construction jobs? What are all those carpenters, plasterers, excavators going to be doing? Not to mention the realtors, home-loan bankers, contract lawyers, rental-income accountants and other "professional service" cube people whose business also relies to one degree or another on a soaraway property market. What if we've run out of "next"?

For the Obamatrons, government is what comes next. Government jobs, government "light rail" projects, government "green jobs" pork projects, government "WiFi-in-every-two-day-a-week-rural-library" makework schemes. Non-jobs for a Potemkin Main Street. The White House website is a positive cornucopia of fantasy employment, in which, day in, day out, President Obama and his sidekicks hymn the delights of such transformative innovations as "solar energy." Does even the Obama cabinet seriously believe solar energy will create hundreds of thousands of real (ie, non-subsidized boondoggled) jobs? This is the official narrative of the Obama era, and there is nothing in it anywhere even to hint at the possibility of a growing economy holding its own against China, India and other rivals.

An America comprised of therapeutic statist, regulatory enforcers, multigenerational dependents, identity-group rent-seekers, undocumented laborers, stimulus grantwriting liaison coordinators, six-figure community organizers, millionaire diversity-outreach consultants, billionaire carbon-offset traders, a diversionary-leisure "knowledge sector", John Edwards' anti-poverty consultancy, John Kerry's vintner, and Al Gore's holistic masseuse will still offer many opportunities, but not for that outmoded American archetype, the self-reliant citizen seeking to nourish his family through the fruits of his labor. And nor for millions of others just struggling to stay afloat. A statist America won't be a large Sweden—unimportant but prosperous—but something closer to the Third World, corrupt and chaotic, broke and brutish—for all but a privileged few.

The new class war in the western world is between "public servants" and the rest of us. In Washington, the marching bureaucrats are telling us government doesn't suck. But in Greece, the bloated public service has sucked so much out of the economy there's nothing left...

Read the rest: <http://www.steynonline.com/content/view/3542/26/>

The Republic of Paperwork

by Mark Steyn, 27 Oct 2010

...In a New York deli, a bagel with cream cheese is subject to food-preparation tax, but a plain bagel with no filling is not. Except that, if the clerk slices the plain bagel for you, the food-preparation tax applies. Just for that one knife cut. As a progressive caring society New York has advanced from tax cuts to taxed cuts. Oh, and, if he *doesn't* slice the plain bagel, but you opt to eat it in the deli, the food preparation tax also applies, even though no preparation was required of the food.

Got that? If you own a deli, you better have, because New York is so broke they need their nine cents per sliced bagel and their bagel inspectors are cracking down.

In such a world, there is no "law"—in the sense of (a) you the citizen being found by (b) a jury of your peers to be in breach of (c) a statute passed by (d) your elected representatives. Instead, unknown, unnamed, unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats determine transgressions, prosecute infractions and levy fines for behavioral rules they themselves craft and which, thanks to the ever more tangled spaghetti of preferences, subsidies, entitlements and incentives, apply to different citizens unequally. You may be lucky: You may not catch their eye—for a while. But perhaps your neighbor does, or the guy down the street. No trial, no jury, just a dogbody in some cubicle who pronounces that you're guilty of an offense a colleague of his invented...

More: <http://www.steynonline.com/content/view/3547/26/>

Breaking Point

A 25-minute GOP documentary on the Obama régime.

hosted by Rev. E. W. Jackson Jr., 20 Oct 2010

Breaking Point is a documentary that exposes the anti-American agenda being pursued by the Democrats in power.

Part I explores the motivation behind the Tea Party, and reveals the true cause of the housing crisis that propelled Obama into office. **Part II** explores the many radical ties and beliefs of the Obama Administration. It examines many of his radical czars and the cozy relationship with billionaire George Soros. **Part III** exposes stimulus money going to Marxist groups and to ACORN. It explores the New Black Panther voter-intimidation case, and exposes the true cost and motivation behind the Obama Administration's legislative agenda, including Health Care Reform and Cap and Trade. **All three parts:** http://www.goptrust.com/25_minutes_Breaking_Point.html

The Messiah has lost Jon Stewart, his audience, and Dana Milbank

On Daily Show, The Joke is on Obama by Dana Milbank, 28 Oct 2010

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/27/AR2010102709035.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>

There They Went Again

The 111th Congress fits a familiar Democratic pattern.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 28 Oct 2010

... We are learning for the fourth time in 45 years that America can't be governed from the left. Democrats exploited the recession and the accident of 60 Senate seats to push the agenda of their dreams, and the American public has recoiled at the effrontery and the results. Repairing the damage of the 111th Congress will take years, and perhaps decades, but the first step is ousting the liberals who once again drove their party off a cliff.

Read it all: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304173704575578410626436120.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Interesting. Probably a pipe-dream, but a beautiful one.

A Black Swan Election?

by Peter Landesman, 28 Oct 2010

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/10/a_black_swan_election.html

And the other side of the coin:

The Democrats' Final Recourse: Massive Vote Fraud

by Selwyn Duke, 28 Oct 2010

...If you're an average bright-eyed conservative and you really want to understand leftists, begin by viewing them as aliens. Because they really aren't like you, and the difference isn't simply ideology, either. They truly are far more dishonest, deceitful and manipulative than conservatives.

In explaining why this is so, I'll again draw an analogy to Islamists. Many have pointed out that Western and Islamic thought dictate very different things with respect to honesty. While the West's formative religion, Christianity, teaches that lying is a sin, period, Islam states that lying to an infidel for the glory of Allah is a *good*. In other words, Christians can lie, but they must commit what they consider a sin to do so. Muslims can do so with what they view as divine approval.

Another difference is that Islamic thought includes a concept known as "dual truth," which basically states, writes American Thinker's Patrick Poole, "that what may be true in the realm of religion may be contrary to what is true in nature." Thus, even if an action is forbidden in Islamic texts, Muslims may be able to take it in the "real world." It's always convenient when you have more than one "truth" with which to justify behavior.

This brings us to liberals. Like Islamists, they have more than one "truth" from which to choose, something they readily admit to with pronouncements such as "That is your truth; someone else's might be different." To be precise, however, they use the word "truth" loosely, as a synonym for taste, and don't actually believe in Truth, properly defined (i.e., divinely ordained morality). They are moral relativists.

What does this mean? It means the sky—or perhaps I should say the netherworld—is the limit for behavior restrictions. Unlike Islamists, they don't have to find their justifications in medieval texts or complex philosophical contortions, as their credo is simple: "If it feels good, do it." Without belief in *anything* that transcends man to use as a yardstick for behavior, they ultimately have nothing left to use but the "god within," which is just a gussied-up name for emotion. And their emotion-driven ends really do justify their means...

This is a gem: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/10/the_democrats_final_recourse_m.html

Our So-Called Experts

by Jim Manzi, 26 Oct 2010

...Actually public opinion in many major European democracies is surprisingly similar to that in the U.S. — so the really interesting question is why the U.S. political system is the only one that gives voice to this skepticism.

...Of the things that I think create significant structural advantages for the non-elites in the U.S. versus the UK, two stand out: open primaries, and lack of membership in a supra-national organization like the E.U. Party elites have vastly greater say in picking who gets on the ballot in the first place in the UK (as a thought exercise, imagine the Tea Party movement without the ability to challenge incumbents and establishment-backed candidates in Republican primaries). Further, many of the most important decisions relevant to the issue are taken by an E.U. apparatus that is, even seen in its most democratic light, democracy on a *very* long leash. The elites therefore have an easier time suppressing a popular uprising on the topic before it can get off the ground.

It is interesting that in the U.S. the greatest successes for important emissions mitigation restrictions appear likely to arise from the threat of regulatory action by the EPA, supported by a Supreme Court decision. That is, it threatens to come from those components of the American system that are most insulated from direct democracy.

Both the UK and U.S. experiences appear to validate what **Matthew Sinclair** — the amazing research director of the Taxpayers Alliance in the UK — has called the iron law of climate-change policy: **Restrictions will always proceed by the least democratic route available...**

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/blogs/print/251039>

A Referendum on the Redeemer

by Shelby Steele, 28 Oct 2010

..How is it that Barack Obama could step into the presidency with an air of inevitability and then, in less than two years, find himself unwelcome at the campaign rallies of many of his fellow Democrats?

The first answer is well-known: His policymaking has been grandiose, thoughtless and bullying. His health-care bill was ambitious to the point of destructiveness and, finally, so chaotic that today no citizen knows where they stand in relation to it. His financial-reform bill seems little more than a short-sighted scapegoating of Wall Street. In foreign policy he has failed to articulate a role for America in the world. We don't know why we do what we do in foreign affairs...

...Barack Obama is not an "other" so much as he is a child of the 1960s. His coming of age paralleled exactly the unfolding of a new "counterculture" American identity. And this new American identity—and the post-1960s liberalism it spawned—is grounded in a remarkable irony: bad faith in America as virtue itself, bad faith in the classic American identity of constitutional freedom and capitalism as the way to a better America...

...Bad faith in America became virtuous in the '60s when America finally acknowledged so many of its flagrant hypocrisies: the segregation of blacks, the suppression of women, the exploitation of other minorities, the "imperialism" of the Vietnam War, the indifference to the environment, the hypocrisy of puritanical sexual mores and so on. The compounding of all these hypocrisies added up to the crowning idea of the '60s: that America was characterologically evil. Thus the only way back to decency and moral authority was through bad faith in America and its institutions, through the presumption that evil was America's natural default position.

Among today's liberal elite, bad faith in America is a sophistication, a kind of hipness. More importantly, it is the perfect formula for political and governmental power. It rationalizes power in the name of intervening against evil—I will use the government to intervene against the evil tendencies of American life (economic inequality, structural racism and sexism, corporate greed, neglect of the environment and so on), so I need your vote...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304173704575578363243019000.html>

Project Veritas

James O'Keefe has a marvelous new muckraking site. Some of these videos are shocking.

New Investigation: Teachers' Unions Gone Wild 25 Oct 2010

New Jersey Teachers' Union More Powerful than the Civil Rights Movement?

by Shaughn Adeleye, 25 Oct 2010

Top Union Official Caught on Tape Discussing Voter Fraud 26 Oct 2010

Local Media Goes Wild for Project Veritas' "Teachers' Unions Gone Wild" 27 Oct 2010

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie comments on Project Veritas' Latest Project 27 Oct 2010

More: <http://www.theprojectveritas.org/>

Karzai and the Scent of U.S. Irresolution

by Fouad Ajami, 27 Oct 2010

...The brutal facts about Afghanistan are these: It is a broken country, a land of banditry, of a war of all against all, and of the need to get what can be gotten from the strangers. There is no love for the infidels who have come into the land, and no patience for their sermons.

In its wanderings through the Third World, from Korea and Vietnam to Iran and Egypt, it was America's fate to ride with all sorts of clients. We betrayed some of them, and they betrayed us in return. They passed off their phobias and privileges as lofty causes worthy of our blood and treasure. They snookered us at times, but there was always the pretense of a common purpose. The thing about Mr. Karzai is his sharp break with this history. It is the ways of the Afghan mountaineers that he wishes to teach us.

When they came to power, the Obama people insisted they would teach Mr. Karzai new rules. There was a new man at the helm in Washington, and there would be no favored treatment, no intimacy with the new steward of American power. Governance would have to improve, and skeptical policy makers would now hold him accountable (Vice President Joe Biden, Special Representative Richard Holbrooke, et al.). Mr. Karzai took their measure, and everywhere around him there were signs of American retreat, such as the spectacle of the Pax Americana eager to reach a grand bargain with the Iranian theocrats.

Mr. Karzai didn't need to be a grand strategist. He had, as is necessary in his world of treachery and betrayal, his ear to the ground, his scent for the irresolution of the Obama administration...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303341904575576342977166312.html>

If Tea Partiers are such deluded fools, why are they doing so well?

by Daniel Hannan, 26 Oct 2010

...George Monbiot describes the Tea Party as "one of the biggest exercises in false consciousness the world has seen", and goes on to explain that the poor, deluded saps who turn up to its meetings are puppets on the strings of two wealthy industrialists, Charles and David Koch.

A telling phrase, that, "false consciousness". It was coined by Friedrich Engels, and became a mainstay of Marxist theory. Marx argued that, because proletarians didn't always understand their true interests, democracy was open to abuse. Reactionary and bourgeois elements could make the workers *think* that they wanted one thing, when what they really needed was something else. It was the doctrine of false consciousness which Lenin and, later, Stalin, used to justify their tyranny.

Very few commentators these days consciously long for the return of the USSR. But several cling, Marx-like, to a certain disdain for the electorate: an uneasy sense that, left to themselves, people might vote for lower taxes instead of the kind of eco-correct statism that is in their "real" interest. Lurking behind many of the attacks on the Tea Party is an equivocal attitude to democracy. For the Tea Party is a product of perhaps the most responsive electoral process on Earth...

Read the rest: <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/danielhannan/100060969/if-tea-partiers-are-such-deluded-fools-why-are-they-doing-so-well/>

If Iran Gets the Bomb

Michael J. Totten talks to Martin Kramer, 26 Oct 2010

I sought out **Martin Kramer** in Jerusalem because I knew he would give me an analysis well outside the box on Iranian nuclear weapons. He's a scholar, not a politician or pundit. And while he certainly has his opinions, he doesn't conveniently fit into anyone's ideological category.

I was not disappointed, and I don't think you will be either. What he has to say is different from anything you've read from anyone in the media, including me...

4,000 fascinating words: <http://pajamasmedia.com/michaeltotten/2010/10/26/if-iran-gets-the-bomb/>

This is why it might be better to just vaporize Iran and North Korea now. Millions would suffer, many would die, but Western culture would survive unhindered. It's worth it. If the roles were reversed, do you *really* think they would hesitate to vaporize us?

One EMP Burst and the World Goes Dark

by Dan Vergano, 26 Oct 2010

http://www.usatoday.com/tech/science/2010-10-26-emp_N.htm

Brass Oldies

by Thomas Sowell, 26 Oct 2010

...More than 80 years ago, the "tax cuts for the rich" argument was refuted, both in theory and in practice, by Andrew Mellon, who was Secretary of the Treasury in the 1920s...

