

Judaeophobia vs Islamophobia

Racial profiling in the American intelligence community.

by *Phyllis Chesler*, 31 Dec 2010

<http://frontpagemag.com/2010/12/31/judaeophobia-vs-islamophobia/>

Union Snow Sabotage in New York City

by *Arnold Ahlert*, 31 Dec 2010

...Harry Nespoli, president of the Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association (USA), apparently had the answer which eluded the Mayor. Nespoli blamed the recent cuts to the Sanitation Department's workforce, directly tied to New York's budget woes, for the city's "sluggish" response. "The city currently has 2,400 men and women working 12-hour shifts following a series of cuts, he said. This is the lowest amount of man power that we ever went into a winter with. There's certain agencies you just don't cut."...

...On Wednesday, however, the city was rocked by some damning allegations: City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Queens) reported that three plow workers from the Sanitation Department, and two Department of Transportation supervisors who were on loan to Sanitation as part of the cleanup effort, came to his office and confessed that the inept response to the storm was a "shameless job action" perpetrated by Sanitation Department bosses in response to a "raft of demotions, attrition and budget cuts" necessitated by the city's budget crunch. "They sent a message to the rest of the city that these particular labor issues are more important," said Halloran. "(Sanitation workers) were told (by supervisors) to take off routes (and) not do the plowing of some of the major arteries in a timely manner. They were told to make the mayor pay for the layoffs, the reductions in rank for the supervisors, (and) shrinking the rolls of the rank-and-file."

The whistleblowers, who wish to remain unidentified because they fear retaliation, went on to describe the methods used by the Sanitation Department to make a bad situation worse. These included such things as raising the level of the plows higher than the roadway, deliberately skipping streets along their assigned routes, and being told to wait for orders before plowing accumulating piles of snow. In addition, "multiple Sanitation Department sources" told The NY Post that "angry plow drivers have only been clearing streets assigned to them, even if that means they have to drive through snowed-in roads with their plows raised." They added that "some drivers are purposely smashing plows and salt spreaders to further stall the cleanup effort."...

...In Crown Heights, Brooklyn, a newborn baby died during the ten hours it took emergency workers to respond to the frantic mother's 911 call. In Queens, 75-year-old Yvonne Freeman passed away between the time her daughter called to report her mother's difficulty in breathing, and the three hours it took first responders to reach her...

More: <http://frontpagemag.com/2010/12/31/union-snow-sabotage-in-new-york-city/>

Slow the plow: Big Labor's death grip

by *Michelle Malkin*, 31 Dec 2010

...New Yorkers could learn a thing or two from those of us who call Colorado Springs, Colo., home. We have no fear of being held hostage to a politically driven sanitation department—because we have no sanitation department. We have no sanitation department because enlightened advocates of limited government in our town realized that competitive bidders in the private sector could provide better service at lower cost.

And we're not alone. As the Mackinac Center for Public Policy in Michigan reported: "The largest study ever conducted on outsourced garbage collection, conducted by the federal government in the 1970s, reported 29 to 37 percent savings in cities with populations over 50,000. A 1994 study by the Reason Foundation discovered that the city of Los Angeles was paying about 30 percent more for garbage collection than its surrounding suburbs, in which private waste haulers were employed. A 1982 study of city garbage collection in Canada discovered an astonishing 50 percent average savings as a result of privatization."

Completely privatized trash collection means city residents don't get socked with the bill for fraudulently engineered overtime pay, inflated pensions and gold-plated health benefits in perpetuity—not to mention the capital and operating costs of vehicles and equipment. The Colorado Springs model, as city councilman Sean Paige calls it, is a blueprint for how every city can cope with budget adversity while freeing itself from thuggish union threats when contracts expire or cuts are made. Those who dawdled on privatization efforts in better times are suffering dire, deadly consequences now...

More: <http://michellemalkin.com/2010/12/31/slow-the-plow-big-labors-death-grip/>

The Wars of 2011

by Caroline Glick, 30 Dec 2010

...Fatah and its allies are operating on multiple fronts. On November 24 the UN General Assembly passed a resolution to hold a Durban III conference on September 21. The first conference, held in Durban, South Africa in September 2001, is mainly remembered as a diplomatic pogrom against Israel and Jews which complemented the shooting war in Israel.

As Jews were being butchered in pizzerias in Jerusalem, Jew-haters gathered to deny that Jews have human rights. They used the UN's anti-racism banner to assert that it is not racist to kill and incite the murder of Jews. Jews were singled out and condemned as the only nation in the world whose national liberation movement—Zionism—is racist.

But even more important than its service in glorifying suicide bombers and their political commissars just three days before the September 11 jihadist assault on the US, the Durban conference was the place where the blueprint for the political war against Israel was authored. At the NGO conference which took place as an adjunct to the governmental conference, self-proclaimed "human rights" groups from around the world agreed that their job was to criminalize the Jewish state to isolate it politically, diplomatically and economically. As key organizers put it, the "activists'" job was to conduct a nonviolent jihad to complement the work of the "resistance fighters" massacring children and parents in Israel.

The Durban II conference last year in Geneva was supposed to reinvigorate the political war that was launched in 2001. But it was a bust. The only head of state to address the proceedings was Iranian dictator Mahmoud Ahmadinejad^[2]. He used the occasion to again call for the eradication of the Jewish state.

To prevent another flop, last month the Palestinians and their supporters agreed that the 10th anniversary conference will be held in New York during the opening of UN General Assembly. Their goal is to piggyback on that conference to get heads of state that are in New York already to join in their anti-Israel political war.

And they have every reason for optimism. Although Canada and Israel have announced their plans to boycott the conference, the Obama administration has been noticeably unwilling to distance itself from it...

...Secretary of State Hillary Clinton signaled this month that the Obama administration is wholly on board Fatah's political warfare bandwagon. In her speech at the Brookings Institute on December 10, she said the Obama administration supports Fatah's plan to build facts on the ground that will make it more difficult for Israel to maintain its control over Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem.

After calling Jewish presence in the areas "illegitimate," Clinton pledged the US "will deepen our support of the Palestinians' state-building efforts." Among other things, she pledged to continue training and deploying a Palestinian army in Judea and Samaria and pressuring Israel to withdraw the IDF from the areas...

Read it all: <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Columnists/Article.aspx?id=201223>

The Liberal Reckoning of 2010

Wall Street Journal editorial, 31 Dec 2010

...The real story of 2010 is that the voters were finally able to see and judge this liberal agenda in its unvarnished form. For once, there was no Republican President to muddle the message or divide the accountability. The public was able to compare the promise of 8% unemployment if the government spent \$812 billion on "stimulus" with the 9.8% jobless result. They stood athwart liberal history in the making and said, "Stop."...

...There is a lesson here both about modern liberalism and for Republicans who will soon have more power in Congress. For today's left, the main goal of politics is not to respond to public opinion. The goal is to impose the dream of an egalitarian entitlement state whether the public likes it or not. Sooner or later, they figure, the anger will subside and Americans will come to like the cozy confines of the cradle-to-grave welfare state.

This is the great Democratic bet with ObamaCare. The assumption is that once the benefits start to flow in 2013 the constituency for "free" health care will grow. As spending and deficits climb, the pressure for higher taxes will become inexorable and the GOP will splinter into its balanced budget and antitax wings. A value-added tax or some other money-machine will pass and guarantee that the government will control 40% to 50% of all economic resources. If the price of this bet was losing control of the House for a moment in time in 2010, Mrs. Pelosi's view is so be it...

The lesson for Republicans is to understand the nature of their political opponents and this long-term bet. The GOP can achieve all kinds of victories in the next two years, and some of them will be important for economic growth. But the main chance is ObamaCare, which will fundamentally change the balance of power between government and individuals if it is not repealed or replaced...

...The difference between the work of the 111th Congress and that of either the Great Society or New Deal is that the latter were bipartisan and in the main popular. This Congress's handiwork is profoundly unpopular and should

become more so as its effects become manifest. In 2010, Americans saw liberalism in the raw and rejected it. The challenge for Republicans is to repair the damage before it becomes permanent.

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703909904576051803529108190.html?mod=WSJ_newsreel_opinion

Popes, Atheists and Freedom

Secularists should recognize that the pope's fight is their fight.

by Daniel Henninger, 30 Dec 2010

...For some, the Vatican's efforts on behalf of Christian minorities in Islamic countries or among China's population of 1.3 billion is regarded as worthy and admirable, but only a footnote against the grand sweep of current geopolitical concerns. Iran's bomb, China's economic importance and all that. This is a mistake. In these times, the pope's agenda is the civilized world's agenda. The pope's agenda is individual freedom...

...Before John Paul, the Vatican's dominant diplomatic strategy was Ostpolitik, which tipped toward constant engagement with the status quo. Karol Wojtyla, like many dissidents who emerged in these years, had lived with the daily reality of the communist system. John Paul pushed Vatican policy toward a public, unapologetic claim for individual freedom. On his final trip to Poland, John Paul openly asserted his support for Lech Walesa's "Solidarnosc" reformers.

Days after Benedict XVI chastised China before thousands in St. Peter's Square last week, a Chinese newspaper run by the People's Daily replied to his defense of Christians there: "The Vatican has to face the fact that all religious beliefs are free in China, as long as they do not run counter to the country's laws." "Face the facts" sums up nicely the worldview and foreign policies of China, Iran and Russia. Get over it. John Paul said no. Benedict again says no.

It has been odd in recent years to see prominent atheists make so much effort to diminish Judeo-Christian belief. In the modern world, and certainly in the U.S. from the Pilgrims onward to the Bill of Rights, religious practice has been bound up in the idea—now the principle—of individual freedom. I don't think secularist arguments alone for individual freedoms have sufficient strength and fiber to stand against their current opposition. Benedict's fight for freedom and that of recent Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo are the same. Wojtyla and Walesa proved that once already.

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203525404576049802441667970.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

The arrogance of the atheists:

They batter believers in religion with smug certainty

by S.E. Cupp, 29 Dec 2010

...It's these snarky and condescending rejections, not of faith itself but of those who profess it, that reflect a total unwillingness to learn something new about human nature, the world around us and even of science itself. While the neoatheists pay only cursory attention to dismantling arguments for God, they spend most of their time painting his followers as uncultured rubes. The fact that religion has inexplicably persisted, even despite Copernicus, Darwin and the Enlightenment, doesn't seem to have much sociological meaning for them.

The truth is, folks like Maher and Silverman don't want to know about actual belief—in fact, they are much more certain about the nature of the world than most actual believers, who understand that a measure of doubt is necessary for faith. They want to focus on the downfall of a gay pastor or the Nativity scene at a mall.

I wonder what they'd say to someone like Immaculee Ilibagiza, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide who says that her faith in Jesus Christ got her through 91 days of hiding in a 3x4 foot bathroom while her family was murdered outside. Would they tell her she was crazy? Delusional? To just deal with it? I would hope not—but I am not sure.

When the esteemed theologian David Martyn Lloyd-Jones asked C.S. Lewis when he would write another book, Lewis responded, "When I understand the meaning of prayer." It was an acknowledgment that he—a thinker with a much sharper mind than, say, Maher's—didn't know everything. I implore my fellow atheists to take this humility to heart. There's still a lot to learn, but only if you're not too busy being a know-it-all.

More: http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2010/12/29/2010-12-29_the_arrogance_of_the_atheists_they_batter_believers_with_smug_certainty.html?page=0

How's that Religion of Peace doing these days?

by Eileen F. Toplansky, 29 Dec 2010

Only a few days remain until 2011, and still there is no end to Islamic hatred...

...1200 words and 21 links on current Muslim atrocities around the world...

...It is vitally important that freedom-loving people come to understand that "Islam is not a religion; it is foreign law" whose adherents will stop at nothing to impose it upon the West. Look closely at these Muslims who marched through the streets of London during their 2006 Religion of Peace Demonstration. Does "Behead Those Who Insult Islam" sound peaceful to you?

Read it all: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/how_s_that_religion_of_peace_do.html

No good guys in the fight over for-profit colleges

by Timothy P. Carney, 29 Dec 2010

...But a closer look revealed a murkier picture. The GAO last month corrected the paper, modifying 16 of the report's 28 findings. At Education Week, Rick Hess wrote, "all 16 of the errors run in the same direction—casting for-profits in the worst possible light." The credibility of Harkin's star witness in his August hearing, Steven Eisman, was also called into question.

Eisman is a short-seller who reportedly stands to make big money if the stocks of for-profit colleges collapse. He also is a vocal lobbyist for new regulations that would cripple these colleges. The term for Eisman is Regulatory Robber Baron...

...Bill Clinton's former special counsel Lanny Davis first flagged Eisman's role in a Politico op-ed, and liberal ethics "watchdog" Melanie Sloan followed up, criticizing Harkin for allowing Eisman to testify, sparking the liberal American Prospect to ask in a headline, "Why Are Progressives Fighting Student Loan Reform?" The answer: money. On September 17—about three months after Davis's op-ed—Davis registered as a lobbyist for the Coalition for Educational Success, a trade group of for-profit colleges. Then in November, Sloan announced she was joining Davis's lobbying firm. Also lobbying for the for-profit colleges are six former Democratic congressmen and three former Republican lawmakers.

This tale has no good guys, but it does have a moral: When you inject government into an industry, you get some pretty unsavory results.

Full story: <http://washingtontimes.com/politics/2010/12/no-good-guys-fight-over-profit-colleges>

Please stop "helping" us

by John Stossel, 29 Dec 2010

Last year, Congress passed the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure (CARD) Act. It was supposed to really end the alleged abuses perpetrated by the credit card companies. The law forbids some penalties and interest-rate increases on existing balances.

It is one of President Obama's proudest achievements. "Enough's enough," he said. "It's time for strong, reliable protection for our consumers." Reform, he said, would not come at the expense of honest businesses. "Unless your business model depends on cutting corners or bilking your customers, you've got nothing to fear."

Finally! Protection! A new bureaucracy will stop greedy credit card companies from unfairly penalizing you. And it won't threaten the credit business. Yippie!

How has it worked out? Not so well...

Continue: <http://patriotpost.us/opinion/john-stossel/2010/12/29/please-stop-helping-us/>

The four questions every liberal must be asked

by Tony Kondaks, 29 Dec 2010

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/the_four_questions_every_liber.html

This is actually a very illuminating essay. But before reading it, enjoy the humour of the very first Comment:

Posted by: Harod Dec 29, 03:48 AM

- 1) What is total spending of the federal budget? -We need to spend more money on education.
- 2) What is the federal deficit? -It's Bush's fault.
- 3) What is the national debt? -It's the total sum of all Republican military spending.
- 4) What was the most recent interest payment on the national debt? -Why can't we spend that money here at home to help the poor?

Mr. Atbashian is better known as Red Square, the creator of ThePeoplesCube.com

Question insanity: What to ask progressives

An ex-Soviet immigrant goes Socratic on his liberal American critics.

by *Oleg Atbashian*, 27 Dec 2010

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/question-insanity-what-to-ask-progressives/>

Is it a right or isn't it?

by *Ross Kaminsky*, 29 Dec 2010

...Chief of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Dr. Donald Berwick, a health care socialist who idolizes the British National Health Service—that's the group who will only treat macular degeneration in one eye because it's better for a person to go blind in one eye than for the government to spend another £1,500 to save both eyes—is on record saying that health care must and will be rationed. In that vein, and despite a similar provision being removed from the Obamacare bill during debate in the Senate with cries of "death panels," Berwick has issued a rule allowing reimbursement to doctors for end-of-life planning.

Of course, the only way such planning will save money is if the plan calls for grandma to die a little sooner. ([Take that, former Congressman Alan Grayson.](#)) And suddenly, liberals come face to face with the contradiction, or at least unsustainability, of their assertion of health care as a right.

After all, if it is a right, shouldn't Grandma Smith be entitled to as much of the Jones' and Jacksons' money as necessary to keep her alive for as long as she wants to and can have a pulse in her heart, a breath in her lungs?

The big-picture problem for the left is that in the context of government-run health care Berwick's rule is not only sensible, but it's the only possible outcome. This leaves proponents of a "right" in the uncomfortable position of having to say that it's only a right up to a certain age, a certain degree of sickness, or a certain cost.

Yet, if a "right" ends at an arbitrary point set by bureaucrats and legislators—a point not based on conflict with other rights but rather with changeable financial or political considerations—then it can't be a right. Furthermore, if a positive right such as that claimed by supporters of Obamacare can be curtailed because of cost, then every government program that relies on the redistribution of wealth can be curtailed. Either they're all "rights" or none of them is.

Of course, the idea that government, with an incentive to "control costs," would be involved with end-of-life counseling is disturbing enough. But perhaps the biggest problem for Progressivism in the news of Berwick's giant step toward health care rationing is that the country is learning in an unmistakable way that the emperor has no clothes. In our constitutional republic, positive rights are anathema to liberty and to life itself.

Read the rest: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/12/29/is-it-a-right-or-isnt-it>

No comeback for the Comeback Kid

Obama hasn't overcome his opponents but emboldened them.

by *Tony Blankley*, 27 Dec 2010

Don't believe all the Washington talk that President Obama had a great lame duck session and goes into the new year and the new 112th Congress with the whip hand. Utter nonsense.

Let's review the lame duck session as it happened—not as it has been instantly revised by the ever-obliging Washington press corps...

More: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/dec/27/no-comeback-for-the-comeback-kid/>

'Fair trade'? Free trade is fair trade

by *Walter E. Williams*, 27 Dec 2010

At first blush, the mercantilists' call for "free trade but fair trade" sounds reasonable. After all, who can be against fairness? Giving the idea just a bit of thought suggests that fairness as a guide for public policy lays the groundwork for tyranny.

You say, "Williams, I've never heard anything so farfetched! Explain yourself."...

A marvelous analysis: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=557855&p=1>

Islamic supremacists envision a takeover of the Internet

by Pamela Geller, 28 Dec 2010

It was hardly noticed at the time, but its consequences could be catastrophic. Late last September, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), which assigns internet domain names, approved a huge change in the way it operates. Europe and North America will now have five seats on its Board of Directors, instead of ten, and a new "Arab States" region will have five seats as well.

How big a deal is this? ICANN at the same time took a reference to "terrorism" out of its Draft Applicant Guidebook. Why? Because Arab groups complained. And so now jihad terror websites can grow and prosper, as ICANN has removed its own ability to police them.

This has been a long time coming...

Read on: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/islamic_supremacists_target_a.html

Did first humans come out of Middle East and not Africa?

Israeli discovery forces scientists to re-examine evolution of modern man

by Matthew Kalman, 28 Dec 2010

...Archeologists from Tel Aviv University say eight human-like teeth found in the Qesem cave near Rosh Ha'Ayin—10 miles from Israel's international airport—are 400,000 years old, from the Middle Pleistocene Age, making them the earliest remains of homo sapiens yet discovered anywhere in the world.

The size and shape of the teeth are very similar to those of modern man. Until now, the earliest examples found were in Africa, dating back only 200,000 years...

More: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1341973/Did-humans-come-Middle-East-Africa-Scientists-forced-write-evolution-modern-man.html>

The Missing Link in the Evolution of Barack Obama

by Selwyn Duke, 28 Dec 2010

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/the_missing_link_in_the_evolut.html

Hot Sensations Vs. Cold Facts

by Larry Bell, 27 Dec 2010

As 2010 draws to a close, do you remember hearing any good news from the mainstream media about climate? Like maybe a headline proclaiming "Record Low 2009 and 2010 Cyclonic Activity Reported: Global Warming Theorists Perplexed"? Or "NASA Studies Report Oceans Entering New Cooling Phase: Alarmists Fear Climate Science Budgets in Peril"? Or even anything bad that isn't blamed on anthropogenic (man-made) global warming—of course other than what is attributed to George W. Bush?...