...Mellon was able to persuade Congress to lower the tax rates by large amounts. The percentage by which tax rates were lowered was greater at the lower income levels, but the total amount of money saved by taxpayers was of course greater on the part of people with higher incomes, who were paying much higher tax rates on those incomes.

Between 1921 and 1929, tax rates in the top brackets were cut from 73 percent to 24 percent. In other words, these were what the left likes to call "tax cuts for the rich."

What happened to federal revenues from income taxes over this same span of time? Income tax revenues rose by more than 30 percent. What happened to the economy? Jobs increased, output rose, the unemployment rate fell and incomes rose. Because economic activity increased, the government received more income tax revenues. In short, these were tax cuts for the economy, even if the left likes to call them "tax cuts for the rich."

This was not the only time that things like this happened, nor was Andrew Mellon the only one who advocated tax rate cuts in order to increase tax revenues. John Maynard Keynes pointed out in 1933 that lowering the tax rates can increase tax revenues, if the tax rates are so high as to discourage economic activity.

President John F. Kennedy made the same argument in the 1960s...

Continue: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/250954>

Big Insurance, Big Medicine

ObamaCare is already driving a wave of health-care consolidation—and higher costs.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 26 Oct 2010

...Yet the consolidation wave is churning the insurance markets and reshaping clinical medicine with almost no public scrutiny. A rational system would give consumers an incentive to reward those businesses that innovate and deliver higher quality at lower cost, whether they are providers or insurers. ObamaCare is already moving the U.S. even further from the rational world, and this forced retreat will continue the longer it is left in place.

Details: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704300604575554293656982422.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Mrs. Tate-Bradish also belongs to Obama's brown-shirt legion, Organizing For America.

League of Women Voters Candidate Forum

Weneedmccain, 20 Oct 2010 [N.B.: YouTube won't let him change the name]

Introducing Kathy Tate-Bradish, moderator for the October 20th Candidate Forum at Grayslake Central High School. This is the woman who said NO to the Pledge of Allegiance. This is a woman elitist who, while standing on a stage paid for by the taxpayers decided to berate, belittle, and denigrate the law-abiding, tax-paying folks who came to the political forum.

I might also add, this woman is a retired teacher. That's right, she's living off the taxpayer dole in the form of an overblown pension and subsidized health care, at your expense.

This woman should be barred from having a microphone within a mile of her mouth and she owes all the wonderful people who attended the debate an apology for treating them so poorly.

Watch: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-_zYLS6ahNE

Willful blindness and insuperable ignorance characterize our **Moonbat of the Month**.

And it's George Monbiot, whose name inspired the very word!

The Tea Party movement: deluded and inspired by billionaires

By funding numerous rightwing organisations, the mega-rich Koch brothers have duped millions into supporting big business.

by *George Monbiot*, 26 Oct 2010

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2010/oct/25/tea-party-koch-brothers>

We don't always agree with her, do we? But she's a remarkable person, and this remarkable interview includes stories of her youth in early-1960s Birmingham, ground zero of the civil rights movement.

Dr. Condoleeza Rice on *Extraordinary Ordinary People*

Hugh Hewitt Show, 21 Oct 2010

Transcript: <http://www.hughhewitt.com/transcripts.aspx?id=ab2bf235-8dc6-4f6d-ab0c-986d75963a35>

Buy the book: http://www.amazon.com/Extraordinary-Ordinary-People-Memoir-Family/dp/0307587878/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1288113835&sr=8-1

No Second Thoughts

by *David Brooks*, 25 Oct 2010

When times get tough, it's really important to believe in yourself. This is something the Democrats have done splendidly this year. The polls have been terrible, and the party may be heading for a historic defeat, but Democrats have done a magnificent job of maintaining their own self-esteem. This is vital, because even if the public doesn't approve of you, it is important to approve of yourself.

In fact, I would go so far as to say that Democrats have become role models. They have offered us lessons on how we, too, may continue to love ourselves, even in trying circumstances.

Lesson one. Think happy thoughts. Never allow yourself to dwell on downer, depressing ones...

More: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/26/opinion/26brooks.html>

The Bender Is Over

by *Ramesh Ponnuru & Rich Lowry*, 25 Oct 2010

Whatever happens on Election Day, the heroic phase of Obama's presidency is over. It is over not simply because he will spend the rest of his term playing defense rather than conquering new ground for liberalism. It is over because the assumptions that underlay that first phase of his presidency have already been discredited...

...The liberal journalist Peter Beinart noted that for decades Democratic leaders had treated the American public's latent conservatism as a sleeping bear: The chief imperative was to avoid sudden moves that would rouse it. But the Reagan era was now over, and Democrats no longer needed to live in fear. That's what Obama's "yes we can" slogan meant to liberals: Yes we can move past both conservatism and Clintonian triangulation. Liberalism was living in its favored political tense: the future perfect.

Democrats could look at the political landscape with confidence, assured of three things. The country had decisively rejected conservatism and moved leftward. The idea of small government had been discredited by the financial crisis. And the president's persuasive powers could get the Democrats through any remaining difficulties.

Now those assumptions lie in tatters. Republicans are unified and enthusiastic, independents favor government

retrenchment, and Democrats have been reduced to scolding their base to stop whining and vote.

It was a misunderstanding of their previous success that brought them to this pass...

Read the rest: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/250736>

How the Constitution is Read

by T.L. Davis, 23 Oct 2010

There is an obvious disconnect concerning the Constitution between the Tea Party crowd and the establishment of both major political parties. This was evidenced most recently in a clip on CNN of an exchange between Eliot Spitzer and Dana Loesch. Loesch is a founder of the Saint Louis Tea Party and Editor in Chief of Breitbart's **Big Journalism**. Ostensibly, Loesch had been invited on the Parker Spitzer Show to discuss the upcoming election and the role of Tea Party organizations in the campaigns, but for Spitzer, it was an ambush, and it didn't take him long to drop the gloves and come out swinging.



Dana Loesch

Spitzer: I don't mean to be snarky about this, but we heard Christine O'Donnell today in, you know, your Senate candidate from Delaware saying separation of church and state was not in the Constitution, either. So, maybe the Tea Party's working off a different Constitution. We'll wait and see.

Loesch: It's not. No, it's not. That phrase isn't in the Constitution at all. That phrase is not in the Constitution.

Yes, they are working off a different Constitution, and that will be shown as the crux of the brewing battle between the Tea Party movement and the politicians in office...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/10/how_the_constitution_is_read.html

Debt has increased \$5 trillion since Speaker Pelosi vowed, 'No new deficit spending'

by Terence P. Jeffrey, 25 Oct 2010

When Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) gave her inaugural address as speaker of the House in 2007, she vowed there would be "no new deficit spending." Since that day, the national debt has increased by \$5 trillion, according to the U.S. Treasury Department.

"After years of historic deficits, this 110th Congress will commit itself to a higher standard: Pay as you go, no new deficit spending," Pelosi said in [her speech](#) [2] from the speaker's podium. "Our new America will provide unlimited opportunity for future generations, not burden them with mountains of debt."

Pelosi has served as speaker in the 110th and 111th Congresses.

At the close of business on Jan. 4, 2007, Pelosi's first day as speaker, the national debt was \$8,670,596,242,973.04 (8.67 trillion), according to the [Bureau of the Public Debt](#) [3], a division of the U.S. Treasury Department. At the close of business on Oct. 22, it stood at \$13,667,983,325,978.31 (13.67 trillion), an increase of 4,997,387,083,005.27 (or approximately \$5 trillion).

Pelosi, the 60th speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, has added more to the national debt than the first 57 House speakers combined...

More: <http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/debt-has-increased-5-trillion-speaker-pe>

Republican Victory Metaphors: Your Official Election Day Guide

by *Zombie*, 20 Oct 2010

<http://pajamasmedia.com/zombie/2010/10/20/republican-victory-metaphors-your-official-election-day-guide/>

President Obama's first two years, through the lens of an old-time computer game.

Beltway Adventure

by *Iowahawk*, 15 Oct 2010

<http://iowahawk.typepad.com/iowahawk/2010/10/beltway-adventure.html>

The Top 10 Most Popular Lists at Newsrealblog:

10. [The Top 10 So-Called "Liberal" Hypocrites](#) by Sally Meininger
9. [Top 10 Sarah Palin Haters](#) by Susan Duclos
8. [11 Chapters Meghan McCain's Editor Axed From *Dirty Sexy Politics*](#) by Lori Ziganto and Jenn Q. Public
7. [Top 10 Islamist Fails](#) by Nichole Hungerford
6. [The 10 Most Controversial Illustrations by Anti-Jihad Artist Bosch Fawstin](#) by David Swindle
5. [10 Bigoted Remarks Made by the 'Tolerant' Left](#) by Lori Ziganto and Jenn Q. Public
4. [8 Examples of Celebrity Political Idiocy](#) by Lori Ziganto and Jenn Q. Public
3. [In the Reagan Mold: 10 Conservative Men in Hollywood](#) by Walter Hudson
2. [Top 10 Boneheaded Parenting Trends From the Left](#) by Rhonda Robinson
1. [George Soros' 8 Most Despicable Acts](#) by Kathy Shaidle

The Crisis of Confidence

by *Doctor Zero*, 19 Oct 2010

...Socialism is a virus, quickly destroyed by the healthy immune system of a confident people. Americans have long forgotten the vital importance of capitalism as the material expression of freedom. Once they allowed themselves to believe meaningful freedom could exist in the absence of capitalism, they started down a road which led, inevitably, to renouncing their unqualified belief in freedom. Liberty exists now in the spaces government has not yet chosen to occupy.

The upcoming elections represent a final opportunity for America to recover its confidence. To allow the Democrats continued power in Congress, after the staggering incompetence of the past few years, would be a crippling blow to what remains of our esteem... a concession that, no matter how bumbling and corrupt these acolytes of the total State might be, their continued stewardship is preferable to managing our own affairs. They have made this clear through the narrative that voters are too stupid and cowardly to appreciate their wisdom. Anyone, in *any* state, who votes Democrat is accepting that narrative.

If you believe in yourself, you will command the government to respect your rights to your own property, and the wealth produced by your labor. If you believe in your family, you will not suffocate your children beneath the burden of financing your security. If you believe in your neighbors, you will seek prosperity in the free exchange of goods and services, instead of looking for subsistence in the promises of politicians. If you believe in America, you will look around and see the same land where your grandfathers worked miracles, and wrote legends. If you believe in capitalism, you will put your faith in a marketplace that works to win your business, rather than a government that commands your obedience. Growth and innovation cannot occur without risk, and only people who believe in the future take risks.

We must resolve the crisis of confidence, *right now*, or it will be the end of us...

Read the whole masterpiece: <http://www.doczero.org/2010/10/the-crisis-of-confidence-2/#more-14759>

They Hate Our Guts

And they're drunk on power.

by *P.J.O'Rourke*, 23 Oct 2010 (Nov. 1 issue)

...This is not an election on November 2. This is a restraining order. Power has been trapped, abused and exploited

by Democrats. Go to the ballot box and put an end to this abusive relationship...

Read it all: http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/they-hate-our-guts_511739.html

Time for Heads to Roll Over New Black Panther Dismissal

The many Department of Justice officials behind this debacle should be very nervous about a front-page *Washington Post* article today that confirms everything I've written about at PJM.

by *J. Christian Adams*, 23 Oct 2010

Today the *Washington Post* graces its front page with a long overdue **exposé** on the dismissal of the New Black Panther case. The story is extremely bad news for the Eric Holder Justice Department. Through multiple deep sourcing within the Voting Section and Civil Rights Division, it confirms everything that Christopher Coates and I testified about before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. But that isn't the biggest shocker of the *Post* piece. It also has administration officials defending the dismissal by arguing that the civil rights laws weren't intended to protect whites. Alas, they confess to their true beliefs after more than a year of lies and misdirection...

More: <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/time-for-heads-to-roll-over-new-black-panther-dismissal/?singlepage=true>

This is what we call a Fisking: leftist lies (from Obama henchman Austan Goolsbee, in this case) are utterly refuted, one by one, and in detail. It's 14 minutes well worth watching.

The other side of the White House white board

by *Keith B. Hennessey*, 21 Oct 2010

Watch and listen: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04y35I-r3Xw&feature=youtu.be>

For Democrats, *Newsweek* retrieves a bouquet from the manure pile

A poll based on some curious data.

23 Oct 2010

There's always one joker in every deck of cards. The *Newsweek* headline says it all: NEWSWEEK Poll: Obama Approval Rating Jumps, Democrats Close 'Enthusiasm Gap'...

...If you click on "full results," you immediately see why this is a load of manure. More than half the respondents were "Registered voters" while every other poll worth its salt is tallying "likely voters" at this point in the campaign. Also, the split between Democratic and Republican respondents is laughable—an 8 point margin of difference with a curious inversion of how much weight is given to each party...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/10/for_democrats_newsweek_retriev.html

Elisabeth's Voice: An Appeal

Baron Bodissey, 22 Oct 2010

A Call to Mobilize the American Blogosphere in Support of Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff:

We, the undersigned — consisting of four European blogs, one Canadian blog, and one American blog — have written this post jointly as a public call for our American colleagues to take up the cause of the Austrian feminist and anti-jihad activist Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff.

Geert Wilders is well-known to most American conservative and libertarian bloggers, but Elisabeth's case is not so prominent. Like Mr. Wilders, she faces trial for reporting factual information about Islam. Her "crime" was to conduct public seminars in which she described Islamic doctrine, quoted from the Koran, and explained to her listeners what she considers the dangers of Islam...

More: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/10/elisabeths-voice-appeal.html#more>

Influencing the Witness?

by *Baron Bodissey*, 22 Oct 2010

...In short, the work of almost a decade of US counterterrorist and counterinsurgency operations—at a cost of thousands of US lives plus uncounted Pakistani, Afghan and Iraqi soldiers and civilians—is coming unraveled. We're staring at the possibility of the entire region becoming a permanent al Qaeda base.

How ironic that this comes under President Obama—who during the presidential campaign excoriated George W. Bush for neglecting al Qaeda in order to invade Iraq.

The reason is simple. This president has made it clear that his most urgent priority isn't victory or even regional stability, but getting every American out of there—so that he'll be able to say at the 2012 Democratic Convention, "I brought our troops home." In the process, he'll have left a disaster that will make post-Vietnam Southeast Asia—boat people, "killing fields" genocide and all—look like "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood," because Pakistan's nuclear weapons are at stake. The administration's missteps leading to this great unraveling aren't difficult to follow...

More: http://www.nypost.com/f/print/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/al_qaeda_on_the_rise_7ivTC7nritKe4xi8hINtyM

Pamela Geller NRB Interview: "Trade Freedom for Peace and You Get Neither"

by Ben-Peter Terpstra, 21 Oct 2010

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2010/10/21/pamela-geller-nrb-interview-%E2%80%9Ctrade-freedom-for-peace-and-you-get-neither%E2%80%9D/>

The Intellectuals Keep Flying

The New York Review of Books seeks to discredit Paul Berman.

by Sol Stern, 21 Oct 2010

...a factually challenged hit job on a serious contemporary writer—and a writer of the left and former *New York Review* contributor, at that. Yet that's exactly what appeared in the *Review's* August 19 issue in the guise of a review of, among other books, Paul Berman's *The Flight of the Intellectuals*.

It's understandable that the book—and, indeed, all of Berman's work since the 9/11 terrorist attacks—would discomfit *The New York Review*. Just as his 2003 bestseller *Terror and Liberalism* did, Berman's new volume criticizes liberals for their frequent denials when confronted with violent assaults against their own democratic societies by radical Islamist movements. This failure of nerve Berman attributes partly to political correctness (excessive multiculturalism and moral relativism) and partly to cowardice.

Berman's main exhibit for the intellectuals' "flight" from universal liberal values is two members of *The New York Review's* all-star team: the aforementioned Timothy Garton Ash and the Anglo-Dutch journalist Ian Buruma. Berman skewers both writers for bestowing respectability on the self-proclaimed Islamic "reformer" Tariq Ramadan, despite his abhorrent views on women and gay rights and his tortured apologetics for radical Islam. While going easy on Ramadan, Garton Ash and Buruma scorn the courageous Muslim dissident Ayaan Hirsi Ali for her "enlightenment fundamentalism." These impeccable liberals, writes Berman, "sneered at Ayaan Hirsi Ali for having taken up the ideas of Western liberalism and celebrated Tariq Ramadan for having done nothing of the sort."...

Vital Mideast history—and liberal deceit: <http://www.city-journal.org/2010/eon1021ss.html>

Art Robinson demolishes her!

Rachel Maddow Loses Control of Her Own Show in Wild, Contentious Interview

7 Oct 2010

During Rachel Maddow's chaotic and riveting "interview" with GOP congressional candidate Art Robinson she continually insisted that she had "already interviewed (Democratic Congressman) Pete DeFazio" when Robinson challenged Maddow to probe DeFazio's finances, support and beliefs in the same aggressive manner in which she was attacking Robinson.

Watch: <http://www.breitbart.tv/rachel-maddow-loses-control-of-her-own-show-in-wild-contentious-interview/>

Gillespie calls him a libertarian (of course), and Podhoretz specifically claims that he's not quite a conservative. Whatever. He's a fine writer who hates Marxism and loves free markets. Beats the hell out of scum like Wole Soyinka, Dario Fo, Jose Saramago, and Harold Pinter! And his son, Alvaro Vargas Llosa, is clearly a conservative. In any case,

sorry I didn't get to this sooner.

Mario Vargas Llosa Wins Nobel Prize in Literature!

Nick Gillespie, 7 Oct 2010

<http://reason.com/blog/2010/10/07/mario-vargas-llosa-wins-nobel>

Mario Vargas Llosa, Nobel Laureate

by John Podhoretz, 7 Oct 2010

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/blogs/index.php/jpodhoretz/369426>

A Soulless White House

by James Lewis, 21 Oct 2010

...Where Michelle is essentially a normal control freak, Barack is special because he's always been raised by nostalgic Stalinists, beginning with his adolescent mother and his surrogate father, Frank Marshall Davis—angry poet, porn artist, and Stalin's CPUSA rep in Hawaii. You have to feel sorry for the child Barry Soetoro, raised by enraged adults. His real father fled his wife and baby, then his mother dragged him to Jakarta to live in the bloody aftermath of a civil war that killed 200,000 people. Then she abandoned him—sent him back to Hawaii to be cared for by the likes of Frank Davis.

Children who are treated like unwanted baggage can become alienated and objectified. They tend to see people as things because they have no experience of trustworthy adults who will be there for them for as long as they are needed. Little throwaway orphans stop thinking of themselves as special individuals. They always fear another abandonment. They blame themselves for adults walking away.

Barry Soetoro was celebrated by these "idealistic" Stalinists not for the child he was, but for the class of people he stood for. He was the abstract incarnation of the brown peoples of the world, the "wretched of the earth" who were the new revolutionary class now that the white workers were living well and ignoring the Left. Third-world peoples were to be whipped into rage against the white enemy, packaged into goose-stepping regiments, and launched to serve the Left's need for power. The radical agitators turned little Barry into one of them. He was never a normal child, just a walking demographic...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/10/a_soulless_white_house.html

A Hero of Our Time

by David Solway, 21 Oct 2010

... "My goal," Karsenty writes, "is to have France 2, the entire French society, and, finally, the whole world, admit that the al Dura story is a hoax" and "to identify an emblematic symbol of Jew-hatred and Israel bashing." This will be a formidable job. As *National Post* columnist Barbara Kay ruefully acknowledges, "such myths can only be countered by truth-tellers, but the principal truth-teller in the case of the Muhammad Al Dura story, Philippe Karsenty, has found that where libels against Jews are concerned, truth-telling is an uphill slog."...

The full story: <http://frontpagemag.com/2010/10/21/a-hero-of-our-time/>

Paul Krugman's Latest Terrible Idea

How to destroy the mortgage market.

by Keith Riler, 21 Oct 2010

Paul Krugman's latest idea is so obviously bad, ill-conceived, and damaging that I was tempted to avoid wasting time on it. However, his most recent inane economic proposal merits highlighting simply to put to rest the oft-heard idea that these people simply haven't had enough time to effect positive economic change.

Specifically, Krugman wrote that debt counselors need the ability to modify mortgage loan documents on already outstanding home loans. To quote his recent article, Nobel Paul supported "giving mortgage counselors and other public entities the power to modify troubled loans directly, with their judgment standing unless appealed by the mortgage servicer. This would do a lot to clarify matters and help extract us from the morass."

No, Paul, it would not...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/10/paul_krugmans_latest_terrible.html

Cafe owner ordered to remove extractor fan because neighbour claimed 'smell of frying bacon offends Muslims'

Daily Mail, 21 Oct 2010

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1322435/Cafe-owner-ordered-remove-extractor-fan-case-smell-frying-bacon-offends-passing-Muslims.html>

National Politically-correct Radio

by William Kristol, 21 Oct 2010

My Fox News Sunday colleague Juan Williams has been fired by NPR for telling an inconvenient truth...

http://www.weeklystandard.com/blogs/national-politically-correct-radio_511450.html

West Winning Wild CD 22 Race, Poll Shows

In rematch, Republican holds slight lead over Rep. Klein in 'referendum on the president.'

by Kenric Ward, 21 Oct 2010

Republican Allen West narrowly leads U.S. Rep. Ron Klein in a bruising battle for South Florida's 22nd Congressional District, a new Sunshine State News Poll shows. West leads Klein 47-44 in the survey of likely voters conducted Oct. 17-19. Nine percent of respondents are undecided.

West, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, lost by 10 points to Klein in 2008, a strong year for Democrats. But with Republicans surging this fall, West is picking up more independents, along with solid Tea Party support...

Continue: <http://www.sunshinestatenews.com/print/1550566>

God Bless Academe

Richmond Times-Dispatch editorial, 20 Oct 2010

File this under, "Only in Higher Education":

Bill Ayers, of the Weather Underground, has retired from teaching and recently sought professor emeritus status at the University of Illinois at Chicago—where Christopher Kennedy sits on the board of trustees. Kennedy opposed granting the honorific to Ayers, on the grounds that Ayers had co-authored a book dedicated to "communist-minded people, independent organizers, and anti-imperialists," including Sirhan Sirhan.

Sirhan Sirhan was the assassin who murdered Robert F. Kennedy, who happens to be Christopher Kennedy's father. Kennedy's remarks swayed the board, which denied Ayers emeritus status. Naturally, this has caused a dust-up in the groves of academe, where many in the faculty feel Ayers' politics are "irrelevant."

More: <http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/editorials/2010/oct/20/ed-ayer20-ar-573397/>

U.K. Makes Big Cuts — Why Can't We?

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 20 Oct 2010

...Over the next decade or so, based on Congressional Budget Office projections, federal spending will increase 5.8% a year on average, from \$3.49 trillion in 2010 to \$5.86 trillion by 2021 ([see chart](#)). Revenues are expected to rise by 12.7% a year, from a depressed \$2.14 trillion this year to \$ 5.1 trillion in 2021.

What if, instead of nearly 5.8% a year in spending growth, we let spending grow at half that rate — 2.9% a year? We did some quick, back-of-the-envelope calculations. As you can see on the chart, spending continues to grow, but we erase the deficit entirely by 2021.

Yes, it will take some doing, starting with [controlling entitlement spending](#), which is growing at an unsustainable rate of more than 6% a year. The government's own forecast shows a \$107 trillion lifetime deficit for Social Security and Medicare — about two times the size of the entire world economy.

But it can be done. Raising the retirement age to reflect longer expected lifetimes is one way. Another is to help people save for their own retirement through tax-free savings accounts. What's important is to get started now.

That isn't the only place cuts can be made. [Take the Commerce Department. It isn't needed.](#) It has 12 agencies under one umbrella, which means lots of useless bureaucratic overhead. Some of its functions — the census, for instance

— are required by law. So they can become independent. But there's little evidence that the Commerce Department does much of anything that couldn't be done by other government departments or the private sector.

Ditto for the Energy Department. Created by Jimmy Carter, it hasn't added one kilowatt to our nation, yet it wastes billions of dollars each year. All its functions — including managing the nation's nuclear laboratories — can be done better by others.

How about the Education Department? It's not responsible for educating a single student. In fact, since its advent it has played a major role in the degradation of American schools. Yet rather than give it less money, we give it more, as if money were no object...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/ArticlePrint.aspx?id=551096&p=2>

The Barbarians Are Coming

by David Solway, 19 Oct 2010

There is a pervasive metaphor circulating in our time concerning the problematic future of the West in what Samuel Huntington called "the clash of civilizations" between a distracted and indifferent Occident and a resurgent Islam. It operates as a historical analogy that appears to have lodged in Western consciousness, namely, the fate of Imperial Rome, which succumbed to the twin forces of economic collapse from within and barbarian invasions from without...

...Perhaps the great Italian philosopher Giambattista Vico was not far off the mark in his masterwork *The New Science* when he postulated his four-stage cycle of social evolution: theocracy, aristocracy, democracy and *ricorso* (return, recurrence). Of course, despite the book's title, this is not "science" in the current acceptance of the word but theory and speculation; nevertheless, it offers a compelling "calendar" for thought. It seems at least plausible to suggest that we in the West have entered Vico's fourth stage, with the democratic experiment about to give way and spiral toward a renewed theocracy, represented by a confident and invigorated Islam.

This is where, *mutatis mutandis*, we seem to be today. The Rome that we now live in, governed by "defeatists and weaklings," is opening its gates to a civilizational rival that has been at war with Christendom and the West for the last 1400 years. And never have its prospects seemed better for the restoration of its hegemony. The sequel seems almost foreordained unless we can resist the deciduous arc into the mulch of history. That is the question, a historical re-articulation of Hamlet's "To be or not to be." Have we inwardly chosen to collaborate in our own demise? Or can we once again find the courage, the cultural stamina and the intelligence to reaffirm the heritage of the West, wield the "hammer," and refuse to surrender—to ourselves?

Read it all: <http://frontpagemag.com/2010/10/19/the-barbarians-are-comingx/>

Mr. Viguerie opposes the death penalty, and co-founded a terrorists' rights group called American Freedom Agenda. But he's also been a conservative/libertarian fundraiser, activist, strategist, and writer since about 1960.

The Statist, Ruling Class's New Hero—Bill Buckley?

by Richard A. Viguerie, 19 Oct 2010

It's easy to use the deceased to claim support for one's positions. The dead aren't around to deny, rebut, and refute false or misleading statements.

William F. Buckley, Jr., intellectual giant and "maker" of the conservative movement, has of late become a crutch for statist and ruling-class elites to denigrate the Tea Parties and the surge of the constitutional, small-government conservative movement. Liberals trying to smear the Tea Party cause and constitutional, small-government conservative candidates by referring to Buckley are, however, attempting to rewrite history to suit their own agendas and ideology...

...From his book, *God and Man at Yale*, through opposing Dwight Eisenhower and Nelson Rockefeller, reluctantly supporting Richard Nixon, and helping co-found the Conservative Party of New York because the NY GOP had been captured by liberal Republicans, to running for New York City mayor against big-government Republican John Lindsay, Buckley was tirelessly consistent in his opposition to big-government Republicans.

Buckley was for freedom over statism, and he often found members of the Republican Party offering no real alternative to statism. Buckley even was a sometime critic of Ronald Reagan...

...If the liberal intelligentsia were honest brokers, they could spend most of their time berating the extremists, kooks, and flakes on the left, beginning within the Democratic Congressional Caucus or the Obama White House and working outward to many of the left-wing coalitions, organizations, and even media members who are their support network...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/10/the_statist_ruling_class_new.html

Top 10 ways government kills jobs in America

by Arthur Brooks, 19 Oct 2010

In the run-up to the midterm elections, all of us should be thinking about "climate change"—about the best ways to create jobs in our nation. We'll hear lots of talk about recovery and stimulus, about fairness and equity, the future and change. As we listen to the rhetoric, remember the reality. These are the Top job killers in America...

More: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/OpEd-Contributor/Arthur-Brooks-Top-10-ways-government-kills-jobs-in-America-105302968.html>

How ObamaCare Will Clog the System

by Marc Siegel, 19 Oct 2010

...The new health care law mandates and extends the kind of insurance that breeds overuse, thereby driving up costs and premiums. And here I thought the reform intended to reduce costs.