Continue: <http://www.forbes.com/2010/12/23/media-climate-change-warming-opinions-contributors-larry-bell.html>

This endless feast of left-wing idiocy is a major annual event. Enjoy!

The Best Notable Quotables of 2010

The twenty-third annual awards for the year's worst reporting (Dec 2009 through Nov 2010).

Brent Bozell III et al, 27 Dec 2010

<http://www.mrc.org/NotableQuotables/uploads/Best2010.pdf>

<http://www.mrc.org/notablequotables/bestof/2010/default.aspx>

How government failure caused the Great Recession

by Mark J. Perry and Robert Dell, 26 Dec 2010

...The banking crisis that began in August 2007 shocked markets and precipitated the Great Recession. To fully explain the banking crisis, one must account for its timing, severity, and global impact. One must also confront a startling historical contrast. If we define "banking crisis" to mean bank failures and system losses exceeding 1 percent of a country's gross domestic product (GDP), we find that in the period 1875-1913, a period of marked expansion in international trade and capital flows comparable to the last three decades, there were only four banking crises worldwide. By contrast, in the period 1978-2009, a period of much more extensive bank regulation, central bank intervention, government protection of depositors and other bank creditors, and government control of mortgage markets, about 140 banking crises occurred worldwide. Of these, 20 were more severe than any crisis from the earlier period of 1875-1913, in terms of total bank losses as a percent of GDP....

...The crisis certainly could not have occurred without certain private firms (e.g., Citigroup, UBS, Merrill Lynch) engaging in excessive corporate short-termism (or perhaps "greed") along the same lines as Fannie and Freddie. But greed is a timeless and universal component of human nature, and it influences the public sphere at least as much as the private sector. As such, greed has little relevance in explaining the timing and crucial facts of the recent crisis—such as why credit standards and due diligence practices in housing finance deteriorated so much more dramatically than in any other credit segment. The argument we advance is that the interaction of these six government policies explains timing, severity, global impact, and other important features of the banking crisis better than any faulty business practices unrelated to the perverse incentive effects of these government policies...

Six charts, and some deep Economics lingo:

<http://www.american.com/archive/2010/december/how-government-failure-caused-the-great-recession>

Obama's regulators kowtow to Big Green, imperil economy

Washington Examiner editorial, 26 Dec 2010

...Jackson threatened to issue these regulations last year if Congress failed to approve "cap-and-trade" legislation sought by Obama...These standards will drive up the cost of energy, especially the electricity that lights our homes and powers our computers and the gas that keeps our cars and trucks running...

...The Constitution gives Congress exclusive authority to manage U.S. public lands...Salazar has invented out of whole cloth a "Wild Lands" designation that entirely circumvents the congressionally sanctioned process...Salazar's "decision will seriously hinder domestic energy development and further contributes to the uncertainty and economic distress that continues to prevent the creation of new jobs in a region that has unduly suffered from this administration's radical policies."...

More: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/editorials/2010/12/obamas-regulators-kowtow-big-green-imperil-economy>

Net Neutrality and the TV Wars

The broadband market is more dynamic than ever.

by Holman Jenkins, 27 Dec 2010

Forget the lofty rhetoric that accompanied last week's roll-out of a new "network neutrality" policy from the Federal Communications Commission. The net neut battle today really is about how much cable operators will be allowed to charge for the bandwidth that enables upstarts like Netflix, Apple and Amazon to steal their core TV customers...

...The FCC already has been rebuked in the courts numerous times for trying to pull net neut authority out of its hat. Politically, the agency seems incapable of the valorous retreat, and its latest effort will only end up showering uncertainty on a vital sector even as the Obama administration seems to be discovering a belated interest in less policy chaos.

Tis the season for visions of re-election to be dancing in an administration's head. The last thing Team Obama should want is America's most dynamic industries pausing from job creation to engage in a prolonged lobbying and litigation war over net neutrality. The FCC may be an independent agency, but the White House is allowed a voice too. This is what "senior administration spokesmen" are for.

One should be trotted out now to call attention to a thriving and innovative broadband marketplace. He or she should suggest the agency keep its new and legally dubious powers mostly in its pocket and let the future be decided in the battle for customers rather than a battle for beltway influence.

Read the rest: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203418804576039393870805846.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Return of the Death Panel

Every part of the Obama Administration is lying to you.

by *John Hayward*, 26 Dec 2010

<http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=40811#>

Allocation and Rationing

The difference is freedom.

by *John Hayward*, 27 Dec 2010

<http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=40821#>

A House poorly divided

As the population grows, so must the US House of Representatives.

by *Jeff Jacoby*, 26 Dec 2010

...For most of American history, the size of the House was adjusted upward every 10 years. The initial 65-member House prescribed in the Constitution was expanded to 105 members after the 1790 Census, to 142 members after the 1800 Census, and so on through the 19th century. Following the 13th census, in 1910, Congress enlarged the House to 435 members — and there it has remained, even as the number of Americans has more than tripled, from 92 million to 308 million. Ever since, the apportionment process has been able to allot new House seats to the fastest-growing states only by taking them away from states growing more slowly. One result is that many states have more voters, but fewer US representatives. Another result, equally troubling, is that voters in some states have considerably more electoral clout than voters in others.

According to the Census Bureau, there are now 710,767 Americans in the average congressional district. But with every state constitutionally entitled to at least one House seat, and with the membership of the House frozen at 435, districts can deviate widely from the average. Wyoming's single US representative has just 568,000 constituents; the member from neighboring South Dakota has 820,000. That means a vote cast in Wyoming has nearly 1.5 times the impact of a South Dakotan's vote.

An even more egregious violation of the "one man, one vote" principle is the inequality between Rhode Island's two congressional districts, with 528,000 voters each, and Montana's lone district, with 994,000. So great is that disparity, observes Scott Scharpen, the founder of an organization called Apportionment.US, that it takes 188 voters in Montana to equal 100 voters in Rhode Island...

...The larger districts grow, the less representative lawmakers become. Since 1910, the average number of constituents per House member has climbed from 210,000 to more than 710,000...

Read the rest: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/12/26/a_house_poorly_divided/

Net neutrality is anything but neutral

by *Jonathan Gurwitz*, 25 Dec 2010

...So what's wrong with the Internet? According to FCC Commissioner Michael Copps, "It may be dying because entrenched interests are positioning themselves to control the Internet's choke points." That was Copps' prediction in 2003, one year before Facebook was launched, two years before some former employees of PayPal — another Internet success story — started YouTube, and three years before Amazon began offering cloud computing services. If the last decade is an indication of what Internet necrosis and choke points look like, then by all means, let's have more of them...

...The Internet isn't broken. So why are three Democrats on the Federal Communications Commission trying to fix it? They're pursuing a vague progressive objective with the deceptive name of net neutrality.

Net neutrality is anything but neutral. It takes the operation of the Internet away from the heterogeneous and diversified interests of the private sector that has created it and concentrates it in the hands of an unelected and unaccountable board of political appointees atop a federal bureaucracy. Does that sound like a recipe for continued innovation?

The dire problems net neutrality activists cry wolf about either don't exist or have already been resolved without the

heavy hand of government influence. A federal court has ruled the FCC lacks the legal authority to regulate Internet service providers. So why try to do so?...

More: http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/columnists/jonathan_gurwitz/article/Net-neutrality-is-anything-but-neutral-917994.php

Le Manifeste de Paris

23 Dec 2010

The 'Islamization' of Europe Conference, which took place in Paris, on the 18th December 2010, is a founding act. For the first time, orators coming from the whole of Europe shared one same platform to denounce the Islamic conquest at work on our continent. At the end of the Conference, the thirty-two parties, organizations, associations, websites and news blogs which supported this initiative agreed, beyond their different political orientations, on a common manifesto:

We rise up against the aggressive proselytism of Islam, against the occupation of public space by muslim prayers, against the financing of mosques with public funds, against the development of the halal food market, against the fate reserved by Islam to women, as opposed to our principle of equality between women and men and, in general, against any advance of Islam on the soil of Europe.

Faced with the 'Islamization' of Europe, we reaffirm our unflinching attachment to our multimillennial civilization, its values and traditions...

More: <http://www.ripostelaique.com/The-Appeal-of-Paris-December-18th.html>

Great anti-Islamist speech in Peterborough, England

delivered by Guramit Singh, 11 Dec 2010

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CC_kScYYn9o

Of course, the patriotic Englishman got in trouble with the law for criticising a retrograde ideology instead of blindly accepting it as worthy of tolerance: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/12/locking-up-edl.html>

A Socialist Christmas

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1341272/Hitlers-Christmas-party-Rare-photographs-capture-leading-Nazis-celebrating-1941.html>

'Tis the Season to be Politically Correct

by Roger Kimball, 23 Dec 2010

...It is sometimes difficult to get our minds around that fact that something can be both preposterous and malevolent. And yet history is full of examples, from Nero and Caligula on down. How silly they seemed — until, of course, their silliness turned toxic.

With that in mind, I offer the following exchange of emails to readers. It was sent to me by one of the parties to the exchange, a doctor who has suffered through the increasingly intolerant and politically correct atmosphere of a large Midwestern medical practice. Our story opens with a seemingly innocuous invitation to a "holiday party" a couple of days ago...

More: <http://pajamasmedia.com/rogerkimball/2010/12/23/%e2%80%99tis-the-season-to-be-politically-correct/?singlepage=true>

If the FCC had regulated the Internet

A counterfactual history of cyberspace.

by Jack Shafer, 23 Dec 2010

<http://www.slate.com/id/2279106/>

Victorious Atlas action: Seattle Transit refuses Anti-Israel bus ads!

by Pamela Geller, 23 Dec 2010

http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2010/12/breaking-seattle-transit-refuses-to-run-anti-israel-ad-refused-.html

TSA punishes pilot for criticizing its security flaws

by Thomas Lifson, 23 Dec 2010

Behaving more like a thuggish third world dictatorship than the guardians of a democratic society, TSA agents have swooped down on a pilot who had the temerity to publicly point out flaws in the security system at San Francisco International Airport. Quite clearly, the agency is far more concerned to appear to be doing a good job than in actually carrying out its mission. Sacramento television station KXTV has the story...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/12/tsa_punishes_pilot_for_critici.html

Video: <http://thepoliticalcarnival.net/2010/12/23/airline-pilot-the-tsa-message-was-youve-angered-us-by-telling-the-truth/#>

Still more: <http://abcnews.go.com/WN/pilot-hasseled-tsa-uncovering-security-breaches-major-airport/story?id=12470082>

Don't fault tobacco firm for death

by Jeff Jacoby, 22 Dec 2010

People who willingly make foolish choices — a category that includes most human beings, especially those of the teenage persuasion — ought not to be enriched for their foolishness.

Yes, smoking is addictive, but **the addiction is not inescapable**: Tens of millions of Americans have kicked the habit, and nowadays most never start. Among those who do, there may conceivably be some so weak-willed, suggestible, or mentally deficient that they were literally incapable of refusing an invitation to smoke. Marie Evans — a single mother who earned a degree from Northeastern University and rose through the ranks at Verizon to become a human-resources manager — was clearly not such a smoker.

"It's awful, what they did to my mom," Willie Evans told an interviewer this week. But "they" — Lorillard — did nothing very different from the countless other vendors who tempt us with products we would be well advised to resist, or at least to use in moderation. As a son who loved his mother and hated to see her suffer, Evans understandably hates the company that makes the cigarettes she favored. However, to turn her death into a legal pretext for looting that company does her memory no honor. Neither does Evans's claim that his mother "had no free will." Of course she had free will. And one of the ways she exercised it had tragic consequences.

What if Marie Evans had died from cirrhosis of the liver after drinking a six-pack of Budweiser every day for 40 years? Would her son be entitled to a fortune in damages from Anheuser-Busch?...

More: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/12/22/dont_fault_tobacco_firm_for_death/

Snubbed: No Obamas at Britain's Royal Wedding

by Belladonna Rogers, 21 Dec 2010

Last week the *Daily Mail* reported that President and Mrs. Obama will *not* be among the 2,000 invited to Westminster Abbey on April 29, 2011, to attend the wedding of Prince William, the older son of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana. This news has caused the proverbial tempest in a teapot. How could this snub have come about?

One might well ask, how could this snub *not* have come about?...

Keep reading: <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/snubbed-no-obamas-at-britains-royal-wedding/?singlepage=true>

Fools 71, Patriots 26.

Senate ratifies nuclear arms pact

by Julian E. Barnes and Naftali Bendavid, 23 Dec 2010

...The Senate voted 71-26 Wednesday to ratify a new strategic-arms treaty with Russia, fulfilling a major foreign-policy goal of President Barack Obama that seemed in jeopardy just days earlier. In one of the final acts of the lame-duck Congress, 13 Senate Republicans joined with the Democratic majority to deliver more than the two-thirds tally needed for ratification...

...Critics of the treaty charged that its cuts in the strategic-weapons arsenal will prove destabilizing, potentially giving Russia, and eventually China, an edge over the U.S. as those nations take more aggressive steps to develop a new generation of nuclear warheads. James Carafano, a scholar at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank that led opposition to the pact, said the treaty "is going to make the world a less stable place."

Senators spent much of this week working on side deals aimed at mitigating such concerns and building support among wavering Republicans. As part of the last-minute maneuvering, Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, agreed to an amendment from Mr. McCain directing the president to inform Russia that the U.S. intends to continue its missile-defense program...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704774604576035623505895798.html?mod=WSJ_hp_LEFTTopStories

The Guns of December

It's about time South Korea started shooting back.

by *Edward Luttwak, 21 Dec 2010*

It is hard to recall a better example of successful deterrence than what failed to happen on Monday, Dec. 20, on the Korean peninsula. That was the planned date of a South Korean artillery drill on Yeonpyeong Island, just seven and half miles from the North Korean mainland, but 50 miles from Incheon, the nearest South Korean port. Determined to intimidate Seoul into calling off the artillery exercise—94 minutes of live fire—Pyongyang issued a veritable cascade of threats...

What happened next: http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/12/21/the_guns_of_december

Why Islam must be expelled from the West

by *Fjordman, 19 Dec 2010*

On the 11th of December 2010, the first-ever suicide bombing in Scandinavia occurred when Taimour Abdulwahab, an Iraqi-born Muslim and Swedish citizen with a wife and children in Luton, Britain, was carrying explosives and mistakenly set off an explosion near a busy Christmas shopping street in Stockholm just before he could murder dozens of people...

...We've been told for years that suicide bombers who blow themselves up in civilian areas in Israel are "freedom fighters struggling against Israeli occupation." Does that mean that this Muslim blew himself up to protest against the Swedish occupation of Stockholm?

Sweden has no colonial history, at least not outside of northern Europe. It is a self-appointed champion of Third World countries and has virtually surrendered its third-largest city to immigrant mobs and substantial chunks of other cities, too. Swedish authorities are using the most extreme methods imaginable to suppress any dissent among the native people, who are being ethnically cleansed from their own land. The authorities always side with immigrants against the natives in the case of conflict. Muslims in Sweden can harass the natives as much as they want to and have access to all kinds of welfare goodies and a much higher standard of living than they would have in their own countries. In short, they have no imaginable, rational reason to complain, yet they still blow themselves up.

In Sweden, all the traditional excuses employed by Multiculturalists and Leftists throughout the Western world, fail. This leaves just one possible explanation, the only one never mentioned in Western mainstream media: That Muslims and their culture are fundamentally incompatible with our values and societies...

More about Islam: <http://europenews.dk/en/node/38344>

Director out of the loop

Boston Herald Editorial, 23 Dec 2010

While holiday travelers are putting up with the usual indignities of airport scanners and pat-downs, the nation's director of national intelligence gave us real cause for concern.

Director James Clapper was being interviewed on ABC News Tuesday when he was asked whether the terror plot uncovered in London had any implications for the U.S.

"London?" Clapper responded and looked across the table at John Brennan, the president's homeland security adviser. It was a telling moment...

More: http://www.bostonherald.com/news/opinion/editorials/view/20101223director_out_of_the_loop/

The Iranian Death Spiral Speeds Up

by Michael Ledeen, 19 Dec 2010

...Elsewhere, the regime's slaughter of the innocents continues apace, and the mullahs have expanded their campaign against family members who dare to stand vigil at the gates of the prisons where their loved ones are often refusing food or liquid. And the "Center to Defend Families of those Detained and Slain in Iran," the very existence of which speaks eloquently to the state of Iranian affairs, reports that even those who go to pray at the graves of their murdered relatives are harassed by security forces.

It would be appropriate and helpful for our top officials to speak out on behalf of Iranians murdered and tortured for the "crime" of asking for justice and freedom, and not just of those of their oppressors who get blown up by terrorists.

Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad are so frightened of the Iranian people that they even deployed thousands of armed thugs to prevent public prayer or other celebration of Ashura, which I believe is a first in the country's history. They dread any mass gathering, knowing that the country is a mass bomb waiting for a spark to ignite it. Weeks ago, for example, they banned the traditional mourning for the late Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, prompting his son to remark, "they are even afraid of the dead Ayatollah Montazeri and his grave."

Such a regime attempts to control the people by violent intimidation, but knows that the violence is not working. Ahmad Janati, the secretary of the Guardian Council — one of the country's most important officials — **confessed explicitly that the regime had failed** to crush its opponents...

More: <http://pajamasmedia.com/michaelledeen/2010/12/19/the-iranian-death-spiral-speeds-up/?singlepage=true>

Iranian Chaos: spontaneous revolt against the regime

by Michael Ledeen, 21 Dec 2010

The port of Bandar Abbas is one of Iran's major shipping hubs, as well as a big naval base in the Straits of Hormuz, and the site of a big refinery. It is now in chaos. Thousands of trucks, many of them loaded with imported foodstuffs, commercial goods of all description, and even oil products, have blocked the city's roads, effectively ending all movement in and around the port. The drivers simply shut down their rigs, took the coils out of the engines, and walked away.

On the water, there's a similar shutdown of the hundreds of small boats and ferries that usually carry thousands of people each day to the nearby islands as well as to Dubai. They have clogged the harbor, and nothing is moving. This is the result of the Iranian regime's cancellation of energy subsidies, proudly announced by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Sunday. One of the subsidies was on diesel fuel, which has now become eight or nine times as expensive as it used to be, and the drivers can't survive the cost, nor can the ferry companies. So they went on strike...

...So far as I can tell, this is not the first stage of a rebellion organized by the Green Movement. It seems to be a spontaneous protest from people who see that their regime is dragging them into ruin. But spontaneous protests sometimes gather momentum, and there is hardly an Iranian without deep grievances against the regime...

More: <http://pajamasmedia.com/michaelledeen/2010/12/21/iranian-chaos/?singlepage=true>

The Net Neutrality Coup

The campaign to regulate the Internet was funded by a who's who of left-liberal foundations.

by John Fund, 21 Dec 2010

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703886904576031512110086694.html>

Stopping Obama: a Republican game plan

How will the new Congress deal with a president who is relentless in his agenda to create a transformed America? A guide to slowing the Obama bulldozer.

by Ed Lasky, 20 Dec 2010

Barack Obama may have had a licking, but he keeps on ticking. How will the new Congress deal with a president who is relentless in his agenda to create a transformed America? Barack Obama faces new challenges when the new Congress takes power on January 5. The House has turned red with a solid majority of 242 Republicans to 193 Democrats; the Senate is less blue, and most of the senators facing elections in 2012 are Democrats who hail from states

that voted for Republicans in 2010. But people who fall for Obama's feints to the center (such as the **faux pay freeze** for federal employees or the tax deal he was forced into by Republican victories in November) have no one to blame but themselves.

Who says so? Barack Obama, through his rhetoric and actions over the last two years. Lest we forget, when he was forced to swallow the tax bill, he showed his true nature, lashing out at Republicans and saying that he was "itching for a fight on a wide range of issues."

Obama is on a mission to advance a far-left agenda, and he will use all means at his disposal to accomplish his goals. "The end justifies the means" is his modus operandi. The means may not be as apparent as they were when he was riding high with a sledgehammer in his hand; instead, he will rely on stealth. (Stanley Kurtz researched Obama's career as a state senator and nicknamed him "Senator Stealth" in recognition of the subtlety Obama resorted to when he was a lowly state senator.)

So how will Obama react when the new Congress is sworn in come January? ...

Continue: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/stopping_obama_a_republican_ga.html

5400 words—and not all that scintillating. But these excerpts remind us why it's important.

Priorities for a New Congress

by James C. Capretta, 20 Dec 2010 (Winter 2011 issue)

...Having won the House majority by promising to tackle America's grave fiscal problems, Republicans must overcome their fear of entitlement reform. Even if every bureaucracy in Washington were dramatically downsized through cuts in discretionary spending, the federal government would still be headed toward financial disaster: In the years ahead, an ever-growing portion of national income will be consumed by out-of-control spending on entitlements. Republicans committed to limited government thus have no choice about whether to take on the entitlement challenge. The only question is when they will work up the courage to do it.

It is hard to imagine a better time than the present. First, the American electorate has never been more attuned to fiscal reality than it is today. The 2010 campaign showed that voters are genuinely fearful about the future. They are concerned that this generation of Americans will bequeath to its successors a less prosperous country, because they think that the government will have consumed more than our economy was able to produce. No responsible citizen wants that as a legacy.

Moreover, the window for addressing the entitlement crisis is quickly closing. Most lawmakers rightly want to phase in entitlement reforms gradually, so that people who are already retired — and thus not able to modify their earnings to cover the losses from less generous government commitments — are not taking cuts to their income that cannot be easily replaced or absorbed. But the Baby Boom generation has begun signing up for Social Security and Medicare benefits, and will continue to enroll at a rate of about 10,000 people per day for the next 20 years. This means that if lawmakers want to implement dramatic reforms without affecting retirees who are already receiving benefits, they have to act quickly. If they do nothing, the costs of Social Security and Medicare will continue to rise — and the government borrowing required to pay for these programs will continue to mount. At some point, the only way to avoid bankruptcy will be a sudden and substantial tax increase, coupled with severe austerity measures. It is not yet too late to avoid this catastrophe — but we are rapidly approaching the point of no return...

...The Republicans' strengthened position in Congress has come at a pivotal moment in America's history. Like other western nations, the United States enjoyed several decades of remarkable economic growth at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st, during which both governments and businesses extended ever-more generous protections to the work force. But that era is over. With an aging population and intense global economic competition, our government and businesses can no longer afford the social-welfare arrangements that were erected in the post-war era (at least not at levels of taxation that the American public would accept). One way or another, we are entering a transition period...

Read it all: <http://www.nationalaffairs.com/publications/page/priorities-for-a-new-congress-preview>

Good riddance to the 111th Congress

Liberal body leaves a legacy of financial disaster.

by Frank Donatelli, 20 Dec 2010

...The 111th Congress looked the other way when it came to any meaningful oversight of a runaway executive branch. There have been exactly zero hearings on the unfolding implementation of Obamacare. Two appointees acting

without Senate confirmation are hard at work writing regulations for Obamacare and for a brand-new consumer bureaucracy established as a result of a financial services bill. Neither has been called before the 111th Congress. The 111th Congress also has looked the other way as the Obama administration has installed more than 30 "czars" to run policy throughout the federal government. None has been confirmed by the Senate.

The 111th Congress did not enact a budget or a single appropriations bill for the current fiscal year, fearing that any discussion of our dire fiscal circumstances would be harmful to Democrats in the midterm elections. They lost the House anyway. That led to the spectacle of a lame-duck session in which the repudiated Congress tried to legislate a tax increase, yet another trillion-dollar spending bill that included more double-digit increases in spending and other liberal priorities. It's almost as if members realize that their moment will not come again for a very long time.

The numbers for the 111th Congress aren't pretty: Record high unemployment for nearly two years, virtually no economic growth, double-digit spending increases in nearly every budget category, more than \$3 trillion of new debt and the costs of Obamacare on the way.

We'll be paying the price of the 111th Congress for years to come, but we've learned a valuable lesson: This is what happens when liberals are put in charge of the federal government.

More: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/dec/20/good-riddance-to-the-111th-congress/print/>

Christmas with Clarence

by Paul Kengor, 21 Dec 2010

No, that's not "Clarence the Angel" of *It's a Wonderful Life* fame. The Clarence in this title is much less inspiring, not exactly angelic—a humbug, really. I'm thinking of Clarence Darrow, dogmatic defender of atheists...

...Why did communists adore Darrow? For one, they greatly appreciated his work against religion in the Scopes Trials. There were no angrier foes of faith than communists, from Moscow to New York. Darrow was the toast of the movement for his yeoman's work countering God and exposing the silly "superstitions" of Bryan and his slack-jawed fundamentalists.

But there's more to it. Another reason for the communist reverence of Darrow is a fact not taught in schools: Darrow defended them, and particularly communist leader Ben Gitlow, beginning with a series of dramatic incidents and cases that ran from 1919 into the 1920s, when they were being (properly) pursued for advocating armed revolution and the overthrow of the American system, which they wanted to replace with a "Soviet American republic." (To view some of these documents from the Comintern Archives, [click here](#).) They were being challenged by President Woodrow Wilson's attorney general, Alexander Mitchell Palmer, for their blatantly subversive, anti-American, pro-Bolshevik activities...

...Significantly, Darrow was an early member of the ACLU, founded in 1920 by fellow atheist, Roger Baldwin, who also, at that point, was a pro-Soviet communist. The ACLU was founded mere months after the American Communist Party and the Soviet Comintern...

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/12/21/Christmas-with-Clarence>

Left, Right and Pigford: Introducing Lee Stranahan—BigGovernment.com's 'Progressive' Pigford Film Documentarian

by Andrew Breitbart, 19 Dec 2010

<http://biggovernment.com/abreitbart/2010/12/19/left-right-and-pigford-introducing-lee-stranahan-biggovernment-coms-progressive-pigford-film-documentarian/>

Pigford's Original Black Farmers Unhappy Over Massive Fraud — Media Ignores

by Dana Loesch, 10 Dec 2010

[includes several videos]

<http://bigjournalism.com/dloesch/2010/12/10/pigfords-original-black-farmers-unhappy-over-massive-fraud-media-ignores/>

Will Pigford vindicate Andrew Breitbart?

by Caroline May, 9 Dec 2010

http://news.yahoo.com/s/dailycaller/20101209/pl_dailycaller/willpigfordvindicateandrewbreitbart

The Argument Against Gay Marriage: and Why It Doesn't Fail

A response to NYU Law Professor Kenji Yoshino.

by Robert P. George, Ryan T. Anderson and Sherif Girgis, 17 Dec 2010

<http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2010/12/2217>

A significant scholarly treatise.

What Is Marriage?

by Robert P. George, Ryan T. Anderson, & Sherif Girgis, 11 Dec 2010

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1722155

The innocent, law-abiding Brian Aitken will soon be a free man.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie commutes sentence of man sent to jail for owning guns legally

21 Dec 2010

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2010/12/21/christie-commutes-sentence-man-sent-jail-owning-guns/>

FCC Internet Grab a Christmas Nightmare

by Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN7), 21 Dec 2010

There's no such thing as hospice for federal bureaucracies. No quiet corner where bureaus who have outlived their usefulness can go to bravely face the end. The undead need no such niceties; not when they can leap vampire-like upon the next great sector of American life and proceed to suck it dry in the name of "public interest," "fair play," or any other euphemistic glamour the Executive and Legislative branches can be lulled into.

This may sound like a Halloween tale, but the FCC's Christmas Week takeover of the Internet is the best example of President Reagan's maxim that the nearest thing to eternal life on Earth is a federal program.

Just four days before Christmas, the FCC will make its vampiric leap from its traditional jurisdiction—the terrestrial radio and land line telephones that have fallen into disuse; onto the gifts piled neatly under our trees. The iPads and iPhones, Androids, Wiis, Webbooks, and WiFi will all feel the federal bite in a way they never have before...

Read on: http://www.realeclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/12/21/fcc_internet_grab_a_christmas_nightmare_108311.html

Oy vey, Nees'n! Always with the lists! Why can't it just be about one nice Jewish boy?

Liam Neeson: Narnia's Aslan the Lion could be Muhammad as well as Christ

by Robert Spencer, 4 Dec 2010

<http://www.jihadwatch.org/2010/12/liam-neeson-narnias-aslan-the-lion-could-be-muhammad-as-well-as-christ.html>

On Palin's reading list, C.S. Lewis

He wasn't a children's writer, as the governor's critics proclaim—not by a long shot.

by Micheal Flaherty, 21 Dec 2010

...In both interviews Mrs. Palin cited C.S. Lewis as a favorite author she looks to for inspiration. This prompted talk-show host and comedienne Joy Behar of The View to deride Mrs. Palin and her choice of reading, asking: "Aren't those children's books?"...

...Edmund and Lucy are the Pevensie siblings first introduced by Lewis in The Lion, the Witch, and The Wardrobe. Because they read the right books, they know precisely how to behave. Edmund is able to think quickly on his feet and solve a key mystery on their journey, because he read "several detective stories." And Lucy is able to show compassion and help heal a wounded dragon because she knows that it "came to us to be cured, like in Androcles and the lion." For Edmund and Lucy, wisdom is born not from simply memorizing dates and facts. It comes from stories that

enliven our imagination and give us a hope in the unseen.

Mrs. Palin is on the right track by giving C.S. Lewis a prominent place on her reading list. Yet Ms. Behar and other Palin critics have dismissed Lewis's work, forgetting that Lewis was a medieval and renaissance scholar at Oxford and the author of several brilliant Christian apologetics. Ms. Behar's dismissal of children's books as less than important makes her a modern-day Eustace, the type of bully who mocks readers of fairy tales as simpletons.

Lewis thought quite the opposite. He thought that fairy tales were the best way to convey truth for children and adults alike. He wrote about this quite often in his letters, and took no shame in reading fairy tales out loud in British pubs with his friend J.R.R. Tolkien, author of the epic Lord of the Rings trilogy...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703929404576022043778752626.html?mod=WSJ_newsreel_opinion

And if you think "the unseen" isn't important, take the time to read **this**.

Really free and open

by Jeffrey Folks, 20 Dec 2010

"Freedom and openness" has become a mantra for many on the left. On Dec. 1, FCC Chair Julius Genachowski circulated his remarks on preserving internet "freedom and openness," even as he promoted greater government regulation of the web. George Soros, a shadowy financier who has for years paraded as a servant of freedom and openness, funds the intensely partisan Open Society Foundation and, of course, Moveon.org and Media Matters. Anti-democratic leftists such as Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua regularly spout the phrase even as they grab more and more power...

... No society can function without a set of laws. The radical freedom that Assange champions cannot exist in a functioning society because freedom must necessarily be limited by law. A society without law would either be anarchistic like Somalia or authoritarian like North Korea. In neither case are the rights of individuals, including personal freedoms and property rights, protected by the rule of law.

It is the rule of law that is put at risk by the left's campaign for total freedom and openness. And clearly, there are many on the left who believe that their so-called high ideals place them above the law. Daniel Ellsberg, the person responsible for leaking the Pentagon Papers, was one of these. But the theft of classified documents is a serious crime, as is the act of hacking into government or corporate computers. These actions are a violation of the rule of law, and those who engage in them should be prosecuted.

Many of those who support total freedom and openness are naïve, to say the least, but this is not to say that they are unserious. It is hardly coincidental that freedom and openness should become the mantra of the left. For the left, freedom implies the right to confiscate income and redistribute it to others. But redistribute it to whom? To those whom the left deems worthy. Openness suggests the right to examine the confidential discussions of government and corporate leaders and to post them on the internet with the intention of changing behavior. But changing it in what way? Changing it to accord with the principles of the left...

...What Obama's FCC seeks is not greater freedom, but more regulation, and regulation with the intent of imposing the views of a leftist elite upon the broader public. Likewise for moveon.org and WikiLeaks. It is not freedom in general, but the freedom of some over others that they seek...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/really_free_and_open.html

He's the former finance minister of El Salvador and the co-author of *Money, Markets and Sovereignty*, which won the Manhattan Institute's 2010 Hayek Prize.

The Case Against Floating Currencies

by Manuel Hinds, 20 Dec 2010

... This failure should lead us back to the drawing board to re-design the international monetary system, reversing the trend that prevailed during the 20th century. We started that century with a fundamental international currency, gold, which kept its value through time and was widely accepted around the world. We ended the century with more than 150 currencies that change their value constantly and at different rates from each other, in such a way that most currencies are not accepted in most countries.

In pursuance of the illusion that money can remove hard budget constraints, we moved from order to disorder. After demonetizing gold in the 1970s, now we are demonetizing money by debasing and politicizing it.

Mentioning the gold standard that prevailed all over the world during the Industrial Revolution brings about

derisory comments, some of them suggesting that the value of gold was based on fetishism. This is a mistake. The gold standard was a highly rational system. It kept prices constant through centuries and provided an automatic mechanism to remove international imbalances, such as those that are creating today's currency wars, without the help of any international bureaucracy.

The gold standard achieved this not because of any mystical property of gold itself but because it was an impersonal system. Central banks or governments could not tamper with monetary creation. This is what we need today. **More:** http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703493504576007962677071424.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Does the Constitution mean anything?

by Doug Bandow, 17 Dec 2010

...Caplan sneers at the "nostalgia for an inadequate version of the country's past." Yet the problem of government abusing power and violating liberty is eternal. That's why the Founders consciously limited the national government by enumerating its authority. Has time passed their handiwork by? Then the people can follow Article V and amend the Constitution. It isn't easy, but that is no argument against following the law.

In contrast, advocates of a "living" Constitution prefer lawmaking by zeitgeist. If it feels good, interpret it, was always the unstated approach of Justice Brennan and those who shared his philosophy. Consider the jurisprudential theories, if they deserve to be called such, offered by the book *The Constitution in 2020*, published last year.

One standard bases judicial interpretation on a "dynamic" sense of history and tradition. Using this argument, the courts should declare a "right" to public education. Another approach is to base constitutional doctrine on "consensuses," that is, when a big majority of people believe something. Judges get to determine the right-sized majority and the exact consensus that results.

Possessing even less meaning is the "time is right" philosophy, which posits that judges should change the Constitution when, yes, the "time is right." Obviously legislators have no sense of right timing and little things like the political process shouldn't get in the way. So leave it to judges. Moreover, a "constitutional moment" may arise with the passage of "landmark legislation." In this case there is no reason to bother amending the Constitution when you merely have to pass a bill. ...

...Given the tendency of judges to ignore law and constitution, one helpful fix would be to end life tenure for justices. Intended to protect judicial independence, this provision creates a dangerous and disconnected elite that will always be tempted to overstep its role. Better to appoint judges for a term, perhaps ten years. Rotation in office would still insulate jurists from political passions while limiting the concentration and abuse of power by the judiciary. Errant jurists would naturally leave the bench rather than forever wield unconstrained power—becoming liberal saints along the way...

The full essay: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/12/17/does-the-constitution-mean-any>

The Democrats' new pork: trains to nowhere

by Debra Saunders, 19 Dec 2010

...There is no guarantee that if you build high-speed rail, passengers will come. As Randal O'Toole of the libertarian-leaning Cato Institute noted, "The Ohio and Wisconsin projects aren't even worthy of being called high-speed rail." The average speed for the Ohio's "3C" line is projected at 38.5 miles per hour; the speed for the Wisconsin line would average 59 mph. In short, these "high-speed" trains wouldn't even go faster than cars.

With round-trip Madison-Milwaukee fares projected to range from \$44 to \$66, it could be cheaper for one person to drive and certainly cheaper for two. And you can always take the bus. Walker argued that Wisconsin, facing a \$2.5 billion budget deficit next year, doesn't need to be saddled with the \$7.5 million annual cost to operate the train.

Train enthusiasts argued that Walker had it all wrong. You don't say no to a free car just because you have to pay for gas and other operating costs. But Wisconsin voters did not agree. The St. Norbert College Survey Center poll found that 55 percent of Wisconsin voters opposed taking the ostensibly free rail money.

After they were elected, Walker and Kasich asked the Obama administration to allow them to spend that \$1.2 billion rail money on other projects in their states. Walker wanted to fix his state's bridges and highways. Kasich asked that, if the U.S. Department of Transportation refused the request, Ohio's \$385 million go to the U.S. Treasury to reduce the federal deficit.

Instead, on Dec. 9, before either governor-elect assumed office, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced that his department would redirect the \$1.2 billion that would have gone to Wisconsin and Ohio to 14 other states. As the Weekly Standard's Stephen F. Hayes wrote, LaHood had sent the message "if you don't want to waste our

money, we'll find someone who will."...

More: <http://www.creators.com/conservative/debra-saunders/the-democrats-new-pork-trains-to-nowhere.html>

"The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the law of God and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence."

—John Adams

Media Misinformation 2010 vs. 2008

by John Ziegler, 20 Dec 2010

Thanks to the University of Maryland (via the [New York Times](#)), the left has come up with an explanation for the Republican landslide in 2010: the voters were ignorant thanks to biased media coverage perpetrated mostly by Fox News.

This conclusion, based on a study/poll which has only slightly more credibility than a Keith Olbermann rape rant, caused me great amusement because I commissioned not one, but **two scientific polls** about the 2008 election which came to virtually the same conclusion (minus the Fox News part). Those surveys were universally, and at times maliciously, attacked by the left to the point where the [Zogby organization refused to duplicate the first one](#) because of all the blowback.

The purpose of my polls was to quantify the impact of the media's remarkable pro-Obama and anti-Palin bias on the electorate for my documentary, [Media Malpractice](#). What **we found back then** was that McCain voters and those "exposed" to Fox News and talk radio were far more likely to answer our simple multiple-choice questions correctly than Obama voters and those "exposed" to any other media outlet. The most dramatic example was that those voters "exposed" to "conservative" media were far more informed when it came to simply knowing that it was the Democratic Party which controlled congress at the time. This turned out to be rather determinative when it came to voters' presidential choice.

Conversely, we discovered that it was only when it came to knowing all the negative stories about Sarah Palin (an incredible 98% of those "exposed" to MSNBC knew that Palin was the candidate with the pregnant teenage daughter) that those consumers of the more liberal outlets excelled. Otherwise, fans of liberal media were far more likely to get our easy questions wrong...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/media_misinformation_2010_vs_2.html

The FCC's threat to Internet freedom

'Net neutrality' sounds nice, but the Web is working fine now. The new rules will inhibit investment, deter innovation and create a billable-hours bonanza for lawyers.

by Robert M. McDowell, 20 Dec 2010

Tomorrow morning the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will mark the winter solstice by taking an unprecedented step to expand government's reach into the Internet by attempting to regulate its inner workings. In doing so, the agency will circumvent Congress and disregard a recent court ruling.