As the details of this massive government-led health care overhaul begin to trickle out, let me be clear (to borrow the president's go-to phrase): The medical system is about to be overwhelmed because there are no disincentives for overuse.

ObamaCare was lauded by many for covering all Americans with pre-existing conditions. That's not the issue. We're going to get into trouble because of the kinds of coverage that the new law mandates. There are no brakes on the system. Co-pays and deductibles will be kept low, and preventive services will have no co-pays at all. That sounds like a good deal for patients, yes? But without at least a pause to consider necessity and/or cost, expect waiting times to increase, ERs to be clogged and longer lead times needed to make an appointment.

Patients with new Medicaid cards who can't find a doctor will go where? To emergency rooms. The escalating costs of these visits (necessary and unnecessary) will be transferred directly to the American public, both in the form of taxes as well as escalating insurance premiums.

Beginning in 2014, insurance exchanges will be set up in every state so that individuals can choose a health insurance plan. This will help control costs, right? Wrong. Don't expect to find individually tailored plans or those with higher deductibles or co-pays. They won't be there because they can't receive the government stamp of approval.

In the new system, my patients will be able to see me as often as they'd like. But will they get the same level of care? I don't think so. I anticipate that more expensive chemotherapies and cardiac stents or transplants, for instance, will have a tougher time being approved, as is already the case in Canada...

More: http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2010-10-19-column19_ST_N.htm

ObamaCare, for Some

Wall Street Journal editorial, 20 Oct 2010

Well, well. In the clearest evidence so far that ObamaCare is harmful in practice and an election-year liability, the Obama Administration has decided not to enforce some of the law's "consumer protections." At least when the results are politically embarrassing...

...Democrats from Mr. Obama on down call these rules "the patients' bill of rights," but people don't regularly need exemptions from a bill of rights. And is it really better that HHS will impose destructive regulations and then decide on ad hoc basis who they'll hit? This is an invitation to play favorites, exact political retribution and pursue whatever arbitrary goals HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and her successors happen to hold. ObamaCare amnesty shouldn't go merely to the CEOs who can get White House aide Valerie Jarrett on the horn...

...Wouldn't it be better to write less destructive rules in the first place? Or why not give everyone a waiver from everything?...By bending their own rules, they're conceding their destructiveness.

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703794104575546052343243306.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop

Rise of the Bitter Clingers

by David Harsanyi, 20 Oct 2010

...Do I wish that Colorado senatorial candidate Ken Buck hadn't declared that being gay is a choice (as if there were something wrong with choosing to be gay)? Yes. Do I wish he hadn't followed up by comparing a gay genetic predisposition to alcoholism? I do. If you were brainy enough to watch "Meet the Press" instead of wasting time in

church last Sunday, no doubt you cringed at that primitive lunacy.

After all, what's more consequential than a faux pas about nature and/or nurture? Who cares that Democrat Michael Bennet was busy moralizing about the cosmic benefits of dubious economic theory and science fiction environmentalism—ideas that have already cost us trillions with nothing to show for it?

Just as long as we stay focused on what's important, right? We're so easily distracted.

Those who believe being gay is a choice are Neanderthals. The enlightened trust science. That's why the president appointed a science czar, people. A science czar who co-authored a textbook arguing for a mass sterilization of Americans to prevent an imagined population bomb. You know, "science."

God has no place in this faith. That's not to say that Yahweh has anything on our president, who once claimed future generations will see his election—Goliath government—as the point in history when we finally started "healing the sick" and "the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal."

Now, that's the kind of faith-inflected lingo we slack-jawed yokels can comprehend. Otherwise, the left's plans are just too darn complex for us to appreciate...

The rest: http://www.denverpost.com/recommended/ci_16379830

O'Donnell and the Constitution

Don John, 19 Oct 2010

Recently, Christine O'Donnell said separation of Church and State isn't in the U.S. Constitution, and **idiot law students laughed at her**. But knowledgeable people know the Constitution simply says "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

The phrase "wall of separation between church and state" first appears in President Jefferson's 1802 letter to the Danbury Baptists. And this expression has been used ever since by anti-religion factions as some kind of proof that the Founding Fathers intended to utterly ban religion from public life. But Jefferson's letter was only meant to assure the Baptists that they'd be free to practice their faith, and Connecticut's Congregationalist majority would not be allowed to tyrannize or coerce them.

A better guide to the Founders' intent can be found in the **vast majority of their statements and actions**, which included nondenominational Christian services they attended every Sunday *in the Hall of Congress*.

The "wall of separation" reared its head again in Justice Hugo Black's opinion in *Everson v. Board of Education* (1947). But Justice Black was a Ku Klux Klansman, just like so many 20th century Democrats, including the recently (and happily) deceased Senator Robert Byrd. So much for his credibility.

The people who believe in the banning of religion from public life are, without exception, the same ones who think foul-mouthed entertainers have the right to be heard by Everyone, whether Everyone likes it or not. And most of these postmodernist numbskulls also think the Constitution contains the right to an abortion. They're wrong about that, too. In *Roe v Wade* (1973) the Supreme Court's "living constitution" freaks claimed to have discovered such a right within an "emanation from a penumbra" of a citizen's right to privacy. But the right to privacy is another thing that isn't stated in the Constitution. And in any case, it doesn't include the right to kill anyone—not even a fetus (a.k.a. *a baby*).

As Aesop said in his fable of **The Wolf and the Lamb**, any excuse will serve a tyrant.

Pray for Baroness Thatcher

Flu is very dangerous at age 85, especially when you're being "cared for" by state-controlled medicine. Also: wicked, hateful people like Barack Obama, Michael Moore, Keith Untermensch, George Galloway, Prince Charles, and the Archbishop of Canterbury are all hoping that she'll die.

Dear God, protect your servant Margaret, and confound her enemies.

—Don John

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1321992/Former-Prime-Minister-Margaret-Thatcher-hospitalised-flu.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

Marriage Is the Key to Spending Cuts

by Phyllis Schlafly, 15 Oct 2010

The attack on the institution of marriage is not only the biggest cultural but also the biggest fiscal issue of our times, and political and judicial attacks by gays are only part of the problem. Marriage is being assaulted by unilateral

divorce, feminist hostility toward marriage, the bias of family courts against fathers, and the taxpayer-paid financial incentives that subsidize illegitimate births.

Forty-five years ago, a liberal in Lyndon Johnson's Labor Department, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, shocked the nation with a report called "The Negro Family: The Case for National Action." The Great Society's welfare handouts to women were breaking up black families by making husbands irrelevant.

Since the Moynihan Report, out-of-wedlock births in the United States have grown to 72.3 percent for blacks, 52.5 percent for Hispanics, and 28.6 percent for whites (non-Hispanic). For the population as a whole, out-of-wedlock births have risen from 6 percent in the 1960s to 40.6 percent today.

Sounding a Moynihan-style alarm today is Robert Rector of the Heritage Foundation. He has assembled figures from U.S. Census Bureau and Centers for Disease Control data, and they are downright scary...

More: <http://www.eagleforum.org/column/2010/oct10/10-10-15.html>

The President vs. the Public

by Rich Lowry, 19 Oct 2010

In the midterm of its discontent, the Obama administration has become a long catalog of excuses. It seems everything would be going swimmingly if Washington weren't so irredeemably broken. In a revelatory interview with Pres. Barack Obama and his aides about what went wrong, Peter Baker of the New York Times reports that the Obama White House constantly complains that Washington is not "on the level," that "the whole Washington culture is not serious about solving problems."

If your party has the White House, 59 Senate seats, and 255 House seats, though, for all intents and purposes it is Washington. The Obama Democrats have completed a period of surpassing legislative mastery.

They got a 1,073-page stimulus bill, a 2,409-page health-care bill, and a 2,319-page financial-reform bill passed. That's 5,801 pages in just three pieces of legislation, at a very conservative cumulative estimated cost of \$1.9 trillion over ten years. If this is what Obama's broken Washington produces in three bills, what would a functioning one do?...

Continue: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/250200>

The EPA'S Odd View of 'Consumer Choice'

by Patrick Michaels, 17 Oct 2010

Earlier this month, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed in a "Notice of Intent" that passenger vehicle fuel economy average as much as 62 miles per gallon 14 years from now. The agency was able to arrive at this lofty mark by conveniently ignoring everything we know about the state of automotive art and the marketplace today.

For one thing, the average passenger car is going to have to get a lot more than 62 mpg to meet EPA's standard. People are still going to need trucks, vans, and high-volume vehicles that will fall far short of the 62-mpg standard. As a result, what is today's Honda Civic or Ford Fusion is somehow going to have to crank out about 80 miles per gallon...

...So far as one can tell from EPA's 62-mpg proposal, the agency thinks that in a mere 14 years Americans will buy hybrids that they can't stand, subcompacts that families hate, an electric car that can only run 30 miles before it likely becomes more inefficient than its conventional counterpart, and a 100-mile electric car that requires hours of charging once it runs out of juice.

Read the rest: <http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/commentary/2010/oct/17/ed-mich17-ar-566348/>

It Can Happen Here

Government really can be cut: case studies from Canada, New Zealand, and the United States.

by Arnold Kling, David Henderson & Maurice McTigue, 12 Oct 2010 (November issue)

In an era of frightful budgets and frightened politicians, cutting government may seem like a flatly impossible task. But a look around the world—and at our own recent economic history—turns up a few inspirational examples of knife work that not only trimmed back budget deficits but created the conditions for unprecedented prosperity.

New Zealand, Canada, and the postwar United States all managed to slash the state on a grand scale. Governments shed responsibility for forests, railways, radio spectrum, and more while relaxing labor markets, slimming the welfare state, and ending price controls. Far from damaging economies or increasing unemployment, these reductions in the size and scope of government boosted GDP, improved services, and created jobs.

Government cutters faced opposition along the way, from skeptical Keynesians to Kiwi bureaucrats. But they also found unlikely allies, with left-wing parties playing major roles in the Canadian and New Zealand examples. The stories below should encourage would-be cutters and reassure skeptics: It can be done...

Fascinating: <http://reason.com/archives/2010/10/12/it-can-happen-here/print>

The Democrats Will Steal the Election if We Let Them

by J.R. Dunn, 19 Oct 2010

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/10/the_democrats_will_steal_the_e.html

This is a pretty good piece. But it does contain praise for Andrew Revkin, the NYT's environment reporter who writes whatever Michael Mann and the other global warming hysterics **tell him to write**—including an alarmist book for children: *The North Pole Was Here* (2006). He also tried to provide cover for Mann and all the notorious "Climategate" charlatans connected with the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia.

Kyoto Fraud Revealed

by Walter Russell Mead, 14 Oct 2010

When the idiotic Kyoto Protocol was put before the US Senate, 95 senators voted against this confused and destructive initiative on the grounds that, as designed, the measure would simply ship American jobs to China and other countries without reducing greenhouse gases...

More: <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2010/10/14/kyoto-fraud-revealed/>

Northbound on I-5 near Chehalis, WA

These clever anti-Obama signs have been there since at least June 2010.

Photos: <http://blogs.dailymail.com/donsurber/archives/19917>

(Hat tip: Marty M.)



<http://gatewaypundit.firstthings.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/wild-obama-2.jpg>

Restoring Sanity

by Doctor Zero, 17 Oct 2010

...You've got to love how all this handwringing about screamers and conspiracies appears whenever effective resistance to the "progressive" agenda is happening. No amount of shrill hysteria or mindless paranoia could have moved Jon Stewart to host a rally in support of George W. Bush. *Time* says this is a rally for "people who can disagree with other people without comparing them to Hitler." They had absolutely *no problem* with people who disagreed with

Bush by comparing him to Hitler.

Calling Stewart's event a "Rally to Restore Sanity" should provoke contempt from those aware of the issues behind this election, rather than laughter. There is nothing sane about wild, unsustainable deficit spending, or the deliberate destruction of the health-insurance industry to further a political agenda. There is nothing sane about the spectacle of a comedian intervening to protect an incompetent, power-hungry President from judgment by voters he openly derides as stupid and uninformed...

...Obama's Party is equally insane. From frothing lunatics like [Alan Grayson](#)... to shameless liars like [Dick Blumenthal](#), [Barney Frank](#), and [Chris Coons](#)... to [Patty Murray](#)—the idiot who said Osama bin Laden has been "making lives better" by "building schools, building roads, building infrastructure, building day-care facilities, and building health-care facilities"—the Democrat Party is brimming with people mentally unfit to come anywhere *near* the halls of Congress. Every public utterance of Democrat leaders Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi makes it seem as if they just arrived from an alternate dimension, and would bleed mercury if their skin was cut.

The Republicans have an ample supply of loons as well. It has been the sober determination of the Republican base, not the lazy sarcasm of hip comedians, which plucked so many nuts from their Party mix during the primaries.

Nationalizing industries is crazy. Passing thousand-page bills based on deliberately falsified deficit projections is crazy. Passing those bills without even *reading* them is crazy. Racking up a \$13 trillion national debt is crazy. Accepting 10% unemployment as the "new normal" is crazy. Dropping gigantic tax increases on a recessionary economy is crazy. Fleeing Washington without even *voting* on those tax increases is crazy.

Paying serious attention to a rally "[Oprahurfed](#)" by billionaire entertainers and [liberal activists](#), as if it represented some outpouring of popular support for the lunatic agenda of this President, would be *completely* nuts. Enjoy your afternoon on the Mall, Mr. Stewart. There will be a **much** bigger Rally to Restore Sanity on November 2nd.

The complete column: <http://www.doczero.org/2010/10/restoring-sanity/>

Be Afraid, Be Very... Never Mind, You Already Are

by Tom Maguire, 17 Oct 2010

Bitterly clinging to his pop psychology, First Sociologist Barack Obama [regales](#) a Democratic fundraising event with his latest insight into the minds of the Great Unwashed:

WEST NEWTON, Mass.—President Barack Obama said Americans' "fear and frustration" is to blame for an intense midterm election cycle that threatens to derail the Democratic agenda.

"Part of the reason that our politics seems so tough right now and facts and science and argument does not seem to be winning the day all the time is because we're hardwired not to always think clearly when we're scared," Obama said Saturday evening in remarks at a small Democratic fundraiser Saturday evening. "And the country's scared."...