How did the FCC get here? For years, proponents of so-called "net neutrality" have been calling for strong regulation of broadband "on-ramps" to the Internet, like those provided by your local cable or phone companies. Rules are needed, the argument goes, to ensure that the Internet remains open and free, and to discourage broadband providers from thwarting consumer demand. That sounds good if you say it fast.

Nothing is broken and needs fixing, however. The Internet has been open and freedom-enhancing since it was spun off from a government research project in the early 1990s. Its nature as a diffuse and dynamic global network of networks defies top-down authority. Ample laws to protect consumers already exist...

...On this winter solstice, we will witness jaw-dropping interventionist chutzpah as the FCC bypasses branches of our government in the dogged pursuit of needless and harmful regulation. The darkest day of the year may end up marking the beginning of a long winter's night for Internet freedom.

Read it all: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703395204576023452250748540.html>

Liberal myths vs. reality

by Randall Hoven, 19 Dec 2010

...Myth: The deficit was caused by Bush's tax cuts...

...Myth: Republicans spent like drunken sailors...

...Myth: Republicans exploded the federal debt...

...Myth: The deficit is due to the Iraq War...

...Myth: The Reagan and Bush tax cuts only benefited the rich...

...Myth: The deficit is due to military spending...

...Myth: "The last eight years," "the last ten years," "the last decade," "the lost decade."...

...Myth: Bush deregulated banks, causing the financial crisis...

...Not a Myth: The sources of many myths are computer models rather than results from the real world. Remember the economic model that said the unemployment rate would not go above 8% if Obama's stimulus was passed? The stimulus was passed, yet the unemployment rate went above 10% and has been above 9% for the last 19 months.

The models that say extending today's tax rates would add to the deficit assume that tax rates have no effect on taxpayer behavior. That is an assumption virtually all economists, and most non-economists, know is false. Yet Congress requires the CBO to base its predictions on that bogus assumption.

The reality is that government spending is the problem. It is absurdly above historical levels right now and is unsustainable. It is driven by payments for individuals (64% of 2010 federal outlays) and entitlements, especially health care spending. ObamaCare did not bend the health-care cost curve down, either; it bent it up...

The facts that dispel the myths:

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/liberal_myths_vs_reality_NhyLcYahQwWrDcRihW1mKL

Morality and Taxes

Rush Limbaugh Show, 15 Dec 2010

...You want to hear the moral argument toward tax cuts and taxes, the best way to do that would be to call income "property." It is. Whether it's your money, or whether what you've bought with your money, it is your property. In this country, the way we're structured, on a percentage basis, the more you earn, the less your property rights are. The more you earn, the more the government and everybody else feels entitled to it. What if, with your money, you build a 20,000-square-foot house? Is the neighborhood entitled to 10,000 square feet of it? Is the town entitled to 60% of your house?

They look at it as though they're entitled to 60% of your income, depending on where you live. Now, private property rights are determined by how much this government spends. Property rights are a bedrock principle of our country, and property rights are always in flux, because of tax rates—tax rates that are determined by earnings success, tax rates that vary according to how poorly the government manages our money. Do you realize your property rights are directly related to how poorly government runs things? Look at it this way. The United States government funds its excesses using escalating tax rates that are determined by their need and our level of achievement. The United States government funds its excesses by using escalating tax rates that are determined by their need and our level of achievement.

The more we achieve, the more they think they're entitled to. Your money is as much your property as your house. If you go out and spend \$50,000 on a car, does the government get 25% of your car? Do your neighbors get 25%? No! But they get 25% of your money or 50% of your money, and the more you earn, the more of your money they think that they are entitled to. Now, because the government is the worst manager of more than there is, they have to invent creative rationalizations (i.e., class warfare) to take what they need, and there's no end to it. Government greed requires the force of law because their logic is absurd. Income levels ought to have no bearing on their right to confiscate private property...

More: http://www.rushlimbaugh.com/home/daily/site_121510/content/01125111.guest.html

ObamaCare will hurt low-skill workers

by Diana Furchtgott-Roth, 16 Dec 2010

...Under the new law, every employer with more than 50 workers will either have to offer health insurance or pay an annual penalty. The penalty for full-time employees will be \$2,000 per worker. Moving from 50 to 52 workers will cost a firm \$44,000 per year (no penalty is levied for the first 30 workers).

It's clear that every firm with fewer than 50 workers is trying not to grow larger than the magic number. And every

firm with 55 or 60 workers is trying to lay off workers, or contract out operations, so as to reach 50 and not have to pay the penalty. That's no way to increase employment, especially since small business is supposed to be the engine of job growth in the economy...

... With higher-skill jobs, employers can offer the required benefits and pay for them by cutting the wage. But low-wage jobs in the restaurant and retail sectors leave little room for cuts in wages. Hence, firms have an incentive to become more automated, or machinery-intensive—and hire fewer workers, just as my local CVS has eliminated cash registers. Restaurants and drugstores that are open 24 hours a day will be disadvantaged, because they need several shifts of workers to stay open.

The irony is that in the name of expanding health care coverage, Congress and the White House are making it harder than ever for unskilled workers to get started in the work force...

More: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2010/12/diana-furchtgott-roth-obamacare-will-hurt-low-skill-workers>

Obama's non-response to WikiLeaks neglects troops, War on Terror

by Oliver North, 17 Dec 2010

... The administration's refusal to take WikiLeaks seriously reflects a bigger problem: its refusal to take national security seriously. This leak is about more than embarrassing gossipy diplomatic cables. It illustrates the administration's troublingly flippant attitude toward national security and most importantly to the safety of the men and women on the frontlines of the War on Terror.

The Obama administration's who-cares approach to "whistleblowers" and the terrorists who aid and abet them puts our soldiers, sailors, airmen and U.S. Marines at risk, directly and indirectly. Some of the "diplomatic cables" included lists of key global infrastructure—prime targets for al-Qaeda and other terrorists. Indirectly, it sends the message the commander in chief is either ignorant or indifferent to the effect his actions and attitude have on the fighting forces...

... The administration is ignoring the fact that our troops abroad need to see leadership and intestinal fortitude, not jokes and bluster...

More: <http://www.politicsdaily.com/2010/12/17/obamas-non-response-to-wikileaks-neglects-troops-war-on-terror/>

The political fantasyland of the 'No Labels' movement

by George F. Will, 19 Dec 2010

... Although the people promising to make No Labels into a national scold are dissatisfied with the tone of politics, they are pleased as punch with themselves. If self-approval were butter, they could spread it across America, if it were bread. They might cover the country with sanctimony as they "overthrow the tyranny of hyper-partisanship." But aside from No Labels' policy bromides, and its banalities about playing nicely together, how might "nonpartisan" discussion proceed concerning complex and consequential matters such as those preoccupying Judge Hudson?...

... No Labels, its earnestness subverting its grammar, says: "We do not ask any political leader to ever give up their label—merely put it aside." But adopting a political label should be an act of civic candor. When people label themselves conservatives or liberals we can reasonably surmise where they stand concerning important matters, such as Hudson's ruling. The label "conservative" conveys much useful information about people who adopt it. So does the label "liberal," which is why most liberals have abandoned it, preferring "progressive," until they discredit it, too.

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/17/AR2010121704195.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>

Sollicitudo rei socialis ("On Social Concern")

by Pope John Paul II, 30 Dec 1987

... It should be noted that in today's world, among other rights, the right of economic initiative is often suppressed. Yet it is a right which is important not only for the individual but also for the common good. Experience shows us that the denial of this right, or its limitation in the name of an alleged "equality" of everyone in society, diminishes, or in practice absolutely destroys the spirit of initiative, that is to say the creative subjectivity of the citizen.

As a consequence, there arises, not so much a true equality as a "leveling down." In the place of creative initiative there appears passivity, dependence and submission to the bureaucratic apparatus which, as the only "ordering" and "decision-making" body—if not also the "owner"- of the entire totality of goods and the means of production, puts everyone in a position of almost absolute dependence, which is similar to the traditional dependence of the worker-

proletarian in capitalism. This provokes a sense of frustration or desperation and predisposes people to opt out of national life, impelling many to emigrate and also favoring a form of "psychological" emigration...

More: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_30121987_sollicitudo-rei-socialis_en.html

Two Californias

Welcome to the once-thriving Central Valley.

by Victor Davis Hanson, 15 Dec 2010

The last three weeks I have traveled about, taking the pulse of the more forgotten areas of central California. I wanted to witness, even if superficially, what is happening to a state that has the highest sales and income taxes, the most lavish entitlements, the near-worst public schools (based on federal test scores), and the largest number of illegal aliens in the nation, along with an overregulated private sector, a stagnant and shrinking manufacturing base, and an elite environmental ethos that restricts commerce and productivity without curbing consumption...

First, remember that these areas are the ground zero, so to speak, of 20 years of illegal immigration. There has been a general depression in farming — to such an extent that the 20- to-100-acre tree and vine farmer, the erstwhile backbone of the old rural California, for all practical purposes has ceased to exist.

On the western side of the Central Valley, the effects of arbitrary cutoffs in federal irrigation water have idled tens of thousands of acres of prime agricultural land, leaving thousands unemployed. Manufacturing plants in the towns in these areas — which used to make harvesters, hydraulic lifts, trailers, food-processing equipment — have largely shut down; their production has been shipped off overseas or south of the border. Agriculture itself — from almonds to raisins — has increasingly become corporatized and mechanized, cutting by half the number of farm workers needed. So unemployment runs somewhere between 15 and 20 percent.

Many of the rural trailer-house compounds I saw appear to the naked eye no different from what I have seen in the Third World. There is a Caribbean look to the junked cars, electric wires crisscrossing between various outbuildings, plastic tarps substituting for replacement shingles, lean-tos cobbled together as auxiliary housing, pit bulls unleashed, and geese, goats, and chickens roaming around the yards. The public hears about all sorts of tough California regulations that stymie business — rigid zoning laws, strict building codes, constant inspections — but apparently none of that applies out here.

It is almost as if the more California regulates, the more it does not regulate. Its public employees prefer to go after misdemeanors in the upscale areas to justify our expensive oversight industry, while ignoring the felonies in the downtrodden areas, which are becoming feral and beyond the ability of any inspector to do anything but feel irrelevant...

It gets worse: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/255320/two-californias-victor-davis-hanson>

Why atheism can't replace religion

Atheism may become more prominent, but it can't replace religion.

by Michael Austin, 16 Dec 2010

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/ethics-everyone/201012/why-atheism-cant-replace-religion>

Chavez to rule by decree

by Joseph Smith, 18 Dec 2010

The Venezuelan parliament has granted their dear leader Hugo Chavez power to "rule by decree" for the next eighteen months...

...Back in the USA, President Obama plans to rule by executive orders and regulatory fiat, at least for as long as he can dodge the new Republican House majority. Birds of a feather...

The rest: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/12/chavez_to_rule_by_decree.html

Class Warfare

The last refuge of a Democrat.

by Peter Wehner, 18 Dec 2010 (Dec 27 issue)

Democrats are enraged at President Obama for his decision to extend George W. Bush's tax cuts for all Americans, including top income earners. What explains their anger?

It cannot be because of concern for the deficit. After all, Democrats are responsible for an unprecedented two-year spending binge (the United States spent \$1.3 trillion more over the last two-year period—2009-2010—than in the two-year period preceding it). In addition, increasing tax rates for the middle class, something Democrats oppose, would do far more to reduce the deficits than increasing tax rates for the top 2 percent of income earners. Nor do most Democrats believe the deal Obama struck with Republicans would hurt job growth. The White House is highlighting independent forecasts predicting the package could create as many as 2.2 million jobs next year.

What, then, explains the ferocious opposition many Democrats have for the tax deal Obama struck with Republicans?

Read on: http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/class-warfare_523543.html

The climate bugaboo is the strangest intellectual aberration of our age

by Christopher Monckton, 17 Dec 2010

...Perspective, the Olympian capacity to see events as they affect not just us and our mates but everyone, and not just in the excitement of the present but *sub specie aeternitatis*, in the long, calm, kindly shadow of eternity: this has gone from what passes for education in the West.

The climate bugaboo, the strangest intellectual aberration of our age, rampages because in the me and now we have cast aside three once-universal forms of learning that gave us perspective: a Classical education, to remind us that in reason and logic there is a difference between true and false; a scientific education, to show us which is which; and a religious education, to teach us why the distinction matters.

With perspective, no one would waste a single second of his own time or a red cent of other people's money trying, Canute-like, to make "global warming" go away.

In the me and now, even eminent professors lack perspective. Last week one such wrote to the *Daily Telegraph* to say that Roger Helmer, the jovial Tory MEP, ought not to have gone to Cancun for the latest big-carbon-footprint UN climate junket. Instead, said the Prof, Mr Helmer should have used the time learning that "global warming" of 0.7C in a single century was unprecedented in the last 600,000 years.

No. As Mr Helmer wrote in his reply, 11,400 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age, temperatures in Antarctica rose by 5C in just three years. That's global warming. Thermometers in central England showed warming of 2.2C during just 40 years from 1695-1735—eight times faster than 20th-century warming...

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/8210739/The-climate-bugaboo-is-the-strangest-intellectual-aberration-of-our-age.html>

"Never mind representative democracy, never mind natural justice. All that matters to the transnational elites is power."
—Daniel Hannan, 2010

Some would say this essay contains racist thoughtcrimes. Judge for yourself.

The Art of Strategic Citizenship

by Takuan Seiyo, 12 Dec 2010

<http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/12/art-of-strategic-citizenship.html#more>

Austria: Another Small Cultural Suicide

by Henry Percy, 17 Dec 2010

This time it's judges in Austria fining one Helmut G., a 63-year-old, for yodeling whilst mowing his lawn. Yodeling was invented in the Alps and is embedded in Austrian culture, but don't dare do it when your Muslim neighbors are praying...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/12/austria_another_small_cultural.html

Meet the rap-ademics

The Ivy League offers its esteemed interpretation on the 'virtue and complexity' of hip-hop lyrics.

by Alex Beam, 14 Dec 2010

...In the late 1990s, two California newspapers, the *San Jose Mercury News* and the *Los Angeles Times*, helped feed a conspiracy theory that the CIA had introduced crack cocaine into the state's inner cities to keep African-Americans down.

No need! Rap and hip-hop, with their celebration of ignorance, gangster-ism — sorry, gangsta-ism — and violence against women are doing the job just fine. Forget the CIA. Rap moguls like Jay-Z and the businessman known as Diddy or P. Diddy (real name: Sean Combs) have got this one covered.

More: http://www.boston.com/ae/music/articles/2010/12/14/the_ivy_league_offers_its_esteemed_interpretation_of_hip_hop_lyrics/

Republicans kick the spending dope

The GOP passes its first big spending test—barely.

by Kimberley A. Strassel, 17 Dec 2010

Some Americans might be under the impression that they just watched a lame duck Congress engage in a lame-o budget fight. But Senate Republicans' stunning defeat last night of the Democrats' omnibus spending bill was anything but boring...

...Mr. Inouye made sure his spending omnibus included more than \$1 billion to ramp up ObamaCare—including money to enforce the law's new insurance mandates, to implement Medicaid expansion, to fund some of the 159 new entities created under the law, and even to create a public health slush fund. Republican votes would have abetted ObamaCare and tied House GOP hands until September, when the omnibus ran out.

That didn't happen, but only because Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell accomplished a mini Christmas miracle. The Kentuckian devoted yesterday to making the arguments—both principled and political—to the Spending Nine. He was ultimately persuasive enough, and the earmarkers wise enough, to pull back their support. A very unhappy Mr. Reid was forced to yank the omnibus last night. He will now work with Republicans on a short-term funding bill, a process that should give the incoming GOP House far more influence over upcoming spending decisions.

And the lesson for Republicans (yet again)? Unity and principle rule. Mr. McConnell held his members against ObamaCare, and won an election. He held them on taxes, and forced President Obama to help the economy. And this week, by holding together on something equally straightforward—a promise of fiscal responsibility—Republicans turned what could have been a black eye into a bitter humiliation for Mr. Reid and other supporters of an irresponsible spending blowout...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703395204576024043465537706.html>

Confirmation from overseas of the significance of this week's *Newsbusters* pieces.

The White House's little helpers?

America's media elites are still battling for Barack Obama

by Nile Gardiner, 16 Dec 2010

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/nilegardiner/100068533/the-white-houses-little-helpers-america%E2%80%99s-media-elites-are-still-battling-for-barack-obama/>

GOP grows a spine, and 'Mitch-slaps' Harry Reid!

McConnell presents 1-page substitute bill to keep government running until Feb. 18

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2010/12/16/mcconnell_dems_using_christmas_break_as_an_inducement_to_pass_omnibus.html

Senate Dem leader drops nearly \$1.3T spending bill

Associated Press, 16 Dec 2010, 7:55pm EST

Democrats controlling the Senate have abandoned a 1,924-page catchall spending measure that's laced with homestate pet projects known as earmarks...Nevada Democrat Harry Reid gave up on the nearly \$1.3 trillion bill after several Republicans who had been thinking of voting for the bill pulled back their support...

More: http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9K5BA5O0&show_article=1

Outline of a Platform for Constitutional Government

from an address by Larry P. Arnn, President of Hillsdale College, on 17 Sept 2010

...Gone now is the caution about human nature that recognizes that human beings must live under law in order to protect their rights, and that those who make and enforce the law are no more likely to be perfect—or less likely to violate the rights of their fellow citizens—than others. The current tendency toward unlimited government undermines the foundation of constitutional rule in our country. That foundation is stated by Madison in a few words: "If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary."

Men must be governed because they are imperfect—less than God, less than angels. But then so too are those who make and enforce the law imperfect. They also have interests. Therefore government must have strong powers, but these powers must be limited and checked.

If this is where we are, then it is easy to see "what to do, and how to do it." We must return to the principles and institutions of the founding of our country. We must revive constitutional rule. To do so, we propose the following four pillars of constitutional government.

1. Protecting the equal and inalienable rights of individuals is government's primary responsibility...2. Economic liberty is inversely proportional to governmental intrusion in the lives of citizens...3. To accomplish its primary duty of protecting individual liberty, the federal government must uphold national security...4. The restoration of a high standard of public and private morality is essential to the revival of constitutionalism...

Read it all: <http://www.hillsdale.edu/news/imprimis/archive/issue.asp?year=2010&month=11>

The 111th Congress's Final Insult

Bluto Blutarsky must have been an Appropriator.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 16 Dec 2010

The 111th Congress began with an \$814 billion stimulus that blew out the federal balance sheet, so we suppose it's only fitting that the Members want to exit by passing a 1,924-page, \$1.2 trillion omnibus spending bill. The worst Congress in modern history is true to its essence to the bitter end. Think of this as a political version of the final scene in "Animal House," when the boys from the Delta frat react to their expulsion by busting up the local town parade for the sheer mayhem of it...

...The bill makes a special effort to pad spending for programs likely to be targeted by Republicans next year, so any future cuts will occur off a larger baseline. That includes \$36 million more for public broadcasting, \$1.5 billion for high-speed rail projects that many states say they can't afford, and \$3 billion for green energy pork.