Continue: <http://justoneminute.typepad.com/main/2010/10/bitterly-clinging-to-their-fears-and-frustrations.html>

Blind Giants

by Doctor Zero, 15 Oct 2010

...Small, eccentric groups and individuals have no input into the decisions of the State at all. This is not to say they are ignored. *No one* is ignored. Big Government is absolutely horrible at dealing with dissent. No one can be allowed to go their own way. No one can decline to participate in taxes and regulations. Certain large and powerful interests might be granted waivers from a horrible law like ObamaCare, but no such consideration will ever be extended to individuals. The passage of ObamaCare was the official end of the State's interest in hearing your thoughts about the way health care should be administered. You will not be *permitted* to disregard the State's opinions on the matter.

In a free society, even the largest businesses have competitors, and grow jealous of their market share. The biggest player in any industry can bet that small, hungry competitors are designing business plans to attack their weaknesses. The decisions of consumers become an incredibly powerful stream of data, which companies must interpret and respond to within a matter of days or weeks.

Decentralized, limited government can also tap into this data stream, in a more limited fashion, as populations and businesses abandon unfriendly environments and poorly-managed municipalities, or correct local governments with relatively competitive elections. Local voters can become truly informed about the issues. Popular will has a real chance to alter the destiny of towns and counties.

All of this priceless information is nothing but water lapping at the toes of the blind federal giant. Even massive "wave" elections, driven by the most passionate and informed electorate in a generation, may not be enough to reverse the effects of radical power grabs, or halt the feeding frenzy of lame ducks in a shallow congressional pond...

...It will take an incredible, historic election merely to slow the relentless advance of the blind giant. It has paused,

in these last weeks before November. It can dimly hear the screaming of people with pitchforks and torches, far below. It must be cut down to its knees before it can understand a word they're saying. The senses of the State are so dull that it only pays attention to miracles.

Read the rest: <http://www.doczero.org/2010/10/blind-giants/>

Can You Name the Greatest President of the Past 100 Years?

by Daniel J. Mitchell, 15 Oct 2010

It's tempting to say that Ronald Reagan was the best U.S. president of the past century, and I've certainly **demonstrated my man-crush on the Gipper**. But there is some real competition. I had the pleasure yesterday of hearing Amity Shlaes of the Council on Foreign Relations make the case for **Calvin Coolidge** at the Mont Pelerin Society Meeting in Australia...

...But if you don't want to believe Amity, here's Coolidge in his own words. This video is historically significant since it is the first film (with sound) of an American President. The real value, however, is in the words that are being said.

Economic wisdom from 1924: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5puwTrLRhmw>

A Glimpse of the Future Under ObamaCare

by Sally C. Pipes, 15 Oct 2010

...A few weeks ago, my husband accidentally left his keys at the security checkpoint at the Los Angeles airport. He didn't notice until his plane had taken off. But when he returned to Southern California a few days later, on a Sunday, he was told by TSA officials that although they keys had been found, they were at an off-site lost-and-found facility.

Unfortunately, the location of the facility was "confidential." And it was closed on the weekends. So they gave us the site's phone number. But after leaving several messages, and getting no response, we finally harangued an airline rep to give us the site's address, and drove over and picked up the keys ourselves.

If the government has this much trouble returning a set of lost keys, try to imagine what it will be like when it's in charge of finding you a specialist for breast-cancer treatment or a pediatrician to treat your 3-month-old's breathing problems. Unfortunately, that's what's in store under Obamacare...

Specifics: <http://www.aolnews.com/opinion/article/opinion-a-glimpse-of-the-future-under-obamacare/19674564>

The first half of this piece reads like a nice summary of Mark Steyn's 2006 classic *America Alone*. But Mr. Solway eventually reveals some original analysis of his own. And it is very good.

The Once and Future Republic

Is America beginning again or coming to the end of the road?

by David Solway, 12 Oct 2010

...To believe that *It Can't Happen Here*, as Sinclair Lewis lessoned us back in 1935, albeit from a different perspective, is the height of naivety. Not only can it happen here, it is *already happening* even as we speak. It seems as if the country's governing and intellectual elite has abandoned its responsibility for the preservation of America's social and political integrity, surrendering by daily increments to the forces of dissolution both within and without its borders. America's enemies couldn't have planned it any better.

This is the reason that the November 2 elections are absolutely critical to stopping and reversing the downward trend which Obama and the Democrats have accelerated. The momentum of calamity must be turned back and the ground prepared for a colossal changing of the guard in the presidential election of 2012.

Failing this, it really will be game over, for the United States as we have come to know it will not survive a second round of Barack Obama — and neither, for that matter, will the rest of the West. No democratic polity will be safe, not comfy Canada, not remote Australia, not the land of jobs, and tottering Europe will lose its last pillar of erstwhile support. We can only hope that many, perhaps most, Americans have understood that the republic is now up for grabs and that the so-called "culture wars" are no less decisive — indeed, more decisive — in determining the nature and direction of America's historical itinerary than the shooting wars currently being fought abroad. Jeff Perren rightly **argues** that the campaign to halt the plummet of the last four decades transcends politics and centrally involves the critical mission of recalibrating the culture, including taking back education. But the electorate must also compel the

government to live within "its constitutionally enumerated powers" in order to restore America "to a free country, where the dominant ethos is respect for the individual's rights and free exercise of judgment."

Luckily, it does seem as if many, perhaps most, Americans have realized, however tardily, that the enemy within the gates is far more insidious, formidable, and menacing than the enemy without. Permitting the left to control the discourse of the nation is frankly disastrous. Acceding to the infestation of left organizations like ACORN, the SEIU, the ACLU, the AFT, and many others into the body politic is slow suicide. Reluctance to oppose the radiation of Progressivist thinking will yield the inevitable carcinogenic result. Allowing the Democrats to chart the infernal spiral to catastrophe is no longer a viable option. And giving Obama a second term would be terminal...

The full essay: <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/the-once-and-future-republic/?singlepage=true>

Just Admit it, Newspapers: You're Scared of Muslims

by Matt Welch, 13 Oct 2010

As Radley Balko noted in yesterday's *Morning Links*, the *Washington Post* and other newspapers pulled Wiley Miller's syndicated "Non Sequitur" cartoon from their comics pages two Sundays back, because Miller pulled a familiar-to-Reason-readers "where's Waldo?" gag with the Prophet Muhammad, satirizing the new 21st century taboo on the depiction of even jokes about the fear of depicting a historical figure who really existed.

As is typical of the genre, *Washington Post* editors tried to play their own "where's Waldo" with the censorship process...

Read the rest, and view the cartoon: <http://reason.com/blog/2010/10/13/just-admit-it-newspapers-youre>

Fed Wants to Hoodwink Public, Only Fools Itself

by Caroline Baum, 14 Oct 2010

If I were a central banker, I would be afraid. If I were a central banker getting ready to embark on another round of quantitative easing, I would be very afraid. Here's why. Central bankers in the U.S. are being bombarded with market-based signals suggesting their fears of deflation, or falling economy-wide prices, may be misplaced...

...Every time policy makers talk about inflation expectations, I want to know just whose expectations they are targeting. The man on the street? The 14.8 million Americans who are unemployed? Small businesses, which are more concerned about the rising cost of health care and taxes than higher prices? Or is it bond traders' expectations, reflected in the price of Treasury securities? The Fed never makes that clear.

These Fed folks and their academic acolytes need to step away from their models and get out in the real world...

More: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-15/fed-wants-to-hoodwink-public-fools-itself-commentary-by-caroline-baum.html>

If George W. Bush Had...

by Eileen F. Toplansky, 16 Oct 2010

If George W. Bush had doubled the national debt in one year, would you have approved?

If George W. Bush had then proposed to double the debt again within ten years, would you have concurred?

If George W. Bush had criticized a state law that he admitted he never even read, would you think he was just an ignorant hothead?

If George W. Bush joined the country of Mexico and sued a state in the United States to force that state to continue to allow illegal immigration, would you question his patriotism and wonder whose side he was on?...

There are 22 more: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/10/if_george_w_bush_had.html

Arrest warrant filed for Rahm's Chicago press thug

by Thomas Lifson, 15 Oct 2010

In one of the most outrageous examples ever of liberal media doing the dirty work for a liberal politician, last Monday Jay Levine, a reporter for the CBS affiliate in Chicago assaulted WIND radio talk show host as he tried to ask penetrating questions of Rahm Emanuel...

More, including videos: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/10/arrest_warrant_filed_for_rahms.html

Extreme

by NRSC, 18 Aug 2010

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFwsWN0XkQM>

Democrats' Rainbows and Unicorns

by NRSC, 31 March 2010

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtxqtBq0uVw>

\$900 Million for What?

by J. Kenneth Blackwell, 15 Oct 2010

Israeli media watchdog Itamar Marcus makes a career of following the Palestinian press. His website provides timely and accurate translations of the Arabic language broadcasts and publications that are watched and read by the Palestinian public on the West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Strip. It's well worth our while as Americans to pay more attention to what the so-called Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) is doing. That's because we American taxpayers are footing the bill for much of it. President Obama and Sec. Hillary Clinton have promised \$900 million in U.S. funds to the PLO, our supposed "peace partners" in the latest round of Mideast peace talks.

One story is typical of the PLO approach to peace. Late last year, a 45-year-old rabbi, father of seven, was ambushed in his car by four members of the Palestinian Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade. Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) located three of the killers and killed them. Here's what our peace partner, the PLO's Mahmoud Abbas, did then...

Utterly appalling: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/10/15/900-million-for-what>

BREAKING: Prosecutors of Dutch MP Geert Wilders ask court to acquit on all charges

The prosecution also strongly condemned the decision of a higher court to prosecute Wilders for his anti-Islamic statements.

by Leon DeWinter, 15 Oct 2010

In a surprising twist, the prosecution in the trial of Dutch MP Geert Wilders asked for complete acquittal today. With this, it strongly condemned the decision of a higher court to prosecute Wilders.

In a two-day long precise analysis of the remarks of Wilders, who had to stand trial for discrimination of Muslims and incitement to hatred, the prosecuting officers explained to the court that Wilders may have been insulting and provocative, but his words were within the limitations of Dutch law.

This doesn't mean that the trial has stopped — next week the defense will continue. The Dutch law system demands a full cycle of prosecution and defense, and will end with an extensive verdict.

Though in theory the court could, it is clear that now it is almost impossible to convict Geert Wilders...

More: <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/breaking-prosecutors-of-dutch-mp-geert-wilders-ask-court-to-acquit-on-all-charges/>

Five Myths About Sarah Palin

by Matthew Continetti, 14 Oct 2010

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/14/AR2010101404794.html>

Wilders' Trial: Win One, Lose One

by Robert Spencer, 14 Oct 2010

...The danger of such charges was thrown into vivid relief Tuesday by a chilling statement that the prosecutors

made: that Wilders will not be allowed to defend himself from charges of inciting hatred by arguing that what he said was true...

...By declaring the truth inadmissible in court, the prosecutors have stepped over the boundary of the rule of law into an arrogance of power that historically has led to authoritarianism and totalitarianism, powered by and only capable of being stopped by brute force...If the truth is no longer the criterion of judgment in Dutch courts, then the only thing that can fill the vacuum it will leave is the raw will to power. Judges no longer have to sift evidence and come to a conclusion based thereon; they only need to make sure they are satisfying those with the most money or the biggest guns...

...Dutch authorities have opened the door to the extinguishing not only of the freedom of speech, but of all the other freedoms, arising from the nature and dignity of the human person, that are the hard-won legacy of Western Judeo-Christian civilization. Equality of rights of all people before the law? Citizens of the new Europe will indeed be equal with one another, but only in the sense that all will be equal in having no rights before the almighty state, which alone defines what is acceptable to be thought and said and what isn't.

Europe faces this multifarious hell whether or not Wilders is acquitted of the remaining charges against him: a crucial Rubicon has already been crossed with the trial itself, and if the prosecutors' statement that the truth is no defense is not countermanded and rebuked forthwith by the highest possible relevant authorities, then the darkness will descend upon Europe even more quickly than it did during the halcyon days of the Third Reich...

More: <http://frontpagemag.com/2010/10/14/wilders-trial-win-one-lose-one/print/>

The Testimony of Simon Admiraal at the Geert Wilders Trial

Baron Bodissey, 14 Oct 2010

Below are three videos of the expert witness testimony for the defense by Simon Admiraal in the Geert Wilders trial. The transcript of his sworn testimony was read out last week in court by one of the trial judges.

Mr. Admiraal, in contrast to Wafa Sultan (whose testimony followed his) is a Western scholar of Islam, and specializes in radical Islamic preachers, particularly in Rotterdam. Once again, to have this material broadcast live on Dutch television and read into the public record of the trial is a milestone of enormous (and devastating) significance. If I were a member of the Dutch political establishment, right about now I would be trying desperately to figure out some face-saving means of making this all go away as soon as possible...

Transcript and video: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/10/testimony-of-simon-admiraal-at-geert.html#more>

The Electric Tea Party Acid Test

by Zombie, 11 Oct 2010

This is a memo to America's hippies:

Tea Party values are hippie values.

You heard me right. The Tea Party is the one social movement in contemporary America that can rightfully claim to be the ideological heir to the original hippie movement that started in the mid-'60s. And because of this, all current hippies and ex-hippies should support the Tea Party, and by extension Tea Party candidates.

I'd like to have a private heart-to-heart talk with my fellow hippies here, so can the rest of you please stop reading now and leave us alone for a while? Thanks...

Dig it: <http://pajamasmedia.com/zombie/2010/10/11/the-electric-tea-party-acid-test/?singlepage=true>

On Health Care, Jack Black and Friends Think You're An Idiot

by Walter Hudson, 14 Oct 2010

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2010/10/14/on-health-care-jack-black-and-friends-think-youre-an-idiot/>

Vote Democrat

Paul Snover's billboard shows Obama as terrorist, gay, gangster and illegal

14 Oct 2010

Includes video and sound-bites: <http://www.eurweb.com/?p=57692>

In a recent *Atlantic* article, two snooty, *bien-pensant* elite intellectuals looked down their noses at the New York patriot. But Mr. Spencer—a down-to-earth and intellectually honest scholar—fisks them good and proper, demonstrating that Ms. Geller's recent statements about Islam are factual, not slanderous.

Reuel Gerecht and Jeffrey Goldberg vs. Pamela Geller: Geller wins

by Robert Spencer, 13 Oct 2010

It is testimony to the effectiveness of my colleague Pamela Geller, in raising awareness of the issues surrounding the Islamic supremacist mega-mosque at Ground Zero and Islamic supremacism in general, that the mainstream media is gunning for her with relentless fury...

Continue: <http://www.jihadwatch.org/2010/10/reuel-gerecht-on-pamela-gellers.html>

So Much Worse Than Carter

by Peter Ferrara, 13 Oct 2010

...For those paying attention, the Obama Administration is serving as a history lesson, sort of a historical reenactment, of exactly what went wrong in the 1970s, and the 1930s. As the Keynesian stimuli of the 1970s regularly failed, the Fed felt it had to gun the money supply further to pick up the slack. Then when inflation arose, it quickly reversed course to fight that, throwing the economy back into recession. To get out of that, the Fed felt compelled to return to reflation.

This is exactly what is going to happen now. The Fed will regenerate inflation, creating new asset and commodity bubbles in the process. When it turns to fighting the inflation, as it has long assured us it will, those bubbles will again burst, restoring recession. That is how America fell into a continuing cycle of ever worsening recession and inflation in the 1970s, which almost irredeemably trashed our economy then, almost losing the Cold War in the process.

This is all why a growing majority of Americans has decided that President Obama has already had long enough on the economy. But if you just read the *New York Times* or watch NBC to get your news, then you are willfully ignorant, and manipulated.

But there is still another fallacy of President Obama's obstinate lemmings, which the President also carefully nurtures. That is the fairy tale the President tells about the mess he inherited when he got here, and the budget deficit that was waiting for him "when he walked in the door."

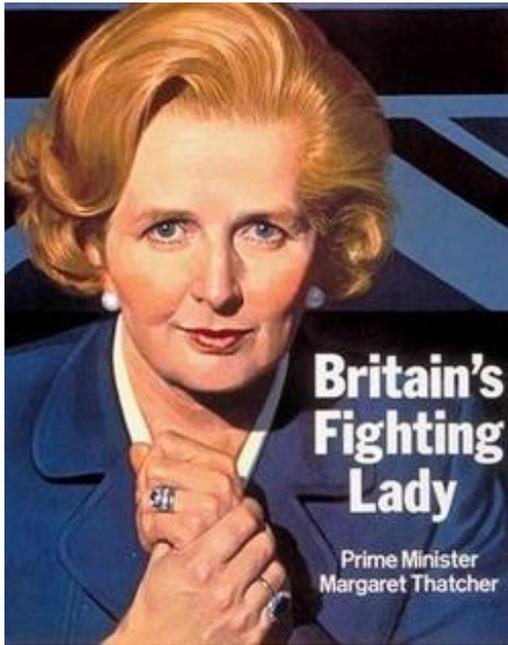
When Obama "got here" was when he was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2004, not when he was elected President in 2008. In 2006, he became part of the Democrat majorities that took control of Congress in the elections that year...

...The deficit in the last budget adopted by Republican Congressional majorities was \$161 billion for fiscal 2007. That is why Rep. Jeb Hensarling was right to say to President Obama that the annual deficits under the Republicans have become the monthly deficits under the Democrats.

Also, the day the Democrat Congressional majorities took office, January 3, 2007, the unemployment rate was 4.6%, less than half the rate today. George Bush's economic policies, what Obama calls "the failed policies of the past," had set a record of 52 straight months of job creation, a record we can only dream about today. GDP in the previous quarter was 3.5%, double today's most recent growth.

Also on January 3, 2007, Barney Frank took over as Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee. When President Bush had proposed legislation to rein in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, Frank led the charge to massacre it, saying he wanted to continue throwing the dice some more on housing policy. Frank, joined by Senate Banking Committee Chairman Chris Dodd, continued to pump up the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac bubble until it burst all over the U.S. and world economy. Sen. Barack Obama was an avid supporter of these policies as well...

Read the rest: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/10/13/so-much-worse-than-carter/print>



Margaret Thatcher (born 13 October 1925)

Free Society speech, 1975 (video clip)

Thatcher's victory in 1979 (video)

The Lady's Not For Turning party conference speech at Brighton, 10 Oct 1980

On the Sinking of the *Belgrano*, 1982 (video with David Frost)

How economics works, 1986 (video)

Reagan's Leadership, America's Recovery 30 Dec 1988

On socialism, 22 Nov 1990 (video)

The Political Assassination of Margaret Thatcher (video)

The Moral Foundations of Society 1 March 1995

Challenge of Educating for 21st-Century Citizenship (scroll down) 1 Oct 1999

All beginnings are hopeful: Challenges Facing the 21st Century 1 Apr 2001

Eulogy for Ronald Reagan: 11 June 2004 (video [here](#))

Margaret Thatcher and the Revival of the West by Ronald Reagan, 19 May 1989

Margaret Thatcher: A Legacy of Freedom by John O'Sullivan, 1 June 2008

Never Wobbly Claire Berlinski's *There Is No Alternative*, reviewed by Vincent Carroll, 19 Nov 2008

Mrs T's unassailable legacy by Boris Johnson, 3 May 2009

The Islamization of Germany

by Baron Bodissey, 11 Oct 2010

Below is a news report from the British network ITN about **Thilo Sarrazin** and the growing anti-Islamization movement in Germany.

This clip is from a typical left-media perspective, and regular Gates of Vienna readers won't learn anything new from it. However, watching it is instructive, because the tone of breathless alarm — designed to convey to viewer the urgent danger from those Islamophobic German nationalists — indicates how terrified the MSM and the European establishment are of the various anti-Islamization movements...

More: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/10/islamization-of-germany.html>

The American Left Slides Into Psychosis

by J.R. Dunn, 11 Oct 2010

History tells us that organizations, movements, even entire nations can go mad in much the same way an individual

does, with the same expression of irrationality, frenzy, and violence. Recent evidence suggests that the American left is going through precisely such a breakdown.

In his memoir *Memories, Dreams, Reflections*, Carl Jung, the psychiatric pioneer who was smarter than Freud, discussed a particular case history in which a patient told of a troubling dream: he was repeatedly confronted with the image of a howling, feces-covered baby. Jung had no immediate explanation and thought about little else for several days. At last, the solution appeared: his patient harbored a buried psychosis, one that was in danger of emerging. To his horror, Jung realized that it must be the therapy itself that was threatening his patient's sanity...

BRILLIANT: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/10/the_american_left_slides_into.html

The President's Nun: Obamacare Scranton Scandal Explodes

by Jeffrey Lord, 11 Oct 2010

Can you say "October Surprise"?

A mushrooming political battle over ObamaCare involving the White House, two incumbent Pennsylvania congressmen, three Catholic hospitals and a nun has just exploded in, of all places, Scranton, Pennsylvania...

Read on: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/10/11/the-presidents-nun-obamacare-s>

Happy Columbus Day!

America's Pristine Myth

by Charles C. Mann, 1 Sept 2005

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0901/p09s02-coop.htm>

Mr. Weissberg is Professor of Political Science-Emeritus, University of Illinois-Urbana. His latest book is *Bad Students Not Bad Schools*. badstudentsnotbadschools.com

Waiting for the Superman Who Will Never Arrive

by Robert Weissberg, 8 Oct 2010

...Conceivably, *Superman* will do for education reform what *Inconvenient Truth* did for global warming: whip up public discussion of a complicated topic into an orgy of half-truths, outright falsifications, clichés, and misdirected "solutions"...

...This dangerous fantasy will exacerbate an already troubled situation. Underlying *Superman* is the unarticulated (perhaps unspeakable) proposition that students themselves have *nothing* to do with "bad schools." One can only wonder how many candidates Guggenheim interviewed before uncovering these five cinematic educationally goal-oriented kids with dedicated mothers. Even then, how many of them will endure the necessary tedium and hard work over twelve or sixteen years? My guess is that charter schools are largely a silver-bullet hope among today's public school strugglers, not the golden opportunity to spend years mastering hard lessons. Such selectivity is classic Hollywood manipulation, today's version of the rags-to-riches saga.

Moreover, it is as if the evil, bad public schools were initially constructed with graffiti, had architecture inadvertently conducive to mayhem, and were staffed by teachers disdainful of innocent, knowledge-craving students. But inoperable equipment, tattered or missing textbooks, overflowing toilets, and similar "bad school" conditions do not mysteriously appear: *students, bad students, are responsible*. Truth be told, talented teachers rationally flee perilous settings, and to insist that schools underperform because they have "bad teachers" is but a duplicitous way of admitting that rambunctious students can drive out frustrated skilled teachers enjoying flight options...

Read it all: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/10/waiting_for_the_superman_who_w.html

It shouldn't take a rocket scientist. But that's what Ruth happens to be.

Ruth McClung Pulls Ahead of Radical Socialist Dem Grijalva in Arizona

by Jim Hoft, 11 Oct 2010

<http://gatewaypundit.firstthings.com/2010/10/holy-mole-rocket-scientist-ruth-mcclung-pulls-ahead-of-radical-socialist-dem-grijalva-in-arizona/>

The EDL Demo in Leicester

by Baron Bodissey, 9 Oct 2010

The English Defence League staged a demonstration today in Leicester. It was originally planned as a march (as opposed to a static demonstration), but the Home Secretary banned all marches in Leicester out of fear of violence.

In response to the ban, the EDL defiantly announced that they would march anyway, but evidently changed their plans. Based on the published news, there were two static demos, one staged by the EDL, and the counter-demonstration organized by the UAF.

I'll post some analysis later on, but here are the raw details from the MSM, with a little bit of commentary added.

First, the bare bones from *This Is Leicestershire*. As far as I can tell, this article uses the term "youths" to mean exactly the same thing that the French media do...

More: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/10/edl-demo-in-leicester.html>

And a follow-up:

Changing the Meme *by Baron Bodissey, 10 Oct 2010*

Democrats' attack ad sets new low for midterm mud

by David Zurawik, 11 Oct 2010

Check out this new ad from the Democratic National Committee. I am sure we are nowhere near touching bottom on the level to which these attack ads will sink by Nov.2, but this is a new low so far into the midterm battle...

More: http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/entertainment/zontv/2010/10/democrats_hit_new_low_with_tho.html

Shutting Up Business

Democrats unleash the IRS and Justice on donors to their political opponents.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 10 Oct 2010

If at first you don't succeed, get some friends in high places to shut your opponents up. That's the latest Washington power play, as Democrats and liberals attack the Chamber of Commerce and independent spending groups in an attempt to stop businesses from participating in politics.

Since the Supreme Court's January decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*, Democrats in Congress have been trying to pass legislation to repeal the First Amendment for business, though not for unions. Having failed on that score, they're now turning to legal and political threats. Funny how all of this outrage never surfaced when the likes of Peter Lewis of Progressive insurance and George Soros helped to make Democrats financially dominant in 2006 and 2008...

Details: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703735804575536370151720874.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_sections_opinion



The Battle of Tours-Poitiers, 732 A.D.

Historians have assigned various October dates to the first crucial battle to halt the malign advance of Islam in western Europe. Some say it took place on the 10th; others say it was the 18th or 25th. But **Victor Davis Hanson** says it was October 11. That's good enough for me.

Reliving the Battle of Tours-Poitiers by *Brad MacDonald*, 6 Dec 2007

Battle of Moussais (Poitiers II): October 732 (includes pictures)

The Battle of Tours-Poitiers Revisited by *William E. Watson*, 1993

Yet another Kennedy cover-up revealed

by *Thomas Lifson*, 10 Oct 2010

How evil was Ted Kennedy? Shocking new details have emerged, now that the man himself is dead.

While many conservatives realized that Ted Kennedy's was a morally compromised man (his record of walking away from Mary Jo Kopechne as she suffocated in an air bubble inside his Oldsmobile clinched the case), America's major media studiously ignored the incident, and many others, in order to preserve the luster of the Kennedy name...

Read on: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/10/yet_another_kennedy_coverup_re.html

Drowning in Law

A flood of statutes, rules and regulations is killing the American spirit.

by *Philip K. Howard*, 10 Oct 2010

...The sheer volume of law suffocates innovative instincts, while distrust of lawsuits discourages ordinary human choices. Why take a chance on the eager young person applying for a job when, if it doesn't work out, you might get sued for discrimination? Why take the risk of expanding production in another state when that requires duplicating legal risks and overhead? Why bother to start a business at all?...

...Schools are bureaucratic viper pits. Mandates from Washington, from state capitals and from aggressive local districts transform teachers into pedagogical drones. Because of fear of lawsuits, they're told never to put an arm around a crying child. Good teachers quit, surveys show, because they don't feel free to do what's right, or indeed, even to be themselves.

Government itself is choking on accumulated law. The simplest choices take years to grind through labyrinthian requirements mandated by obsolete laws. Good public management takes superman, because accountability is nonexistent. Firing an insubordinate civil servant is even harder than firing a teacher.

Forget about building public works—that occurs on a tectonic time frame, with shovels in the ground maybe a

decade or longer after the decision is made. Wind farms off the Massachusetts coast were approved this year after a decade of review by 16 different agencies—and then challenged again the next day by a dozen lawsuits.

Clearing away the poisonous legal overgrowth does not require genius. It just requires different choices...

Read it all:

http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2010/10/10/2010-10-10_drowning_in_law_a_flood_of_statutes_rules_and_regulations_is_killing_the_america.html

How Radical Islam Seduced the Academics

The Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab case highlights the pusillanimity of those who should be confronting extremism.

by *Nick Cohen*, 10 Oct 2010

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/oct/10/terrorism-islam-abdulmutallab-nick-cohen>

Chávez's Secret Nuclear Program

by *Roger F. Noriega*, 5 Oct 2010

Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez admitted last week that his government is "carrying out the first studies" of a nuclear program. He attempted to portray it as an innocuous program designed solely for peaceful purposes.