Republicans should be especially upset with the \$1.1 billion to implement phase one of ObamaCare. This gives the Administration's bureaucracy a running start and means that Republicans will have to pass new legislation to rescind the funding—which Mr. Obama will veto. Why would Republicans vote for a bill that makes it harder for them to achieve one of their main political goals?

We're told that at least six and perhaps as many as 10 Republican Senators may give Mr. Reid the votes he needs to pass this monstrosity. That list includes Susan Collins of Maine, Mr. Cochran, and looming retirees Kit Bond of Missouri, Bob Bennett of Utah and George Voinovich of Ohio. This is the same Senator Voinovich who yesterday voted against extending the Bush-era tax rates on grounds that they are unaffordable...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704828104576021663290880614.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

DC feeding frenzy

Lame-duck Congress gorges.

by Daniel J. Mitchell, 16 Dec 2010

The weeks since Election Day have provided nauseating confirmation of Mark Twain's observation: "There is no distinctly native American criminal class except Congress."

Exhibit A is the "omnibus" spending bill Harry Reid is trying to push through the Senate. This monstrosity contains about 6,500 earmarks—special provisions inserted on behalf of lobbyists to benefit special interests. The lobbyists get big fees, the interest groups get handouts and the politicians get rewarded with contributions from both.

It's a win-win-win for everyone—except the taxpayers who finance this carousel of corruption...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/dc_feeding_frenzy_OmaWYPKGV2YtrTaFqHowYM

Liberals cut down to size

by Michael Graham, 16 Dec 2010

Enough! You can have your own politics, my liberal friends, you aren't entitled to your own facts. And your claims about the Obama/GOP tax deal are pure, fact-free fantasy...

...Tax cuts don't cost money. Spending costs money—you know, like the massive \$1.2 trillion omnibus "I don't care who won the midterms" spending monstrosity dumped on the American people yesterday. That's where the borrowed money from China is going: to "maple syrup research" in Vermont, and a million-dollar memorial to deceased Democrat hack John Murtha and \$8 million in pork to the Ted Kennedy boondoggle on Morrissey Boulevard.

And as for those evil Bush tax cuts "costing us" billions, federal revenues increased 14.5 percent in 2005 and 11.8 percent in 2006, the fastest rise since 1981.

Where did that money come from? From "the rich," those layabouts living it up on \$250,000 per in places like Boston. Well families earning 250K aren't "millionaires."

Not only that, but their share of the tax burden actually went up—not down—under President Bush. According to the Tax Foundation, the top 1 percent of earners paid 37.42 percent of the federal tax bill in 2000. By 2007, they paid 40.41 percent. The top 5 percent of earners—\$128,000 or more—already pay more than 60 percent of the federal tax bill, while the bottom 50 percent pay just 3 percent...

Read it all: http://www.bostonherald.com/news/opinion/op_ed/view/20101216liberals_cut_down_to_size/

The New Big Picture

by Peter Ferrara, 15 Dec 2010

...For how many years have Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi, and other Democrats been telling America that Bush cut taxes only for the rich? If so, where did all those middle class tax cuts come from that everyone is now talking about extending?

The Republicans are holding the middle class tax cuts hostage? It was the *Republicans* who enacted the middle class tax cuts, nearly 10 years ago now. That would be \$3 trillion in middle class tax cuts over the next 10 years.

Obama and Pelosi are talking as if these were their middle class tax cuts. But they are George Bush's and the Republicans' middle class tax cuts, which *they* enacted almost 10 years ago. After four years of total domination of Congress, the Democrats have *still* not extended them, despite all their middle class tax cut blather.

And for three years now, President Obama and Baghdad Bob-style sycophant propagandists from the Center for American Progress have been telling us that it was the Bush tax cuts that caused the financial crisis. As I have explained before, this is Marxian economics, Groucho, not Karl. If the Bush tax cuts caused the financial crisis, then why, pray tell, are we extending them now?

Maybe that is because one of the few Democrat grownups in Washington, senior Obama economics adviser and former Harvard University President Larry Summers told reporters last week that failing to extend the Bush tax rates would cause a double dip recession, which makes Art Laffer's analysis bipartisan. But...wait a minute. Didn't...the Bush tax rates...*cause* the recession in the first place?

So what happens now?

Lots more, including the future of ObamaCare: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/12/15/the-new-big-picture>

The new START treaty:

President Obama is pushing for a monumental surrender to Russia

by Nile Gardiner, 14 Dec 2010

The Obama administration has an impeccable track record of caving in to Russian demands, as part of its controversial "reset" policy. Last year, it threw key US allies Poland and the Czech Republic under the bus, ditching plans for Third Site missile defences in deference to Russian opposition. It is now planning another surrender to Moscow, by pressing for Senate ratification of the new START Treaty in the lame duck session of Congress.

Instead of allowing the newly elected Congress to vote on the treaty, the Obama administration is trying to ram New START through without proper debate. No major treaty has ever been forced through Congress in a lame duck

session.

There is mounting opposition in Washington to the New START Treaty, which would significantly weaken US security by undermining America's ability to deploy an effective global missile defence system...

More: <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/nilegardiner/100068351/the-new-start-treaty-president-obama-is-pushing-for-a-monumental-surrender-to-russia/>

The Inner Ring

by C. S. Lewis: *the Memorial Lecture at King's College, University of London, 1944*

...To nine out of ten of you the choice which could lead to scoundrelism will come, when it does come, in no very dramatic colours. Obviously bad men, obviously threatening or bribing, will almost certainly not appear. Over a drink, or a cup of coffee, disguised as triviality and sandwiched between two jokes, from the lips of a man, or woman, whom you have recently been getting to know rather better and whom you hope to know better still—just at the moment when you are most anxious not to appear crude, or naïf or a prig—the hint will come. It will be the hint of something which the public, the ignorant, romantic public, would never understand: something which even the outsiders in your own profession are apt to make a fuss about: but something, says your new friend, which "we"—and at the word "we" you try not to blush for mere pleasure—something "we always do."

And you will be drawn in, if you are drawn in, not by desire for gain or ease, but simply because at that moment, when the cup was so near your lips, you cannot bear to be thrust back again into the cold outer world. It would be so terrible to see the other man's face—that genial, confidential, delightfully sophisticated face—turn suddenly cold and contemptuous, to know that you had been tried for the Inner Ring and rejected. And then, if you are drawn in, next week it will be something a little further from the rules, and next year something further still, but all in the jolliest, friendliest spirit. It may end in a crash, a scandal, and penal servitude; it may end in millions, a peerage and giving the prizes at your old school. But you will be a scoundrel.

That is my first reason. Of all the passions, the passion for the Inner Ring is most skillful in making a man who is not yet a very bad man do very bad things...

Read the alternative: <http://www.lewissociety.org/innerring.php>

Why the Left hates tax cuts for the wealthy

by Caroline Baum, 14 Dec 2010

"Odious" is how senior adviser David Axelrod described President Barack Obama's acquiescence to extending tax cuts for the rich as part of a deal struck with congressional Republicans.

Just think about that for a moment. In order to secure the GOP's support for an extension of unemployment benefits and a one-year reduction in the employee-paid portion of the payroll tax, the administration had to hold its nose, swallow its pride and exhibit other metaphorical manifestations to demonstrate its disgust at the thought of letting the rich keep more of their own money...

More: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-15/why-the-left-hates-tax-cuts-for-the-wealthy-commentary-by-caroline-baum.html>

When will they ever learn?

by Rick Moran, 15 Dec 2010

The \$1.1 trillion omnibus spending bill offered up by Harry Reid and the Senate Democrats is a marvel of pork and interest group politics. For instance, there are at least \$8 billion worth of **earmarks in the bill**:

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/12/when_will_they_ever_learn_2.html

WaPo hypes poll showing 'Many still skeptical of GOP'; still neglects to report poll showing disapproval of ObamaCare

by Ken Shepherd, 15 Dec 2010

<http://newsbusters.org/blogs/ken-shepherd/2010/12/15/wapo-hypes-poll-showing-many-still-skeptical-gop-still-neglects-report>

Far left attacks FNC for telling reporters not to take sides in climate coverage

by Lachlan Markay, 15 Dec 2010

<http://newsbusters.org/blogs/lachlan-markay/2010/12/15/far-left-attacks-fnc-telling-reporters-not-take-sides-climate-covera>

Richard Holbrooke's dying words taken out of context, politicized by lefty *Mother Jones* mag

by Ken Shepherd, 15 Dec 2010

<http://newsbusters.org/blogs/ken-shepherd/2010/12/15/richard-holbrookes-dying-words-taken-out-context-politicized-lefty-mot>

U.N. Gets New Oversight

It's a delicious irony.

by Wendy Wright, 15 Dec 2010

Radical feminists' dreams came true recently with the creation of U.N. Women, a new über-agency that will agitate globally for their pet projects using unrestricted funding from governments. Yet in an unexpected twist, a Republican congresswoman will soon be in charge of the House Foreign Affairs committees that oversee U.S. involvement at the U.N. And this lady plans to tighten the purse strings.

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) is the new chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee. She is no pushover. An exile from Cuba, she's a staunch critic of repressive regimes, and she's adamantly pro-life.

After Republicans placed her at the helm, Rep. Ros-Lehtinen said, "I plan on using U.S. contributions to international organizations as leverage to press for real reform of those organizations, such as the United Nations."...

Continue: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/un_gets_new_oversight.html

The Captain explains the huge distinction between a mandate for auto insurance and one for health insurance.

Holder and Sebelius trot out the auto-insurance canard

by Ed Morrissey, 14 Dec 2010

You have to feel for the editors of the Washington Post. The day after a federal judge rules ObamaCare's mandate unconstitutional, they get an opportunity to let the woman who runs it and the man who directed its defense publish an essay rebutting the critics dancing on the mandate's grave. Once the editors receive it, though, they see that the argument relies on a canard that has been thoroughly debunked for months — and renders the entire exercise useless. Do the editors kill the celebrity column, or run with it and hope no one notices?...

More: <http://hotair.com/archives/2010/12/14/holder-and-sebelius-trot-out-the-auto-insurance-canard/>

A calm assessment of what's in the leaked documents, and (separately) the leakers' guilt.

Taking Stock of WikiLeaks

by George Friedman, 14 Dec 2010

<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20101213-taking-stock-wikileaks>

Some Republicans already need this refresher course.

We The People

Nos Populus, 10 Feb 2010

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVAhr4hZDJE>

Hat tip: Carl A.

Tax Cuts Clearly Explained

by Randall Hoven, 14 Dec 2010

...President Obama believes that keeping the current tax rates for those making over \$250,000 in a year "would cost us \$700 billion" and do "very little to actually grow our economy." He assures us that "economists from all across the political spectrum agree" on that. I believed he polled the same economists who said his stimulus would keep the unemployment rate **below 8%**.

As a matter of record, the final Bush tax rates passed Congress in mid-2003, shortly after Republicans retook the Senate. From August 2003 to December 2007, over **eight million net new jobs** were created, and real GDP grew almost 3% per year. At that same time, **federal revenues** increased by 2.3% of GDP (\$785 B), putting revenues above the average level of 1960-2000, the forty years before Bush. Unemployment fell to 4.4%, and the deficit fell to 1.2% of GDP. Such was the catastrophe of four years of Bush's tax rates and Republican-written federal budgets.

You will hear that this or that group (the top 2%, those who inherit dad's farm, etc.) does not "deserve" to have its taxes kept at the current rate. There are only two alternatives for where that money goes: the family that earned it, or the government. If the family doesn't "deserve" it, does the government?

As usual, this is not about anything the Democrats say it is about. If they are worried about the deficit, why did they *add* to the deficit to get this deal?

Republicans would have compromised by simply extending the current rates for two years instead of permanently. Obama saw that bet and raised unemployment insurance, earned income tax credit, American opportunity tax credit, child tax credit, payroll tax, and investment incentives. Congressional Democrats saw that bet and raised it ethanol and alternative fuels subsidies. This is all about the Democrats rewarding their interest groups and blaming the certain deficit on Republicans...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/tax_cuts_clearly_explained.html

Cuban Missile Crisis: A Different Scenario

by David Solway, 12 Dec 2010

...Premier Khrushchev assures President Obama that the missile emplacements are intended for defensive purposes alone. He cites possible armed aggression from the Cayman Islands, a noted belligerent, as an ongoing threat to a cherished ally of the USSR and a destabilizing factor in the Caribbean.

President Obama is impressed by Khrushchev's spirit of "pragmatism" but wrings significant concessions from his Soviet counterpart to the effect that these missiles will not be pointed at the United States but at the Cayman Islands and that they will be closely monitored by Cuban officials. In return for Soviet flexibility, the American base at Guantánamo Bay will be closed immediately...

... The bulk of the Soviet fleet sails undisturbed back to home port, leaving a cruiser, several destroyers, and an undisclosed number of nuclear submarines to patrol Cuban waters. The U.S. Navy has agreed to maintain a respectable distance from the Cuban coast and American commercial aviation will avoid the area entirely. As a gesture of goodwill and to demonstrate its peaceful intentions, the United States will permit the Soviet navy to carry out reconnaissance in the Gulf of Mexico. "We have nothing to hide," the president said...

More: <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/cuban-missile-crisis-a-different-scenario/?singlepage=true>

Give *The Camp of the Saints* this Christmas

by Roland Shirk, 14 Dec 2010

If the dangerous clowns of Nigeria's **Boko Haram**^[1]("Books, Him Bad!") are escapees from an unpublished novel of Evelyn Waugh, the builders of the Ground Zero Victory Mosque and their sickening enablers are creatures whose mischief is even blacker: They are living, breathing characters torn from the pages of **The Camp of the Saints...**

...*The Camp of the Saints*, by the prize-winning French novelist Jean Raspail, has "awakened" countless Westerners to the dangers of mass, non-Western immigration since its publication in 1973. Translated into English, publicized in the pages of *National Review* (back when that magazine's target market was adults) with a review by Jeffrey Hart, the novel is a bracing, sobering look at the suicidal liberalism that has infected Western elites. In the book, a mass exodus of refugees from India loads itself onto boats and announces it is sailing for the West. (Ironically, for us, the people aboard the ships in *The Camp of the Saints* are actually meant to be Hindus—who have proved, in fact, to be the most cooperative and productive of immigrant groups. Never mind: it's merely a metaphor.)...

More: <http://frontpagemag.com/2010/12/14/give-the-camp-of-the-saints-this-christmas-2/print/>

The ethanol idiocy that will not die

by Rich Lowry, 10 Dec 2010

<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/1210/lowry121410.php3>

Federal court declares ObamaCare's individual mandate unconstitutional

by Michael F. Cannon, 13 Dec 2010

<http://www.cato-at-liberty.org/federal-court-declares-obamacares-individual-mandate-unconstitutional/>

Cantor Calls for direct appeal to Supreme Court

by Daniel Foster, 13 Dec 2010

<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/255170/cantor-calls-direct-appeal-supreme-court-daniel-foster>

The Judge Says 'No'

by William Murchison, 14 Dec 2010

<http://daylight-savings.blogomatic.object-ive.com/?p=889>

Thugs killed my favourite tree. But a new one is growing.

by Sarah Sands, 12 Dec 2010

Compared with the desecration of the Cenotaph, the chopping down of an old hawthorn tree in Glastonbury is low on the emotional Richter scale. There are no statements from the Prime Minister, no counter-reproaches from youthful revolutionaries. It is just a tree of no great beauty, which was significant to people of no interest to the famous or the fashionable.

But I loved the Glastonbury Thorn, and always stopped by it after weekend walks to the Tor. According to legend, the tree sprouted from the staff owned by Joseph of Arimathea, Jesus's uncle. It was visited by Christians from all over the world...

Read on: <http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/sarah-sands/sarah-sands-thugs-killed-my-favourite-tree-but-a-new-one-is-growing-2158050.html>

Tea Party ramps up efforts against tax deal

by Michael O'Brien, 13 Dec 2010

Conservatives aligned with the Tea Party ramped up pressure Monday on Republicans to vote down the tax deal before Congress.

A Tea Party umbrella group circulated a petition in opposition to President Obama's tax deal with Republicans, while another high-profile GOP lawmaker aligned with the grassroots movement said he's inclined to vote against it.

"The idea that this massive tax and spend bill has not yet even been written but may be voted on by the Senate this weekend is appalling, and has rightfully drawn the anger of the TeaPartyPatriots.org and other Tea Party activists, an anger that will not diminish," said a **petition** crafted by the Tea Party Patriots...

Continue: <http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/133369-tea-party-ramps-up-efforts-against-tax-deal>

Snooty Europhiles should be forced to crawl in penitence

The 'blimpish Little Englanders' who opposed monetary union were right all along.

by Boris Johnson, 14 Dec 2010

...In the late Eighties and early Nineties, I was writing for this paper from Brussels, and the big topic of the day was what was then known as the Delors Plan for Economic and Monetary Union. I had one major reservation about the proposals. The problem wasn't so much that EMU involved scrapping time-hallowed currencies such as the franc, the

Deutschmark and the lira. As far as I was concerned, we could all use the Rice Krispie, provided Europe could be turned into an optimal single-currency zone.

But Europe was nowhere near ready for the euro, the Rice Krispie or anything else. The continent was — and still is — a collection of different languages, diverging labour market traditions, and individual approaches to deficits and inflation. It was very risky, we warned, to try to impose a one-size-fits-all monetary policy over the whole lot. What was right for Germany might turn out to be wrong for, say, Italy or Ireland.

Countries might exploit the low interest rate to spend more than they should, in the knowledge that they could still keep inflation low and avoid any penalty from the markets. Their relative profligacy would be masked; they could trade on German thrift, and free-ride like egrets perched on the shoulder of a hippopotamus, until disaster struck; and that is exactly what happened...

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/borisjohnson/8198210/Snooty-Europhiles-should-be-forced-to-crawl-in-penitence.html>

The Crisis of the American Intellectual

by Walter Russell Mead, 8 Dec 2010

...Since the late nineteenth century most intellectuals have identified progress with the advance of the bureaucratic, redistributionist and administrative state...

...Most American intellectuals today are still shaped by this worldview and genuinely cannot imagine an alternative vision of progress. It is extremely difficult for such people to understand the economic forces that are making this model unsustainable and to see why so many Americans are in rebellion against this kind of state and society—but if our society is going to develop we have to move beyond the ideas and the institutions of twentieth century progressivism. The promises of the administrative state can no longer be kept and its premises no longer hold. The bureaucratic state is too inefficient to provide the needed services at a sustainable cost—and bureaucratic, administrative governments are by nature committed to maintain the status quo at a time when change is needed. For America to move forward, power is going to have to shift from bureaucrats to entrepreneurs, from the state to society and from qualified experts and licensed professionals to the population at large...

It's bracing: <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2010/12/08/the-crisis-of-the-american-intellectual/>

The Hawkeye Handouts

The tax bill is becoming a favor festival, starting with ethanol.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 13 Dec 2010

The public choice school of economics describes how the government and special interests collude against the public good, and it's hard to think of a better model than the ethanol industry...

...The tax bill is turning into a special interest spectacle. The bill revives a \$1 a gallon biodiesel tax credit at a cost of nearly \$2 billion, and there's \$202 million for "incentives for alternative fuel," \$331 million for a 50% tax credit for maintaining railroad tracks, and so on. These credits are a form of special interest spending via the tax code, which is precisely the business as usual behavior that Republicans told tea party voters they wouldn't engage in.