On Sept. 21, I held a briefing for journalists and regional experts where I revealed for the first time information about Chavez's nuclear program and his troubling and substantial collaboration with Iran. This research—conducted during the past 12 months by a team of experts who analyzed sensitive material obtained from sources within the Venezuelan regime—paints a far darker picture of Chavez's intentions.

Chávez has been developing the program for two years with the collaboration of Iran, a nuclear rogue state. In addition to showing the two states' cooperation on nuclear research, these documents suggest that Venezuela is helping Iran obtain uranium and evade international sanctions, all steps that are apparent violations of the U.N. Security Council resolutions meant to forestall Iran's illegal nuclear weapons program...

Continue: http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/10/05/chavez_s_secret_nuclear_program

Yes, President Bush, America Does Miss You

by *Nile Gardiner*, 8 Oct 2010

Several months ago a huge billboard appeared near Wyoming, Minnesota, with a beaming photo of George W. Bush with the caption "Miss me yet?" The answer to that question is clearly yes, according to a new CNN/Opinion Research poll, which shows the former president staging a remarkable political recovery despite having largely disappeared from public life since leaving office...

Read on: <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/nilegardiner/100058215/yes-president-bush-america-does-miss-you/>

Progressive Feudalism

by *Thomas Lifson*, 8 Oct 2010

The changes wrought on the American political economy by progressives have taken us in the unmistakable direction of feudalism. The morphological resemblance between the progressive version of America and the historic feudal regimes of Western Europe and Japan is obvious if one takes a few moments to consider the changes in the proper context...

Among the headings of Mr. Lifson's analysis:

- Legal Equality
- Personal Autonomy
- Sumptuary Laws
- Guilds
- Estates
- Taxation
- The Bourgeoisie

Read it: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/10/progressive_feudalism_1.html

Military Record Liar Dick Blumenthal can't explain how you create a job

5 Oct 2010

Watch Linda McMahon expose his ignorance: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CR5WGnEtj8c>

At the Pleasure of the President

by Yuval Levin, 7 Oct 2010

...The exemptions themselves are good news, since the rule would have forced these companies to drop their employee coverage, leaving almost a million workers without the insurance they had before Obamacare. But it means that these companies now need permission from the administration to offer their employees a benefit they have offered for years. And of course, many other companies—those without the lobbying operation of a company the size of McDonald's, or without the access to liberal policymakers that a NY teachers' union has—can't get the same permission, and so can't compete on a level playing field, or offer coverage that might entice the best qualified people to work for them. This kind of government by whim, and not by law, is the essence of the regulatory state. We are about to see a whole lot more of it—unless the health-care law enacted in March is repealed.

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/249063/pleasure-president-yuval-levin>

Like a bat out of tax hell

by Patrick McIlheran, 6 Oct 2010

...We and Jersey reached this pass not because public employees are greedy. They aren't. They just took the offered deal. Were your boss to say you could get premium-free health, free pension, high pay and ironclad security, of course you'd take it. I would.

Nor is it because unions are greedy, exactly. Their purpose is to maximize what members get, and they're doing it. Where they can be faulted is that they've become huge players in politics, electing the officials with whom they bargain.

The main fault lies with those elected officials. They have, over decades, tended to give in, buying themselves peace with taxpayer money. Both Republicans and Democrats have been among the spineless...

The full column: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/104455379.html>

The Paranoid Style in Liberal Politics

by Andrew Ferguson, Oct 2010

Over the past 30 years, Charles and David Koch, owners of a Kansas-based family business called Koch Industries, have given hundreds of millions of dollars to organizations that advance their political views. Those views can be described as unevenly conservative and generally libertarian (pro-gay marriage, anti-ObamaCare). The donations are readily observable in foundation tax records posted on the Internet, as all such transactions are, and the brothers themselves have made many public appearances on behalf of the think tanks and magazines they fund, given speeches and media interviews, issued statements of support, sat on boards—even, in David's case, made a hopeless and expensive run for the vice presidency on the Libertarian Party ticket in 1980.

Oddly, it took a while for the Inspector Clouseaus of the American left to smell a rat. And in fairness, it should be said that hiding in plain sight can often be the most sinister form of disguise for billionaires like the Kochs, the tricky bastards. About a year ago, the alarming rise of the Tea Parties inspired researchers at a website called ThinkProgress to start Googling. Among their discoveries, breathlessly reported, was the news that one of the Kochs' foundations had funded Americans for Prosperity, a group instrumental in the Tea Party movement.

ThinkProgress presented its story as a scoop the mainstream press was afraid to touch. There the Kochs stood at last, exposed to broad daylight in the public square, where they'd been all along. ThinkProgress dubbed them "The Billionaires Behind the Hate."...

Read the rest: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/press-man--the-paranoid-style-in-liberal-politics-15547>

Red Herring Politics: Part II

by Thomas Sowell, 5 Oct 2010

...It should also be noted that the Democrats were in power in Congress before President Obama got to the White House. So "the mess" that he constantly reminds us he "inherited" includes runaway spending by Congressional Democrats, of whom Senator Barack Obama was one of the more prominent big spenders...

...In 1993, Senator Reid introduced a bill— the Immigration Stabilization Act—to cut back on all immigration, both legal and illegal. Senator Reid said: "Our federal wallet is stretched to the limit by illegal aliens getting welfare, food stamps, medical care and other benefits, often without paying taxes." He said, "Safeguards like welfare and free medical care are in place to boost Americans in need of short-term assistance," and added: "These programs were not meant to entice freeloaders and scam artists from around the world."

Today, of course, Senator Reid is singing an entirely different tune. He has what Thorstein Veblen once called a "versatility of convictions." So do a lot of "experienced" politicians.

Instead of talking about the track records of people who have been wielding power in Washington for years, much of the mainstream follows the scent of the red herrings that have been dragged across their trail and focuses on the personal lives of the candidates who are challenging the incumbents...

...The Obama administration has fewer people with real world experience in the private sector than any other administration in years. Maybe if they had more people with practical experience in the economy, we wouldn't be in the mess that politicians created...

More: <http://www.creators.com/conservative/thomas-sowell/red-herring-politics-part-ii.html>

One of the most momentous battles in world history was fought on October 7, 1571.

Remember Lepanto!

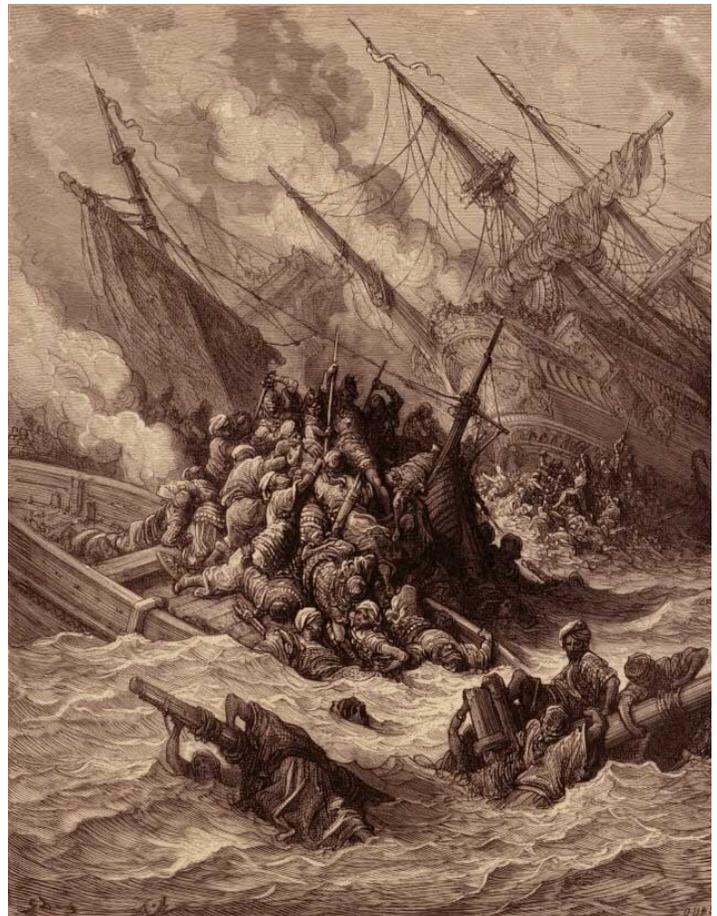
by Robert McMullen

...Now, the Turks had raised a fleet of 181 ships, carrying some 30,000 soldiers, and Malta was the prize they sought. Their goal was to plunder and sweep all the ships of Christian Europe from the Mediterranean. Then, in control of the sea lanes and trade routes, with their naval and economic power supreme, all of Europe would be set to fall before them.

The Turkish fleet appeared off the coast of Malta, and laid siege to the island. All through the summer of 1565 the contest for Malta raged. In the end, the Knights of St. John (Knights of Malta) were victorious, and the Turks were forced to withdraw in defeat. It did not, however, end the threat from the Ottoman Turks.

In 1566, Pius V ascended to the Chair of St. Peter in Rome. Pius V was a Dominican Monk with a reputation for piety and austerity. A teacher of philosophy and theology for 16 years, unlike some previous Popes, he was a humble man who continued to lead the ascetic life of a simple monk even after becoming Pope.

Pius V was also very serious about defending Christendom against the Ottoman Turks. He knew they were not just going to go away and leave Europe in peace. Vienna and the eastern borders continued to be threatened by Moslem military power and incursions, and the Papal States themselves could soon be at risk. Cyprus came under attack again in 1570. Seeing the increasing danger to Christendom, Pius V called on "The Holy League," consisting of the Papal States, Spain, Genoa, Venice, and



The Battle of Lepanto, by Gustave Doré

the Knights of Malta, to address the Moslem threat...

Read on:

http://www.traditioninaction.org/History/A_001_Lepanto.html

The Battle of Lepanto

by *Georgios Rigas*

<http://www.hellas-guide.com/nafpaktos/history-nafpaktos.html>

Lepanto, by *G.K. Chesterton*

White founts falling in the courts of the sun,
And the Soldan of Byzantium is smiling as they run;
There is laughter like the fountains in that face of all men feared,
It stirs the forest darkness, the darkness of his beard,
It curls the blood-red crescent, the crescent of his lips,
For the inmost sea of all the earth is shaken with his ships.
They have dared the white republics up the capes of Italy,
They have dashed the Adriatic round the Lion of the Sea,
And the Pope has cast his arms abroad for agony and loss,
And called the kings of Christendom for swords about the Cross...

The rest of the poem: <http://www.theotherpages.org/poems/chester1.html#1>

Legality Does Not Guarantee Legitimacy

by *Baron Bodissey*, 5 Oct 2010

Our Flemish correspondent VH has translated a batch of material about the sordid political machinations that lie behind the trial of Geert Wilders. The translator includes this note: "These articles show that the trial is, as one would expect, a political process with the aim of undermining Wilders and thereby indirectly the PVV."

It has become obvious the main villain is the Christian "Democrat" and outgoing Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch Ballin. It seems the (outgoing) Christian Democrats have indeed been playing a foul game. The pit opens, and it gets dirtier and dirtier.

First, from an interview with Bram Moszkowicz, published in *Trouw* last week...

More: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/10/legality-does-not-guarantee-legitimacy.html>



Questions for Congressional Candidates

by *Phyllis Schlafly*, 5 Oct 2010

We look forward to the 2010 elections in the hope that we can decisively reject Barack Obama's plans to "fundamentally transform the United States." Here are some questions voters can ask all candidates to help decide whom to vote for...

More: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/phyllis-schlafly/questions-for-congressional-candidates.html>

A marvelous article. The first third of it explains a draconian California law. The middle third is a survey of (almost) all the arguments against climate hysteria. The final third shows the economic fallacy of "green jobs."

Escape clause from global warming law

by Mark Landsbaum, 3 Oct 2010

<http://www.ocregister.com/opinion/-269159--.html>

Congress On Steroids Slinks Out Of Town

by Eric Singer, 4 Oct 2010

...To cover for its excesses, Congress relies on its self-appointed umpire, the "nonpartisan" Congressional Budget Office. The CBO is nonpartisan in the sense that it always loves Big Government proposals and scores every law as if all of our wealth rightfully belongs to the government (all tax savings to the people are called "costs"), all government spending purchases something of value, and accrual accounting has yet to be invented.

In 1905, Albert Einstein discovered the Law of Relativity, our basis for our understanding of the physical universe. Simply put, Einstein proved that the act of measuring and the presence of a measurer affected and necessarily distorted what was being measured.

A century later, it's time for Congress to acknowledge Einstein was right. As the nation watches in horror as its debt begins to grow beyond the point of no return, the Congressional Budget Office continues statically scoring all legislation. It assumes that if tax rates are raised, taxes received by the Treasury will go up proportionately. It disregards the impact of the extra 10 billion hours it now takes to figure out our taxes. It ignores the fact that in the face of 1,400 new regulations from health care and financial overhauls (Sarbanes-Oxley had only 16), virtually all businesses will slow down and hoard cash as they try to understand what the new rules might be.

Static scoring assumes that the uncertainty created by the presence of new laws and new regulations does not affect behavior or taxes collected. Static scoring assumes some sucker will always be available to buy our debt no matter how much we waste. Worst of all, it assumes no one will change behavior to reduce taxes. Every assumption of the static scoring model is demonstrably false....

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/549319/201010041835/Congress-On-Steroids-Slinks-Out-Of-Town.htm>

The 4-minute film *No Pressure* is not intended as a joke. It represents what eco-hysterics would really like to do.

Global Warming murder fantasy nabs prize as most honest political ad of all time

by Zombie, 1 Oct 2010

<http://pajamasmedia.com/zombie/2010/10/01/most-honest-political-ad-of-all-time/>

See also:

Eco-fascism jumps the shark: massive, epic fail! by James Delingpole, 1 Oct 2010

Why the 10:10 Video Is a Distraction by Jeff Perren, 4 Oct 2010

Dishonest or clueless? *Time* claims 'ordained' women 'priests' in Catholic Church

by Dave Pierre, 2 Oct 2010

It's not that hard to understand. The ordination of women in the Catholic Church is not going to happen.

It. Will. Not. Happen.

Yet according to a truly warped article by Dawn Reiss in *Time* magazine (9/25/10), it's already happened. In fact, "three women have entered the priesthood" in the Chicago area alone, says Reiss.