These business subsidies are grease for Senate votes in favor of the deal, so the only chance to remove them would be the kind of public outcry that attacked the Cornhusker Kickback and other ObamaCare fiascoes...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704457604576011892927747736.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Prager University: the Middle East Problem

by Dennis Prager, 24 Oct 2010

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63hTOaRu7h4>

Hat tip: Jim T.

U.N. is Boycotting Human Rights

by Frida Ghitis, 12 Dec 2010

Once again, the United Nations is taking a position in support of the worst violators of human rights. The U.N.

Human Rights Council, the body that acts as if it had a mandate to promote despotism, has a record of consistency on this subject, regularly lavishing praise on tyrannical regimes while spending its time and considerable resources attacking a few carefully selected democracies.

This time, The U.N.'s High Commissioner for Human Rights has tacitly sided with the government of China, quietly boycotting the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony honoring the imprisoned Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo...

Continue: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/12/12/1968183/un-is-boycotting-human-rights.html>

An Extraordinary Speech

by Alan Fraser, 12 Dec 2010

What follows is a transcript of an extraordinary speech given by Lieutenant General John F. Kelly USMC on November 13, 2010. What renders it so is that General Kelly's son, First Lieutenant Robert Michael Kelly, was killed in action in Sangin, Afghanistan only four days before Lt. Gen. Kelly gave this speech. Lt. Gen. Kelly's eldest child is also a U.S. Marine.

We wrote earlier about this incident to which the general refers. Recall that it occurred at a time when it appeared that our troop surge in Iraq had perhaps stabilized what had been for several years a horrific situation. Now think about how that troop surge—in fact, the entire war—would have been viewed had fifty of our Marines been massacred in their sleep on that April night in 2008. And finally, as we are in the season, it's good to remind ourselves that it is only because of men like Yale, Haerter, Gen. Kelly, and his brave sons that we are able to celebrate our holidays and not those of our enemies...

The speech: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/an_extraordinary_speech.html

Canada gives us a preview of ObamaCare. It must be obstructed or repealed!

Woman dies waiting in ER as AG finds little movement

by Tanya Talaga, 6 Dec 2010

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/902581--woman-dies-waiting-in-er-as-ag-finds-little-movement>

Maxine Waters: another Congressperson with ethics problems

by Mychal Massie, 12 Dec 2010

...We now know Waters "is being charged with helping to steer more than \$12 million in federal bailout funds to One United, a bank in which her husband has a substantial stake."...

More: <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/maxine-waters-another-congressperson-with-ethics-problems/?singlepage=true>

Penn and Teller **did it** in 2006, with the help of the lovely Chris McGaha.

But this one was at the recent UN climate conference.

Petition to ban Dihydrogen Monoxide

by CFACT, 7 Dec 2010

Watch: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzZ_Zcp4PwY

Who's to blame for the fire?

Tribal Update, 10 Dec 2010

Claire Berlinski says "Keep watching until you get to the parody of Lula da Silva. I promise you it's worth it."

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9HsLG0n9cE>

The 25 best quotes about Liberals

by John Hawkins, 23 Nov 2010

http://townhall.com/columnists/JohnHawkins/2010/11/23/the_25_best_quotes_about_liberals/page/full/

Adios, Charlie

by Larry Thornberry, 10 Dec 2010

...In his final cabinet meeting Tuesday, Crist and Florida's governing board approved a biomass energy plant to be constructed near Gainesville and honored a Labrador retriever named Ace on his retirement from the state fire marshal's office after a long and distinguished career sniffing out accelerants.

The biomass plant, like most boutique energy sources that environmentalists fancy, will almost certainly produce a trifling amount of energy at a very high price. But since he's been governor, Crist has catered to the organic tote-bag crowd and their quirky policies. At least our outgoing governor and associates did right by Ace, whose government service benefited the people of Florida more than Charlie's did...

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/12/10/adios-charlie>

The great radio host Hugh Hewitt was one of the heroes behind the defeat of what I like to call "The Bush-Kennedy-McCain Wide Open Borders Bill of 2007." Now he's a leader in the fight to reject the GOP leadership's hasty and needless concessions on the Bush tax rates.

Concern Over Stimulus II Grows

by Hugh Hewitt, 11 Dec 2010

As recognition grows that the so-called tax bill has become Stimulus II, some of the bill's supporters are rethinking their earlier positions. Bill Clinton's **usurping** of the baffled Obama's role on point for the deal may have helped clarify the situation for many as 42 bluntly noted that Democrats have to support the Christmas Tree deal because they cannot possibly do as well in January. Powerline's John Hinderaker, for example, **lays out** what ought to be the thinking of every elected representative and senator: The bill has evolved from a not-very-good-deal-to-avoid-a-tax-hike plus an extension of unemployment benefits into a giant exercise in wasteful spending, and thus support for it should end. The new Congress—the one embodying the people's demand for spending restraint and continuation of existing tax rates—can get the job done in the new year.

It may be difficult for some in the GOP leadership to admit that they got worked by the president, but better a little embarrassment now than the massive loss of credibility that goes with this bill. Besides, they didn't sign up for ethanol and windmills. Speaker-designate Boehner and GOP Senate Leader McConnell will win enormous points for walking away from a bad deal that has gotten worse by the hour...

More: <http://www.hughhewitt.com/blog/g/f4d2352f-8e76-4866-9bb1-4035178555c6>

And Dr. Krauthammer has additional reasons to dump the Deal.

Swindle of the Year

by Charles Krauthammer, 10 Dec 2010

Barack Obama won the great tax-cut showdown of 2010—and House Democrats don't have a clue that he did. In the deal struck this week, the president negotiated the biggest stimulus in American history, larger than his \$814 billion 2009 stimulus package. It will pump a trillion borrowed Chinese dollars into the U.S. economy over the next two years—which just happen to be the two years of the run-up to the next presidential election. This is a defeat?...

...Some Republicans are crowing that Stimulus II is the Republican way—mostly tax cuts—rather than the Democrats' spending orgy of Stimulus I. That's consolation? This just means that Republicans are two years too late. Stimulus II will still blow another near-\$1 trillion hole in the budget.

At great cost that will have to be paid after this newest free lunch, the package will add as much as 1 percent to GDP and lower the unemployment rate by about 1.5 percentage points. That could easily be the difference between victory and defeat in 2012.

Obama is no fool. While getting Republicans to boost his own reelection chances, he gets them to make a mockery of their newfound, second-chance, post-Bush, Tea-Party, this-time-we're-serious persona of debt-averse fiscal responsibility. And he gets all this in return for what? For a mere two-year postponement of a mere 4.6-point increase in marginal tax rates for upper incomes. And an estate tax rate of 35 percent—it jumps insanelly from zero to 55 percent on

Jan. 1—that is somewhat lower than what the Democrats wanted.

No, cries the left: Obama violated a sacred principle. A 39.6 percent tax rate versus 35 percent is a principle? "This is the public option debate all over again," said Obama at his Tuesday news conference. He is right. The left never understood that to nationalize health care there is no need for a public option because Obamacare turns the private insurers into public utilities, thus setting us inexorably on the road to the left's Promised Land: a Canadian-style single-payer system. The left is similarly clueless on the tax-cut deal: In exchange for temporarily forgoing a small rise in upper-income rates, Obama pulled out of a hat a massive new stimulus...

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/09/AR2010120904472.html>

EPA and the New Congress

by Hugh Hewitt, 10 Dec 2010

Friday's *New York Times* reports on what it thinks is a new era of caution at the EPA. Even a cursory review of the agency's own scorecard of its 2010 enforcement activities cannot sustain that conclusion.

When I asked my law partner Liz McNulty—who among her many callings represents apparel companies on FIFRA-related compliance—if EPA was easing up, she just laughed. Here are just a few examples of enforcement cases brought by EPA this year in just its Region 9...

More: <http://www.hughhewitt.com/blog/g/bd20e328-c439-4975-ade2-fde00f346651>

The Daniels Dilemma

by Mona Charen, 10 Dec 2010

...Inheriting a \$600 million deficit, Daniels transformed it into a \$370 million surplus within one year, without raising taxes. "You'd be amazed how much government you'll never miss," he grins. Six years on, Indiana now enjoys a AAA bond rating, boasts the fewest state workers per capita in the nation, enjoys the third-highest private-sector job growth in the nation, has seen property taxes drop by an average of 30 percent, and was ranked first in the Midwest for business climate by the Tax Foundation. Daniels was named Public Official of the Year in 2008 by *Governing* magazine.

It isn't that he has simply accomplished economies. Daniels believes in improving government's performance—cutting less important spending in favor of more important, and keeping close tabs on results.

Under his leadership, the state has increased K-12 education funding by 12 percent, hired 800 new child welfare workers, added 150 more state troopers, provided free or reduced price medications to 288,000 Hoosiers through the Rx for Indiana program, reduced wait times at the DMV to fewer than eight minutes, funded a \$10 billion infrastructure improvement plan to repair roads and bridges, and improved health care for the low-income through the Healthy Indiana Plan, which encouraged healthy behaviors (and which may be unsustainable if Obamacare is not repealed)...

More: <http://patriotpost.us/opinion/mona-charen/2010/12/10/the-daniels-dilemma/>

The NEH vs. America

PC propaganda at the National Endowment for the Humanities.

by Roger Kimball and Hilton Kramer, Dec 2010

<http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/The-NEH-vs--America-6496>

Mr. Hannan, a Conservative, is a Member of the European Parliament for the South East of England—and a great admirer of America.

The New Road to Serfdom: A Letter of Warning to America

by Daniel Hannan, 2010

http://www.amazon.com/New-Road-Serfdom-Warning-America/dp/0061956937/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1292051252&sr=1-1

The Lamest Duck?

If Obama's tax deal tanks, he's hobbled and quacking.

by *Dan McLaughlin*, 9 Dec 2010

What will happen to Barack Obama's presidency if his tax compromise is shot down with the help of his own party? The House Democratic caucus just voted against it, which puts the deal on life support, at best. Can Obama recover from that?...

...As I wrote of George W. Bush in the aftermath of the somewhat similar collapse of the Harriet Miers nomination, it's always foolhardy to pick a fight in politics without considering whether it's a fight worth losing, and ultimately harder to win if everybody knows you can't afford to lose...

Acute analysis: http://www.redstate.com/dan_mclaughlin/2010/12/09/the-lamest-duck/

New START is a bad deal at any time

by *Conn Carroll*, 7 Dec 2010

...Putin and President Obama believe that New START is a great deal for our national security. But not everyone agrees. Former CIA Director James Woolsey, former Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Robert Joseph, and former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Eric Edelman have all argued that New START actually weakens our defenses. The Heritage Foundation has identified 12 flaws of New START, including the following:

Unacceptable limits to missile defense...Inadequate verification regime...Tactical nukes ignored...Rail-mobile ICBMs exempted...

More: <http://www.oeregister.com/opinion/new-279035-treaty-missile.html>

NY Times warning: Blue State Armageddon on the way

by *Walter Russell Mead*, 6 Dec 2010

The global financial crisis could be heading to a blue state near you: that is the latest grim news from the *New York Times*: "Mounting Debts by States Stoke Fears of Crisis." Normally a cheerleader for the free spending (in bluespeak, compassionate) policies of the public sector union dominated, high tax, high cost states like California, Illinois and New York, the *Times* now warns that fiscal ruin could be at hand.

The problem is state debt. New York, California and Illinois look more like Greece to their bondholders every day. Since the November elections, investors have been dumping their bonds, and hedge funds are betting against them, perhaps realizing that a Republican House is not going to offer generous, condition free bailouts...

Continue: <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2010/12/06/ny-times-warning-blue-state-armageddon-on-the-way/>

Crony Car Capitalism

by *Gary Jason*, 8 Dec 2010

...The Obama administration rigged the bankruptcy to favor the union, rigged the IPO to favor the union, and has purchased much of the inventory unsalable in the free market, again to benefit the union (and the environmentalists). But of course, the unions (and the environmentalists) pumped many millions of dollars into Obama's campaign. They also and pumped many millions into trying to keep Democratic candidates in office in the last election.

This is corrupt, crony car capitalism, all paid for by coerced taxation, from an administration that promised a new era of transparency and honesty in government...

Read all about it: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/crony_car_capitalism.html

Obama uses Labor Board to revive Card Check

Washington Examiner editorial, 9 Dec 2010

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/editorials/2010/12/examiner-editorial-obama-uses-labor-board-revive-card-check>

How to balance the budget without raising taxes

The 19 Percent Solution.

by Nick Gillespie & Veronique de Rugy, 5 Dec 2010

...Can America really reduce its debt and deficit without raising taxes to job-killing rates or cutting essential services to developing-world levels? The answer is not simply *yes*, it's that *we have to*.

Raising government revenue—taxes—substantially is not only bad policy, it has proven difficult and ultimately unsustainable for any length of time in the past 60 years. Since 1950, annual government revenue, as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), has averaged just below 18 percent despite every attempt to jack it up or tamp it down. Our post-World War II experience shows that if the government is going to live within its means, it can't spend much more than 18 percent of GDP. Period...

...Most economists talk about a debt-to-GDP ratio of 60 percent as a trigger point that makes investors very nervous about a country's ability to pay its obligations. The debt to GDP ratio was 63 percent this year and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects it will be 87 percent in 2020. Just three years ago, it was 36.5 percent. Not good signs.

So, what would it take to bring federal spending into line with plausible levels of revenue? The CBO, the non-partisan agency charged with estimating the effects of legislation on government costs, has produced a long-term budget outlook in which Bush-era tax rates remain unchanged. Their conclusion is that over the next decade, "government revenues would remain at about 19 percent of GDP, near their historical averages." That's actually a bit higher than the historical average, but is within the bounds of reason.

A balanced budget in 2020 based on 19 percent of GDP would mean \$1.3 trillion in cuts over the next decade, or about \$129 billion annually out of ever-increasing budgets averaging around \$4.1 trillion. Note that these are not even absolute cuts, but trims from expected increases in spending...

...Are our leaders willing and able to identify and cut just \$25 billion in waste and excess out of more than \$700 billion in non-defense discretionary spending? Is reducing the \$714 billion the Department of Defense received in 2010 by a paltry \$25 billion impossible? Can Medicare and Medicaid, two programs that are infamous for waste and fraud and cost well over \$720 billion in 2010, find \$35 billion in efficiencies? The specific cuts should be open to negotiation, but the historical record shows that the available level of government revenue is fixed.

If these sorts of small but systematic trims are impossible over the next decade, then really nothing is possible and debt, deficits, and despair are here to stay...

Read the rest: <http://reason.com/archives/2010/12/05/how-to-balance-the-budget-with/print>

The tax proposal, examined

by K.E. Campbell, 8 Dec 2010

The tax proposals being debated in Washington, D.C. do nothing to stop Barack Obama's EU-socialist agenda, much less roll back any of it. Despite the howls from liberal corners, the transformative train is still rolling down the track.

I think the whining by the left includes plenty of crocodile tears, which is to say methinks they doth protest too much. Public displays aside, Democrats are probably surprised that Republicans didn't demand more from them considering the November 2 wind still behind their sails.

Under the current terms of the proposal, income tax rates in effect since at least 2003 will remain unchanged for two more years, contrary to the non-stop media blather about this deal involving "tax cuts for the rich." Tax rates on dividends and long-term capital gains as well as tuition and child tax credits will also remain in place for two more years. The death tax, which is currently 0%, will be reinstated at 35% (for estates over \$5 million). Payroll taxes will be reduced temporarily by two percentage points.

Unemployment benefits will be extended for 13 more months with no offsetting spending cuts. The Obama administration insists this \$56 billion expenditure, which applies to those laid off for more than six months but less than 99 weeks, is stimulative. (Where have we heard that before?)...

Read what Jim DeMint, the Club for Growth, the Heritage Foundation, and the Cato Institute think of the deal:

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/12/the_tax_proposal_examined.html

The craziest moonbats: Mayor Sam Adams and the *Portland Mercury's* Denis Theriault.

Bigots and Terrorists in Portland

The city's liberal establishment worries more about biased Americans than about would-be mass murderers.

by *Ethan Epstein*, 6 Dec 2010

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/254586>

A great essay, despite being a little too hard on the great Friedrich Hayek.

Where Have All The Capitalists Gone?

by *Richard M. Salsman*, 6 Dec 2010

...The collapse of socialist regimes two decades ago didn't mean capitalism was finally being hailed for its many virtues; the historic event only merely reminded people of capitalism's productive ability—an ability that already long-proven and long-acknowledged even by its worst enemies. Persistent animosity toward capitalism today rests on moral, not practical grounds. Unless rational self-interest is understood as the one moral code consistent with genuine humanity, and the moral estimate of capitalism thus improves, socialism will keep making comebacks, despite its deep and dark record of human misery.

Read the rest: <http://blogs.forbes.com/richardsalsman/2010/12/05/where-have-all-the-capitalists-gone/>

Martin Bosma, a Dutch member of parliament for the PVV (Party for Freedom), addresses the nation's liberals.

You are tolerant until it gets too crazy for you

by *Martin Bosma*, 24 Nov 2010

<http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/12/dissident-sound-in-lions-den.html>

A Tyrant's Thinking

Investors Business Daily editorial, 7 Dec 2010

...The FCC's Michael Copps suggested last week that a "public value test" should determine who holds broadcast licenses for television and radio...According to the Hill newspaper, Copps would issue licenses only when broadcasters:

"Prove they have made a meaningful commitment to public affairs and news programming, prove they are committed to diversity programming, report more to the government about which shows they plan to air, require greater disclosure about who funds political ads and devote 25% of their prime-time coverage to local news."

Who is Copps to make such demands? And why does a man who thinks like a tyrant hold such a high-ranking position in the U.S. government? His appetite for power isn't new. It's been simmering for some time. He has a history of campaigning against media ownership laws that advance freedom, preferring instead regulations that limit how many media outlets one owner can have in a market.

"Why does any corporate interest need to own three stations in any city, other than to enjoy the 40%-50% profit margins most consolidated stations are racking up?" he wrote in 2003 in response to a proposal to relax media ownership rules.

In a free society, it's not for Copps or anyone else to ask why any corporate interest needs to own three stations in one city. Liberty doesn't always produce the conditions we like. But it never produces results that are damaging. If one company owned every news outlet in the country, we'd have reservations. But that situation, as uncomfortable as it might be, would not violate the life, liberty or property of a single person.

But Copps' ideas would. A company's freedom to operate without government interference is infringed upon if that company must meet any of his standards if it's to have its broadcast license renewed...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=556103&p=1>

Be sure to read the Comments (scroll down past the Tweets).

The anger of Barack Obama

by *Chris Cillizza*, 7 Dec 2010

<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/thefix/white-house/the-anger-of-barack-obama.html>

DeMint to Oppose "the Deal"

by Hugh Hewitt, 7 Dec 2010

Senator JimDeMint just announced on my program that he will oppose the deal as well as a vote for cloture on the deal. He is reluctant to criticize GOP Senate leadership, but believes the deal at a minimum has to be paid for, and that we need "a permanent economy" not a temporary one as well as permanent tax cuts, not temporary tax cuts. Senator DeMint also expressed disappointment with the House GOP's elevation of Hal Rodgers and Spencer Bachus to key committee chairmanships, noting that the revolution of 1994 failed in part when the old guard took control of committees despite the huge freshman class.