Is this true? Is Alta Jacko (rhymes with "wacko"), "the mother of eight children" whom Reiss profiles, really "an ordained priest in the Roman Catholic Church"? No. Jacko is as much a Catholic priest as she is the Vice President of the United States. But Reiss' falsehoods don't end there...

Read on: <http://newsbusters.org/blogs/dave-pierre/2010/10/02/dishonest-or-clueless-time-claims-ordained-women-priests-catholic-church>

'One Nation' Rally: Liberal Media Concludes Size Doesn't Matter

Another exclusive Pajamas Media crowd estimate.

by Charlie Martin, 3 Oct 2010

Column: <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/liberal-media-concludes-size-doesnt-matter/?singlepage=true>

[Click here](#) for a photo from Saturday's left-wing rally.

[Click here](#) for a photo from the August 28 Glenn Beck rally.

Compare and contrast as necessary — as the lawyers say: "the thing speaks for itself."

(Update: Or just [click on the blinking gif](#) created by blogger Doug Ross to compare the crowds at two events.)

Are we sliding into a tyranny of good intentions?

by Neil Reynolds, 4 Oct 2010

Nearly 50 years ago, Kenneth Minogue, a professor of political science at the London School of Economics, published *The Liberal Mind*, his classic study of the dominant philosophy of the 20th century: radical niceness. Rooted in extreme liberal optimism and salvationist aspiration, this triumphant ideology (Prof. Minogue said) tenaciously advanced the notion that history requires the perfection of human society, that governments—in pursuit of this perfection—are obliged "to provide every man, woman, child and dog with the conditions of the good life." Prof. Minogue ended with a warning: "A populace which hands its moral order over to governments, no matter how impeccable its reasons, will become dependent and slavish."

Now professor emeritus at LSE, the 80-year-old has published a remarkable sequel—*The Servile Mind: How Democracy Erodes the Moral Life*. He picks up where he left off, documenting the ways in which democracy (which once expanded freedom) requires strict obedience to the state—and to the bureaucratic moral order that sustains it...

Continue: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/opinion/are-we-sliding-into-a-tyranny-of-good-intentions/article1738915/>

William F. Buckley and Kenneth Minogue: a discussion on *Firing Line*

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CIOSkrRRC4>

At 'One Nation' Rally, a Unionized Show of Unity

by Byron York, 3 Oct 2010

Organizers of Saturday's "One Nation Working Together" rally at the Lincoln Memorial are proud of their diversity. Before the event, they predicted it would be the "most diverse march in history." It turned out they were right. Looking around the rally, there were Teamsters Local 311, Service Employees International Union Local 1199, Communications Workers of America Local 2336, American Federation of Teachers Local 1, United Auto Workers Amalgamated Local 171, Transport Workers Union Local 100, and representatives of many, many other unions. That's a lot of diversity...

...The presence of ANSWER gives any rally a touch of the extreme. There were plenty of other extreme elements, too. The Communist Party USA took part. The War Resisters League. The Freedom Socialist Party, and several others. If the main organizers of the rally wanted to keep the kooky parts of their coalition away from public view, they didn't succeed.

Overall, how big was the crowd? Before the rally, organizers made no secret of their determination that their turnout be bigger than that of the nonpolitical Glenn Beck rally at the Memorial on August 28. "We believe that our satellite photos will stack up nicely to his satellite photos," NAACP president Ben Jealous told the New York Times. After the rally, however, there wasn't so much talk about satellite photos; although thousands of people showed up, the crowd was visibly smaller than the Beck event. Even with all that organizing muscle, they couldn't turn out as many people as one man on talk radio and Fox News.

"One Nation" was scheduled to last from noon until 4:00 pm, but a lot of people headed for the exits well before the last speakers took the stage. By 2:45, when Jealous himself was at the microphone, they were streaming for the buses. As they walked, organizers herded people in the right direction. "OPEIU movin' out! OPEIU movin' out!" shouted one man, an organizer with the Office and Professional Employees International Union. The unions came, and then they left.

More: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/politics/At-One-Nation-rally-a-unionized-show-of-unity-104233384.html>

The Rise of Black Republicans

by Jack Kelly, 3 Oct 2010

I bet you haven't heard of Tim Scott, Allen West or Ryan Frazier. If they were Democrats, I might lose that bet.

But they're not. Mr. Scott, Mr. West and Mr. Frazier are three of the 14 black candidates running for Congress as Republicans this November. Thirty-two black Republicans ran in the primaries...

...One might think the resurgence of black Republicans, coming as it does at a time when a black Democrat is president, would rate more than a feature story or two in the national media. But that would conflict with the liberal meme that Republicans are racist.

Many liberals also say Republicans are anti-immigrant, even though Hispanic Republicans are poised to win a Senate seat in Florida (Marco Rubio) and gubernatorial races in New Mexico (Susana Martinez) and Nevada (Brian Sandoval). Nine Hispanic Republicans are seeking election to the House. Four—Bill Flores and Quico Canseco in Texas, Jaime Herrera in Washington state and David Rivera in Florida—are even-money or better to win...

More: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10276/1091893-373.stm>

Obama Courted Iran. Obama Courted Syria. Obama Achieved Nothing.

by Martin Peretz, 2 Oct 2010

...Almost nobody notices the disasters of U.S. policy outside our borders because the disasters within our borders are so climactic. One of the president's most ambitious ventures was to bring Syria to heel. He sent many emissaries to Dr. Assad. Their visits all flopped.

But Obama is still pressing Israel to leave the Golan Heights, and Secretary Clinton is trying get Syria to soften the views of the Palestinians. The president and the secretary of state don't recognize failure. So they court more humiliation.

More: <http://www.tnr.com/blog/the-spine/78125/obama-courted-iran-obama-courted-syria-obama-achieved-nothing>

Viva Santos for Coup de Grâce Against FARC

by Alvaro Vargas Llosa, 28 Sept 2010

When Juan Manuel Santos came into office as Colombia's president and emphasized economic issues over the fight against terrorist guerrillas, he was suspected of going soft on those he had combated as minister of defense under the previous administration. Little did his critics know that he was planning the "coup de grace" against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

The devastating Sept. 22 attack on FARC headquarters in Colombia's central Meta province all but signifies the end of the five-decade-old conflict. It will take a little while for the official end to be declared, but this war is pretty much over. The death of Jorge Briceño, aka Mono Jojoy, the feared military strategist and top commander of the organization, means two things...

Read on: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/548719/201009281855/Viva-Santos-For-Coup-De-Grace-Against-FARC.aspx>

Public Employee of the Year (7:19)

Saturday Night Live, 25 Apr 2010

Watch it: <http://www.hulu.com/watch/144719/saturday-night-live-public-employee-of-the-year>

Windy City Silence

The truth behind the city's youth-crime spree remains unspoken.

by Heather Mac Donald, 1 Oct 2010

...Chicago's South Side marked the anniversary of Albert's death with a Parent Resource Exposition, organized by the Black Star Project, a black empowerment group...Fenger High School, where Albert and his killers had been students, held a peace rally in the cafeteria, attended by Albert's grandfather. "We're doing this so

this never happens again," he said. "We're making it so we can start getting along together. We have to bring these kids together so they can know each other." The *Chicago Sun-Times* editorialized: "It's up to all of us—to be better parents, to be better neighbors, to reach out to a child in need."

Such vacuous sentiments, while well-intentioned, are utterly beside the point. "The enemy" attacking Chicago's young people is not a nameless force but something quite specific: the disappearance of paternal responsibility. All five of Albert's suspected killers, as well as Albert himself, came from fatherless families. The overwhelming majority of perpetrators and victims in Chicago's four-decades-long juvenile murder spree have come from single-parent homes. In Cook County, 79 percent of all black children were born out of wedlock in 2003, compared with 15 percent of white children; the black illegitimacy rate in inner-city Chicago is undoubtedly higher still. If anyone associated with the anniversary events—attended mostly by women—or in the press mentioned such family breakdown, much less called for an effort to change it, the record does not reflect it.

At the margins, mentors and social workers can give fatherless boys a better chance of growing up to be law-abiding, stable adults, if those mentoring programs are infused with the kinds of masculine virtues promoted by the Boy Scouts. But as long as the norm in black communities is for boys and men to father children without raising them, the killing will continue. No amount of government or even voluntary social-services program can compensate for the disappearance of the black family...

More: <http://www.city-journal.org/2010/eon1001hm.html>

Equality or Liberty?

...And equality, what of it? Here an act of historical faith is required: what is the record? The record was stated most succinctly by an Israeli socialist who told William F. Buckley, Jr. that those nations which have put liberty ahead of equality have ended up doing better by equality than those with the reverse priority. This is so, and being so, it is something to be shouted to the heavens in the years now upon us. *This is our case. We are of the liberty party, and it might surprise us what energies might be released were we to unfurl those banners.*

In the spring of 1973, in his first address as director-designate of the London School of Economics—where Harold Laski once molded the minds of so many future leaders of the "new majority"—Ralf Dahrendorf sounded this theme. The equality party, he said, has had its day. The liberty party's time has come once more. It is a time to be shared with the new nations, and those not so new, shaped from the old European empires, and especially the British—and is the United States not one such?—whose heritage this is also. To have halted the great totalitarian advance only to be undone by the politics of resentment and the economics of envy would be a poor outcome to the promise of a world society. At the level of world affairs we have learned to deal with Communism. Our task is now to learn to deal with socialism. It will not be less difficult a task. It ought to be a profoundly more pleasant one.

—*The final paragraphs of Daniel Patrick Moynihan's remarkable 12,000-word essay "The United States in Opposition" (March 1975).*

A little dense at the start, but it builds to a great finish:

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/the-united-states-in-opposition-5489>

The Townhall "remix" of Alan Grayson's attack ad

30 Sept 2010

After Rep. Grayson's campaign hacked Dan Webster's innocuous comments at a faith-related event into out-of-context pieces and proclaiming the Republican "Taliban Dan," the team at Townhall, led by Guy Benson, figured that a similar ad could be concocted out of Grayson's public statements in the same manner.

<http://hotair.com/archives/2010/09/30/video-the-townhall-remix-ad-for-grayson/>

Grayson's hack job; possibly the worst political ad ever:

<http://hotair.com/archives/2010/09/27/video-worst-political-ad-ever/>

The outrageous Democrat smear campaign against Meg Whitman

29-30 Sept 2010

Hugh Hewitt's column:

http://townhall.com/columnists/HughHewitt/2010/09/30/falling_off_the_floor_gloria_allred_and_the_democrats

Hugh's conversation with the ludicrous Gloria Allred:

audio: <http://townhall.com/MediaPlayer/AudioPlayer.aspx?ContentGuid=784c07c5-7d35-4d8a-af59-5f7ed76dafdd>

transcript: <http://www.hughhewitt.com/blog/g/c7fb98f4-0782-472e-95a3-76715b95cee1>

Meg Whitman's response:

audio: <http://townhall.com/MediaPlayer/AudioPlayer.aspx?ContentGuid=45422adf-16ec-4427-9d4e-cc2308f3b7f1>

transcript: <http://www.hughhewitt.com/blog/g/ce6db35e-4919-4c7f-b67c-e6bfe9882d64>

No 'Vague Orders' in Obama's War Management

by J.R. Dunn, 1 Oct 2010

President Obama's management of the war in Afghanistan may be falling into a trap that snagged his Democrat predecessors Lyndon B. Johnson and Jimmy Carter—at least if a comment by Bob Woodward is to be believed. And almost nobody seems to have noticed...

It's not what you think: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/10/no_vague_orders_in_obamas_war.html

The Twister of 2010

America's political landscape will never be the same.

by Peggy Noonan, 1 Oct 2010

...There is a war beginning in the Democratic Party, and the president has lost control of his base.

The Democratic leadership in the House appears to have lost another kind of control, fleeing Washington without passing a federal budget or extending even part of the Bush-era tax cuts, which are due to expire on Jan. 1. Democrats hold a solid majority in the House. They have a hitherto-powerful speaker. And the decision to adjourn passed by only a single vote—that of Nancy Pelosi, who saw 39 Democrats join the Republicans in dissenting.

The Democratic Party right now is showing signs of coming apart under the pressure of the election and two years of an unpopular presidency. But it's not a split in two, with the left versus the establishment. It's more like a splintering, with left-leaning activists distancing themselves from the party's politicians, and moderate politicians distancing themselves from Mr. Obama.

And part of what's driving it is what is driving the evolution of the Republican Party. The Internet changed everything. Everyone has facts now, knows who voted how and why. New thought leaders spring up and lead in new directions. Total transparency leads to party fracturing. Information dings unity. We are in new territory.

Another tornado: The president's influential counselor, David Axelrod, attempted this week to insinuate into the election what Democrats used to deride as "wedge issues." In an interview he said abortion will "certainly be an issue," for Democrats. It will be raised "across the country."

This suggests a certain desperation. Whatever stand you take on the social issues, you have to be blind to think they will make a big difference this year. The issue this year is the size, role, weight and demands of government...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704483004575524340160716872.html>

Holland goes conservative.

The New Dutch Government, the EU, and the Wilders Trial

by Baron Bodissey, 1 Oct 2010

I mentioned a couple of days ago that a new coalition government has been agreed upon in the Netherlands. As expected, the cabinet will consist of a VVD/CDA minority coalition, backed by Geert Wilders' party, the PVV.

Details of the new government's program have now emerged, and when I read what they're planning, it made my mouth water. The most conservative Republican government imaginable would never attempt half of this stuff in the USA. Just think — if only Geert had been born in Kenya, we could elect him president!

Our Flemish correspondent VH has translated several articles from the Dutch media about the new government, German Chancellor Angela Merkel's reaction to it, and Geert Wilders' upcoming trial for hate speech...

More: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/10/new-dutch-government-eu-and-wilders.html#more>

Support Our Troops

They're still fighting for us.

Soldiers' Angels

Wounded Warrior Project

Fisher House: help military families

Disabled American Veterans

Our Military

Be sure to read these superb pieces:

The Descent of Liberalism *by Michael Knox Beran*

The State Despotism *by Mark Steyn*

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

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

Just Make Stuff Up *by Victor Davis Hanson*

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

Health Care Mythology *by Clifford Asness*

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