Transcript: <http://www.hughhewitt.com/blog/g/185fec91-dd0f-4eb1-a7d4-ce3e793fece6>

Audio: <http://www.breitbart.tv/demint-ill-filibuster-tax-deal/>

Bachmann: GOP could scuttle tax deal tied to extending jobless aid

by Michael O'Brien, 6 Dec 2010

<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/132233-bachmann-gop-could-vote-down-tax-deal-tied-to-extending-jobless-benefits>

Warren Buffett, Robber Baron?

by Christopher Chantrill, 7 Dec 2010

...It's hard to think of Warren Buffett as a robber baron. He's a jolly chap who just seems to be along for the ride. But the ugly truth is that his businesses benefit from one of the major big-government redistributive programs by which the ruling class makes government big and families small. He's a leader of a "redistributive combine" that wants to keep what it got from the government favor factory. He's one of the chaps sitting by the side of the road taking their cut, courtesy of Uncle Sam.

It would be nice if our liberal friends would be as hard on their green-energy crony capitalists and their high-speed rail robber barons as they would like to be on the white working-class striver trying to buy a small construction business...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/warren_buffett_robber_baron.html

Shady Dealings Brought Dodd Down

by Kevin Rennie, 5 Dec 2010

Sen. Christopher Dodd leaves office disappointed and bewildered. The people don't trust their government. Even our leaders seem not to like each other much. The U.S. Senate is not nearly as cozy as it was when Dodd joined it 30 years ago. Oh dear, this is troubling...

A fine recap of his ethical hypocrisies (the political ones would fill volumes):

<http://www.courant.com/news/opinion/hc-op-rennie-dodd-1205-20101205,0,3467497.column>

The EPA's and Enron's end-runs of Congress

by Larry Bell, 1 Dec 2010

Immediately after chances for carbon cap-and-tax legislation were swept away by a Nov. 2 Republican House cleaning, the Obama administration proceeded with its Plan B...

...Operating through permitting authority asserted under auspices of its Clean Air Act, the agency will now have a major say in the design of every major project in which fossil fuel is combusted or CO2 emissions are released. Included are electrical power generation, refineries, iron and steel mills, pulp and paper mills and cement production. Effective July 1, 2011, any new source of greenhouse gas emissions that exceeds 100,000 tons of CO2 per year or plant modification adding 75,000 tons annually, will be subject to permit approval based upon undefined case-by-case "best available control technology" assessments. This puts the EPA squarely in corporate boardrooms and boiler houses.

Such rapid expansion of EPA powers and growth is emblematic of Big Government bureaucracy run amok with the help of some influential friends. In the EPA's case, there was no better friend than Enron...

More: <http://www.forbes.com/2010/11/29/epa-enron-greenhouse-gases-opinions-contributors-larry-bell.html?boxes=opinionsschannellatest>

Closely related:

The jobs O hates

New regs = more pink slips.

by *Ben Lieberman*, 6 Dec 2010

For all his talk of job creation, President Obama has targeted many occupations for extinction. Using unelected bureaucrats to implement a host of job-killing measures, his administration is generating piles of pink slips...

...Radical environmentalists have all but declared war on high-wage blue-collar jobs in this country, and the Obama administration has sided with them. The nation's stubbornly high unemployment rate is evidence they're winning.

Can you guess the jobs? http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/the_jobs_hates_oXIaXVOBCZmFNzSIF6uJJ

Muslims (and "gay" "marriage") would be less of a threat to us if we loved ourselves—and our culture—more.

Overheard—and overlooked—at the Sorbonne

When a civilization loses the will to live.

by *David R. Stokes*, 5 Dec 2010

...At the time of Roosevelt's **speech**, France was a major world power. Today—not so much. There is enough blame for the decline to go around, but the increased secularism of Europe, with its penchant for socialized everything, has certainly played a role. The nation was decaying from within long before Paris was declared an open city as the Nazis approached in 1940.

Now, seventy years later, there is an even greater threat to the French's cherished way of life. If only they would rediscover Teddy's advice and reverse the birthrate trend—they might have a fighting chance. But such is the mindset of secularism: it is all about self and "fulfillment." Issues of family, not to mention progeny, are secondary, if thought about at all. Marriage is deferred—even eschewed. Children are **planned**—or better, planned around. And over time, the birth rate in Europe has fallen far short of what is needed to meet the various demands of the future. In other words, European nations are aging. There are fewer children, yet more grandparents—a trend that will continue and accelerate.

It takes a fertility rate of 2.1 births per woman to keep a nation's population stable. The United States is right about there, give or take. Canada has a rate of 1.48, and Europe as a whole weighs in at 1.38. What this means is that there is a Bernie Madoff moment coming for these nations (we're seeing some of it now with the riots, etc.). The **money** will run out, with not enough wage-earners at the bottom to support an older generation's "entitlements."

But even beyond that, the situation in France also reminds us of the threat of opportunistic Islamism. It's just a matter of time and math before critical mass is reached and former bastions of democratic republicanism morph into caliphates. The Times of London **reported** a year and a half ago that its nation's Muslim population had grown from 500,000 to 2.4 million in just four years, "rising 10 times faster" than the rest of society. It's the same in France, though raw numbers are harder to come by...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/overheard_and_overlooked_at_th.html

Caplan's Constitution

by *W. James Antle III*, 6 Dec 2010

...For decades, the federal government has ignored the non-procedural parts of the Constitution. Instead of treating it as something that limits the government's power, the Constitution has been reduced to Robert's Rules of Order. Even many of the Republicans who speak loudest about "constitutional conservatism" will be perfectly content to engage in unconstitutional activity once they, rather than the Democrats, wield power.

When the Iraqis were haggling over their new, post-Saddam constitution, wags rightly joked: "Let's just give them ours. We're not using it anymore."

Far from being an obstacle to solving our economic problems, fidelity to the Constitution would have prevented many of them. If the federal government operated within constitutional constraints, we would not stand on the brink of national bankruptcy. Our currency would not be debased. The federal government would not be inflating real estate or investment bubbles. Taxes would be much lower yet there would not be deficits as far as the eye can see.

Instead future generations will be saddled with obligations they never freely chose, struggling to pay for unconstitutional programs that politicians (and, to be frank, many of their constituents) can never summon the courage to reform. Freed from the chains of the Constitution, we are instead enslaved by what Belloc called the "servile state"—a state we cannot even pay for...

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/12/06/caplans-constitution>

Wikid

by David Warren, 1 Dec 2010

...Paradoxically, these documents confirm everything the Times and like-minded media have **NOT** been reporting for the last few years.

That Arab leaders have been begging the U.S. to take military action against Iran, or at least stop appeasing a regime they compare to Hitler's; that Egypt fears Hamas more than Israel; that Iran rearms Hezbollah in Lebanon under cover of the Red Cross; that Iran and Syria are hand in glove; that North Korea has been trading lethal weaponry to Iran, with Chinese encouragement; that the Turkish government is alarmingly Islamist, and has become a cuckoo in the nest of NATO; that the Emir of Qatar is double-dealing—all these things which "paranoid right wing" types such as yours truly have long known (and been reporting in this column)—are confirmed in the documents.

One might express frustration, that U.S. diplomatic, military, and intelligence agencies did not make much of this public, long ago. For it has struck me, repeatedly, that the U.S. government has been fighting world opinion with two hands tied behind its back.

All this can be fairly stated, and yet it does not change the nature of the crime. A conscious act of treason has been performed—very smugly—and there is yet no prospect that anything will be done about it. Wikileaks continues to publish privileged U.S. diplomatic traffic day by day, with the full co-operation of the world's "progressive" media, and with the impunity that is granted by an elite "liberal" culture, which lives in something like Michael Ondaatje's moral universe.

Which is unfortunately the alternative universe from which Barack Obama stepped, when he became president. He evidently does not have the intellectual equipment to understand the grave duties he has assumed...

Read the rest: <http://www.davidwarrenonline.com/index.php?id=1218>

Any day now, welfare will bring prosperity

It's always a day away.

by John Hayward, 6 Dec 2010

...Welfare programs divert money from the wealth-producing sector of society into less efficient and productive segments. This is an unlovely truth that socialists never want to confront, since it sounds insulting to their most valued constituents, but it doesn't grow any prettier when we ignore it, and ignorance is expensive. This is not a value judgment on the poor as human beings—plenty of them have ambition and drive that will help them move into the middle class, and beyond. They need opportunities, not subsidies. It's also not an argument for completely eliminating all assistance to the destitute. That's not what we're discussing, and it never has been. We're talking about redistribution on a massive scale, with much of the money dissipating into the inefficiency and corruption of our central government.

Unemployed people, by definition, spend most of their time doing one of two things: looking for a job, or sitting around. Neither activity produces valuable goods or services. No one should be surprised that taking a dollar from job creators, skimming off eighty cents for Uncle Sam, and throwing a couple of dimes at the unemployed fails to result in meaningful job creation. The urge to flatter the unemployed by believing otherwise is a crippling delusion that only produces longer bread lines.

Full column: <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=40398>

Americans don't hate the rich

by William Voegeli, 1 Dec 2010

...I have an unproven, untested, and perhaps untestable hypothesis for why so many middle- and working-class Americans confound liberals by siding, often angrily, with the Stinking Rich against the Beneficent Reformers. It is that Bonnie Snodgrass's version of the trickle-down theory, in which tax increases supposed to be confined to the prosperous are going to wind up imposed on the precarious, is more broadly applicable and resonant. In this view, the "principle" that rich people should be forced to surrender some of their wealth, just because they are deemed to have too much, is eventually going to justify policies that force non-rich people to surrender some of their wealth, just because...

...This attitude fueled the authentic bottom-up populism that reverberated five years ago when people reacted with

spontaneous fury to the Supreme Court's *Kelo* decision. It held that the Constitution's power of eminent domain conferred upon city councils and economic-development boards the right to condemn private homes and entire neighborhoods if a real-estate developer had convinced them he could generate more property-tax revenue from the land in question.

Every redistributive scheme, by the same token, rests on the planted axiom that private property is only provisionally and transiently private. It wasn't the "dream factor" that caused pathetically deluded factory workers and clerks, imagining they might win the lottery, to oppose George McGovern's plan to confiscate inheritances he considered too large. It was small-*r* republican disdain for the idea that government should be empowered to confiscate wealth lawfully acquired and held...

3,400 words, and a great read: <https://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/americans-don-t-hate-the-rich-15587?page=all>

Turn yourself in, Julian Assange

The WikiLeaks founder is an unscrupulous megalomaniac with a political agenda.

by *Christopher Hitchens*, 6 Dec 2010

...Then there is diplomacy itself. One of civilization's oldest and best ideas is that all countries establish tiny sovereign enclaves in each other's capitals and invest these precious enclaves of peaceful resolution with special sorts of immunity. That this necessarily includes a high degree of privacy goes without saying. Even a single violation of this ancient tradition may have undesirable unintended consequences, and we rightly regard a serious breach of it with horror. We found out everything we would ever need to know about Ayatollah Khomeini and his ideology when he took diplomats as hostages.

The cunning of Julian Assange's strategy is that he has made everyone complicit in his own private decision to try to sabotage U.S. foreign policy. Unless you consider yourself bound by the hysterically stupid decision of the Obama administration to forbid all federal employees from downloading or viewing the WikiLeaks papers, you will at the very least have indulged in a certain amount of guilty pleasure. In a couple of major instances, the disclosures are of great value to the regime-change die-hards among us. More Arab regimes want Washington to take on Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and more urgently than anyone had guessed; I would very much rather know this *now* than 20 years later. Iran was able to acquire some missile capacity from North Korea; so would Saddam Hussein have been if we had left him in his so-called "box." We already know that his envoys were meeting North Korean missile dealers in Damascus before the threat of the coalition's intervention caused the vendors to return hastily to Pyongyang. The latest leaks complete an important part of an important case...

More: <http://www.slate.com/id/2276857/>

Multiculturalism Hits The Wall

by *J.R. Dunn*, 5 Dec 2010

Multiculturalism is the most recent, and perhaps final, expression of the late 20th-century left-wing ascendancy. As year ten of the long war looms, the "multicultural" paradigm for defense against terrorism has slammed into a brick wall...

...Multiculturalism is the most recent, and perhaps the final, expression of the late 20th-century left-wing ascendancy. It is a completely synthetic doctrine, formulated without reference to any perceptible element of the quotidian world. Although derived in format and rhetoric from the civil rights movement, it has no relationship with the ideas or hopes expressed by King, Abernathy, Rustin, or any other legitimate civil rights leader. While the civil rights movement was founded in opposition to the odious practice of legal racial segregation, multiculturalism had no such concrete agenda. It was based almost completely on abstract academic theories derived in equal part from black racial extremism and Marxism, purporting to define the relationship between the dominant "white" race and all other races.

According to multicultural theory, the "white" race (never further defined) forms a privileged oppressor class, forever and completely at odds with members of other races. The relationship between races is presented only in terms of power, in which the oppressed races became in effect a proletariat awaiting liberation through revolutionary activity. Under these terms, every action taken by the white oppressors is illegitimate, while those taken by the "subaltern" races are justified, no matter what their evident nature and intent. As a global theory, multiculturalism possesses universal applicability under all circumstances. Every aspect of racial and ethnic relations must be seen through the multicultural lens. It would be difficult to find a theory to beat multiculturalism for sheer vacuity...

Read the whole thing! http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/multiculturalism_hits_the_wall.html

Elegy for Experience

A journey through some of the mysteries of human consciousness.

by Annie Gottlieb, 4 Dec 2010

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/elegy-for-experience/?singlepage=true>

Norman Rockwell & Other Blasphemies

by Mollie Hemingway, 3 Dec 2010

...I learned about the incest and what not from watching a [John King segment](#) on CNN. It was actually a nicely done segment, pitting *Washington Post* art critic Blake Gopnik — who adored the show and was shocked that anyone would be personally offended from the exhibit — and Media Research Center's Brent Bozell, who found it sacrilegious and inappropriate.

Maybe my standard for Cable TV journalism is low, but I thought the discussion was enlightening. I learned from both guests, who were encouraged to discuss not the exhibit so much as the issue of whether it was appropriate for a government-run museum. Gopnik was better at defending the exhibit rather than defending its placement at the Smithsonian.

At one point, Bozell asked CNN — which had filmed the entire exhibit — to show the actual images, without pixelation. King responded that he definitely would not. "Why not?" Bozell asked. King explained that these images could be offensive and that children — including his own — could be watching. Bozell basically said "well, there you go" before pointing out that the Smithsonian had just hosted a "family day" a couple of weeks ago for the exhibit, with special activities for kids...

More: <http://www.getreligion.org/2010/12/norman-rockwell-and-other-blasphemies/>

Hot Air Tour Live from Cancun: Full Broadcast

3 Dec 2010

Watch our full broadcast of the *Hot Air Tour Live from Cancun* at the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Cancun. AFP was down in Cancun to send a message to the bureaucrats that energy rationing will kill jobs, raise taxes, and crush our freedoms. The broadcast features insights from AFP President Tim Phillips, Senator Jim Inhofe, and conservative author and commentator Andrew Breitbart. You'll also see video of AFP's observations from around Cancun, including a vision of what "the house of the future" would look like under energy rationing regulations from the U.N..

Watch (46 minutes): <http://www.americansforprosperity.org/120310-hot-air-tour-live-cancun-full-broadcast>

He may be a fiscal conservative, but he is a man bereft of moral compass.

Ron Paul stands up for Julian Assange

by Andy Barr, 4 Dec 2010

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1210/45930.html>

Is President Obama getting a free pass over WikiLeaks?

The Left would have bayed for Bush's blood if he was in the White House.

by Nile Gardiner, 3 Dec 2010

...There will certainly be Congressional hearings into the leaks, and the U.S. administration's handling of it, with both the House and Senate seeking answers to a massive security breach. Should these hearings produce clear evidence the Obama administration was culpably negligent, the administration will then no longer enjoy the benefit of the doubt, and will suffer the political consequences it is due.

No such benefit of the doubt would have been accorded to the previous president of the United States, however.

Imagine what the response would have been if George W. Bush was president and not Barack Obama? The Left would have been up in arms with pitchforks at the ready, demanding the resignation of his Secretary of State and key intelligence officials, and all but putting the administration on trial.

The Wikileaks revelations would have perfectly suited the liberal elites' silly caricature of Bush as a "cowboy" president, supposedly alienating the world while acting as the globe's policeman. The left-wing media would have queued up to denounce the Bush Administration as incompetent, lax with America's security, and disparaging towards the rest of the world. And as for the suggestion of spying on those dictator-friendly bureaucrats at the U.N.—that would have led to an avalanche of liberal condemnation, and wall to wall coverage in the press.

President Obama, on the other hand, has been given a free pass so far...

More: <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/nilegardiner/100066444/is-president-obama-getting-a-free-pass-over-wikileaks-the-left-would-have-bayed-for-bushs-blood-if-he-was-in-the-white-house/>

Hollywood myth-making on Valerie Plame controversy

Washington Post editorial, 4 Dec 2010

...Hollywood has a habit of making movies about historical events without regard for the truth; *Fair Game* is just one more example. But the film's reception illustrates a more troubling trend of political debates in Washington in which established facts are willfully ignored. Mr. Wilson claimed that he had proved that Mr. Bush deliberately twisted the truth about Iraq, and he was eagerly embraced by those who insist the former president lied the country into a war. Though it was long ago established that Mr. Wilson himself was not telling the truth—not about his mission to Niger and not about his wife—the myth endures. We'll join the former president in hoping that future historians get it right.

More: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/03/AR2010120306298_pf.html

Turn out the lights, the party's over

by Wesley Pruden, 2 Dec 2010

Scams die hard, but eventually they die, and when they do, nobody wants to get close to the corpse. You can get all the hotel rooms you want this week in Cancun.

The global-warming caravan has moved on, bound for a destination in oblivion. The United Nations is hanging the usual lamb chop in the window this week in Mexico for the U.N.'s Framework Convention on Climate Change, but the Washington guests are staying home. Nobody wants to get the smell of the corpse on their clothes.

Everybody who imagined himself anybody raced to Copenhagen last year for the global-warming summit, renamed "climate change" when the globe began to cool, as it does from time to time. Some 45,000 delegates, "activists," business representatives and the usual retinue of journalists registered for the party in Copenhagen. This year, only 1,234 journalists registered for the Cancun beach party. The only story there is that there's no story there. The U.N. organizers glumly concede that Cancun won't amount to anything, even by U.N. standards...

The sarcasm becomes delicious: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/dec/2/pruden-turn-out-the-lights-the-party-s-over/>

The 'Christmas Village' fiasco: PC gone mad

by Christine M. Flowers, 2 Dec 2010

...As an immigration attorney, I deal with a lot of non-Christians, and I wanted to see if the ones I knew were upset at the Christmas display. They were not. "Mohammed" from Pakistan was particularly happy that, unlike the holiday displays in his hometown, it was not in danger of being bombed by the Taliban. "Ziva" from Israel said she liked the idea that all this fuss was being made about a little Jewish boy. "Chiang" from China was thrilled that he could say the word "Christmas" in public and not be sent to a re-education camp. So when I told him the City of Brotherly Love was stripping the word from a public display, he shook his head in disgust.

People who come from countries that know what true religious intolerance is can't understand the pettiness of the bureaucrats. Neither can I...

More: http://www.philly.com/dailynews/opinion/20101202_Christine_M_Flowers_Cutting_the_Christ_from_Christmas_PC_gone_mad.html

First NIMBY, Now NWMK

by Baron Bodissey, 3 Dec 2010

...It's nice that Ms. Halsema has woken up to the fact that children are not a social experiment. And it's a pity that she and the rest of her ilk didn't practice the same principle over the last forty years instead of importing millions of inassimilable migrants into the Netherlands and jamming their children into the schools with native Dutch children.

Ms. Halsema is one of those dedicated lefties who use other people, particularly working-class people with no political clout, as the objects of vast social engineering schemes designed to remake society into a socialist utopia. She was even willing to put her own kids on the line to prove her point.

Then she discovered the ugly truth about what happens to white children in majority-enriched schools. At least she did the right thing at that point, and removed her kids. Now she's got a new mantra: instead of NIMBY ("Not in my back yard!"), it's NWMK — "Not with my kids!"

Alas, her realization has come a few decades too late to help the rest of the Dutch and their unfortunate children. Privileged progressive politicians have options that are unavailable to most ordinary parents. *Their* kids are stuck in multicultural hell.

Full story: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/12/first-nimby-now-nwmk.html>

America Bails Out A Thankless World

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 3 Dec 2010

...Much of this capitalist largesse provided to Europe's enlightened mixed economy is already returned. Barclays, for instance, repaid its U.S. government loans before the beginning of this year.

Nevertheless, no U.S. taxpayer should bypass such a delicious chance to gloat. What would they have done had the fruits of America's free-market economy — namely, dollars and plenty of them — not been available? Is there another country in the world with enough real wealth to have come to their rescue, while demanding the minimum in collateral?

We haven't heard any British, French or German accents expressing gratitude, though we'll keep listening.

Dallas Fed President Richard Fisher brags to the Washington Post that "we didn't lose a dime, and in fact we made money on every one" of the foreign deals. That the U.S. government won this particular hand of blackjack with trillions of dollars of the taxpayers' money is great to know. But what about next time?

Most important, let's not forget the root cause of this worst economic calamity since the Great Depression: the politicization of mortgage lending in the U.S. The truth is, no bank anywhere would have to be bailed out by American taxpayers if lenders were allowed to do their job on a sound financial footing, without politicians forcing them into the social welfare business.

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/555577/201012021902/America-Bails-Out-A-Thankless-World.htm>

Health Care: Socialism

Richmond Times-Dispatch editorial, 2 Dec 2010

Supporters of President Barack Obama go berserk when they hear talk-radio types call his administration socialist. Or at least his more centrist supporters. Those on his left flank also object, but on the grounds that he isn't socialist enough.

The latter should feel better now that the administration has announced rules dictating what constitutes a fair profit for insurance companies. Under regulations released by Health and Human Services, insurance companies must spend at least 80 cents of each premium dollar on medical care (85 cents for plans covering 51 people or more). Violators must give consumers a rebate.

Hugo Chavez would be pleased. For several years Venezuela's thug has imposed similar policies...

Continue: <http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/editorials/2010/dec/02/ed-soci02-ar-688806/>

The Dead Enders

Even after their defeat, Democrats keep insisting on a tax increase.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 1 Dec 2010

...Mr. Obama still seems under the spell of the dead enders led by soon-to-be-former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The magnitude of the looming tax increase ought to snap him out of this hypnosis. If the Democrats who still run

Capitol Hill for another month fail to act, tens of millions of American households will see their paychecks shrink immediately in the New Year.

Capital gains and dividend tax rates will climb to 20% and 39.6%, respectively, from 15%, and the top two income tax rates will climb to 38% and 41% (including deduction phaseouts), from 33% and 35%. The typical family with an income between \$40,000 and \$75,000 a year will pay as much as \$2,000 more in 2011, as the 10% tax rate bracket and the \$1,000 per child tax credit vanish.

This could have been resolved months ago, except that the White House and Congressional Democrats insist that some taxes must be raised. Mr. Obama wants the lower rates to expire on incomes of \$200,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for couples. Dozens of Democrats revolted against that in the campaign, so the latest gambit, courtesy of New York Senator Chuck Schumer, would raise that threshold to \$1 million.

Republicans shouldn't be suckered into raising taxes on anyone, especially not on small business job creators. The U.S. corporate tax rate of 39% (a combination of state average and federal rates) is already about 15 percentage points above the international average, and for the first time in a generation the personal rate of 41% would rise above the average of our overseas rivals. That's all before the 3.8% surtax on investment income arrives in 2013, courtesy of ObamaCare...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703326204575616843991237032.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

First, roll back Bam's spending hikes

by Stephen B. Meister, 3 Dec 2010

It doesn't matter how President Obama's Deficit Commission votes today on its co-chairmen's recommendations: That report shouldn't be the starting point for discussions on how to cut federal debt. The country will be far better off if Republicans stick to their guns, and insist that the first step be rolling federal spending back to 2008 levels.

The commission's plan *claims* to balance the budget (by 2035) by relying far more on spending cuts than tax increases—but it does so by assuming a phony "baseline": That is, it takes as its starting point a fantasy world where the Bush tax cuts lapse, but Washington still spends according to the programs passed by President Obama and the Democratic Congress over the last two years.

For the six decades pre-Obama, federal spending averaged 19.3 percent of gross domestic product while federal taxes were 17.6 percent of GDP. Under the co-chairmen's plan, we'd reach "balance" with taxes and spending at 21 percent of GDP. In other words, over 24 years we'd "cut" spending to a level about a fifth above the historical norm.

Any road to lower deficits means undoing some of the Democrats' 2009-10 spending spree—that's why the left has been whining about the co-chairmen's ideas. But the plan is still just another big-government solution—hiking taxes to preserve most of that spending...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/first_roll_back_bam_spending_hikes_j8bZAF6SYMycVSV1rNnUfK

Government by Executive Order

A new Labor Department plan shows the president still has wide power to implement an anti-business agenda.

by John Fund, 3 Dec 2010

Because President Obama will now have a tough time getting his liberal agenda through a more Republican Congress, many Democrats are urging him to ram it through using the executive branch's unilateral power.

John Podesta, head of the Center for American Progress, even issued a list of executive orders and rule-makings last month that Mr. Obama can use to "push the country to a better place." If the Department of Labor is representative, his advice is in sync with moves already under way...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703377504575650700370696396.html#articleTabs%3Dcomments>

The 20 Hottest Conservative Women in the New Media (2010 Edition)

by John Hawkins, June 2010

<http://rightwingnews.com/2010/06/the-20-hottest-conservative-women-in-the-new-media-2010-edition/>

Hot Men 2010: The Hottest Conservative Men — UPDATED

by Melissa Clouthier, 7 June 2010

The Bourgeoisie, Egalitarianism, and the Death of Culture

by Larrey Anderson, 2 Dec 2010

Egalitarianism is precipitating the dissolution of our culture and the self-destruction of the middle class. Three crucial points underlie our crisis of culture in the Western world:

1) There is no culture, at least as we know it in the West, without the bourgeoisie.

2) The notion of egalitarianism, which in the last few hundred years has come to dominate our thinking, is wreaking havoc on Western culture.

3) By *embracing* the concept of egalitarianism, the bourgeoisie is precipitating the dissolution of our culture *and* the self-destruction of the middle class.

The middle class has supplied most of the innovators in Western culture, science, and economics. The philosopher David Stove (1927-1994), who did the math, put the percentage of important philosophers, historians, artists, scientists, inventors, etc. who have emerged from the bourgeoisies at 97%...

A truly key essay: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/the_bourgeoisie_egalitarianism.html

EPA Fraud: Chevy Volt, Nissan Leaf Actually Get Only 23, 25 MPG

by Chris J Kobus, 30 Nov 2010

...The current "miles per gallon equivalent" is a fraud perpetrated to hide the true environmental cost of these cars. One gallon of gas does have about 33.5 kilowatt-hours of chemical potential (depending on blend, additives, etc). And about that much energy is needed to get the Leaf to go 99 miles, and the Volt to go 93. But here's where the fraud is perpetrated: the electricity for those vehicles is being generated by mostly coal power plants that are only about 33% efficient (minus transmission losses and losses from charging). Coal plants are off-site power generators (whereas car engines are on-board) and are totally ignored in the EPA rating.

Let me illustrate by example how this scheme works, and why it's such a fraud...

More: <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/epa-fraud-chevy-volt-nissan-leaf-actually-get-only-23-25-mpg/>

Airport security: let's profile Muslims

by Asra Q. Nomani, 29 Nov 2010

...I realize that in recent years, profiling has become a dirty word, synonymous with prejudice, racism, and bigotry. But while I believe our risk assessment should not end with religion, race and ethnicity, I believe that it should include these important elements, as part of a "triage" strategy that my debate partner, former CIA case officer Robert Baer, says airports and airliners already do.

Profiling doesn't have to be about discrimination, persecution, or harassment. As my debating partner, conservative columnist Deroy Murdock put it: "We are not arguing that the TSA should send anyone named Mohammad to be waterboarded somewhere between the first-class lounge and the Pizza Hut."

And more Americans, it seems, are willing to choose racial and religious profiling as one part of keeping our skies safe. At the beginning of the debate, 37 percent of the audience was for religious and racial profiling, while 33 percent were against and 30 percent were undecided. By the end of the debate, 49 percent of the audience was for religious and racial profiling, 40 percent were against and the rest were undecided, meaning that that the motion carried. Of course, this "victory" in a scholarly debate doesn't mean that the motion would necessarily win any broader popularity contests.

In the debate, I said, "Profile me. Profile my family," because, in my eyes, we in the Muslim community have failed to police ourselves...to me, profiling isn't about identity politics but about threat assessment...

More: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-11-29/airport-security-lets-profile-muslims/?cid=hp:mainpromo5>

Naked Truth

Are travelers happy to bare all in the name of homeland security?

by Jacob Sullum, 1 Dec 2010

...The TSA likes to [cite](#) a CBS poll conducted a few weeks ago that [found](#) 81 percent of Americans support the new scanners. But the pollsters [did not mention](#) that the scanners reveal passengers' naked bodies. Not surprisingly, polls that allude to this fact tend to find less support for the machines. A [Gallup poll](#) conducted a few days before Thanksgiving found that 42 percent of fliers object to the scanners, while a [Zogby poll](#) conducted around the same time found that 61 percent of likely voters oppose the TSA's new procedures.

As more scanners are installed and virtual strip searches become routine, opposition [may increase](#). Then again, Americans have a history, at airports and elsewhere, of getting used to invasions of privacy and infringements of liberty justified in the name of public safety. Requirements that once seemed objectionable—from surrendering your pocket tools and beverages to taking off your shoes, from mandatory seat belt laws to DUI roadblocks, from divulging your Social Security number to showing your papers, from letting police dogs sniff your stuff to signing a registry when you buy allergy medicine—have a way of becoming the new normal.

Other facts about the craziness: <http://reason.com/archives/2010/12/01/naked-truth>

Liberals and the Coming Redistribution of Fault

by J. Robert Smith, 2 Dec 2010

It's coming. Expect it. Liberals blaming everyone and everything but themselves for the nation's continuing economic crisis. And the mounting crisis of government. It's already begun, in fact, over at U.S. News and World Report, where Mortimer B. Zuckerman dusts off Oswald Spengler's *Decline of the West* to [mull](#) over the notion that the West—including the United States—may be reaching the end of the line.

Let's congratulate Zuckerman for pointing the way in the coming attempt to foist blame on Western civilization for what is, essentially, a failure of leftism. Let's acknowledge, though, that Zuckerman appreciates that the United States and Western nations can no longer sustain profligate government. But Zuckerman's angst is misplaced. American and Western civilizations deserve no general indictment.

Leftism deserves the indictment. The left's failure—here and abroad—may just prove stupendous, and that's something that American liberals and European socialists can't abide. Hence the coming compassionate redistribution of fault. If the United States and the West ever decline and are eclipsed, the root cause will be the failure of peoples to throw off and marginalize leftism—intellectually, culturally, and politically. Leftism is a cancer that needs to be excised; doing so is critical in restoring societal health, here and in Europe.

The immediate crisis isn't with Western civilization, however; it's with a deviant strain in the West called leftism. Leftism's fullest manifestation is in the state. Leftism is deviant in that it's a marked departure from the notions of natural rights, individualism, and liberty that germinated in the Renaissance, began flowering during the Enlightenment, and reached a fuller realization in American civilization with American independence. Leftism is a denigration of the highest virtues of western life...

Read on: http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/liberals_and_the_coming_redist.html

Al-Qaeda's Intelligence Service

by Robert Tracinski, 2 Dec 2010

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/12/02/al-qaedas_intelligence_service_108123.html

And the two items below were linked within Mr. Tracinski's piece.

NYT drops ClimateGate-era ethics qualms, publishes scores of WikiLeaks docs

by Lachlan Markay, 29 Nov 2010

The New York Times has taken an admirable stand on the potentially-criminal release of diplomatic cables by the online "whistleblowers" at WikiLeaks. Said one Times reporter: "The documents appear to have been acquired illegally and contain all manner of private information and statements that were never intended for the public eye, so they won't be posted here."

Oh, wait. That wasn't in reference to the WikiLeaks documents. That was the Times's former environmental blogger Andy Revkin discussing the so-called ClimateGate emails. The Times has, in fact, posted a number of American diplomatic documents obtained illegally by WikiLeaks, and containing massive amounts of sensitive diplomatic communications. And so we get another glimpse of the amazing depths of the Gray Lady's hypocrisy...

Continue: <http://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/lachlan-markay/2010/11/29/nyt-drops-climategate-era-ethics-qualms-publishes-scores-WikiLeaks-d>

Derrick Jensen: more wicked than Julian Assange

Not content with being an avowed opponent of the Western culture that nourishes and tolerates him, this guy is actually opposed to the very idea of civilization. He doesn't just want to go and live in a mud hut. He wants to make *everyone* go and live in mud huts. Here's an interview at the anti-American website Democracy Now:

http://www.democracynow.org/2010/11/26/author_and_activist_derrick_jensen_the

India's reform and growth have lifted all boats

by Jagdish Bhagwati, 30 Nov 2010

...The reform naysayers, among them the socialists in the ruling Congress party, reject the "miracle" that may soon see India overtake China's rate of growth. Instead they argue that gains have accrued to the rich, while inequality has increased. The most articulate critics include India's progressive novelists, chief among them Pankaj Mishra, who recently wrote of the need to defend the downtrodden against "the pitiless exploitations of the new business-minded India."

Of course, in a country with more poor people than anywhere else on earth, desperate poverty remains a fact of life. But the evidence is fairly clear now, despite the deterioration in governance symbolised by the current corruption allegations over the sale of mobile phone licences in 2008, that the growth which followed India's liberal reforms actually pulled as many as 200m out of poverty. Had the reforms started a quarter-century earlier, more would have followed. These improvements are also shared by nearly all underprivileged groups, a fact now documented in a series of studies...

...So while the picture on Indian inequality is complex, a straight-line rise certainly cannot be asserted. But it is the finding on poverty that is more striking. Its implication is that being poor is now seen by India's underprivileged as a removable condition. India is witnessing what I have called a revolution of perceived possibilities...

... Mr Kumar's popularity in an impoverished region suggests that his fellow politicians can now be braver. They should look to augment reforms, not reverse them as the misguided progressives urge. This would mean a new push to expand trade liberalisation further in all sectors of the economy. Reforms could also further free up India's labour market, accelerate privatisation, and open up its retail sector to investment from the rest of the world. All these can produce high economic returns, alongside improvements for the poor...

More: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e9f0d3b8-fcba-11df-bfdd-00144feab49a.html#axzz16yQRMbhQ>

Obama to Voters: Drop Dead

by Peter Ferrara, 1 Dec 2010

...While Obama talks the rhetoric of compromise and dialogue, he has not backed off on a single issue. Most troubling is his stubborn, untutored, ideological extremist commitment to across the board increases in tax rates for virtually all major federal taxes for the nation's employers and investors, while the economy has still not strongly emerged from the recession.

The kind of logic supporting this policy is demonstrated on national television by Keith Boykin, who repeatedly tells CNBC audiences that tax rate cuts caused the financial crisis. Recently on that network, Boykin actually cited the 1970s as an era of superior economic performance. That's not even Keynesian economics, as even Keynes recognized that lower tax rates promote the economy, and the stagflation of the 1970s actually disproved Keynesian economics. That is literally Marxist economics, Groucho, not Karl, because **only a clown** could cite the 1970s as an era of superior economic performance.

Meanwhile, Congressional Democrats from California's Brad Sherman to New York's Chuck Schumer are calling for currency protectionism and trade war with China. They are so anxious in this economically vulnerable time to make the exact same mistakes that caused the Depression...

Read it all: <http://spectator.org/archives/2010/12/01/obama-to-voters-drop-dead>

10 Wikileaks Questions for Obama

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 1 Dec 2010

...The appropriate response is to destroy WikiLeaks as an enemy of liberty and exact a high price from its collaborators. But all we get is Jimmy Carter redux — a lack of urgency and a need to be seen as obeying international law. In our opinion, at least 10 questions demand a response...

Fair and brutal: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=555314&p=1>

Deactivating cell phones while driving is pointless

by Alex Berezow, 30 Nov 2010

If you thought the TSA body scans and sensual pat downs went too far, then you will be displeased to learn that the federal government is now considering using technology that will deactivate your cell phone while you are in a moving vehicle. This is in response to the fact that, according to Transportation Secretary Raymond LaHood, 5,500 people were killed last year due to distracted driving...

...The knee-jerk response to ban anything that poses merely a minor threat is the poster child of well-intentioned but misguided policies. Interestingly, policies attempting to achieve harmonious highways have already been put into effect with counterproductive results. A recent study showed that three of four states which enacted texting-while-driving bans actually saw an increase in the number of car accidents, presumably because drivers placed their phones in their laps to avoid detection by the police. The point is that people will find a way to circumvent the law. Blocking Big Brother? Rest assured there will be an app for that.

What the feds do not seem to understand is that the deactivation of cell phones fails to address the underlying problem, which is distracted driving. Cell phones are not the only things that distract drivers. Food, GPS, radios, portable DVD players, reading, lighting cigarettes, unruly children, shaving, putting on makeup, and daydreaming (or some combination thereof) can all cause traffic accidents. Therefore, instead of looking to ban items, the proper policy should be to ban behavior. Instead of creating a growing list of vehicular contraband, a law banning distracted driving would likely be more effective and simpler to implement. After all, distracted drivers are easy enough to identify: They are the ones with their left turn signal flashing, going 45 in the fast lane...

Read the rest: <http://dailycaller.com/2010/11/30/deactivating-cell-phones-while-driving-is-pointless/>

End the Lame-Duck Sessions

by David Harsanyi, 1 Dec 2010

...And lame-duck sessions happen to induce two destructive political habits: avoidance and action.

Avoidance. Remember the endlessly discussed "bipartisan deficit commission"? Practically speaking, it will probably amount to little. Politically speaking, it rigged the election to allow candidates from both parties (Bennet included) to defer their answers on one of the most serious issues of the day. Hey, they were eagerly awaiting the commission's recommendations on the issue, which would arrive, not surprisingly, during the lame-duck session.

But action is far worse. You could argue that Congress has a responsibility to deal with impending issues—unemployment benefits extensions or tax hikes, for instance. But should "repudiated" officials be involved in making long-lasting decisions for all of us?

...So does it make any sense to allow rejected senators—such as Robert Bennett, Blanche Lincoln and Arlen Specter—to help kill earmark reform in the Senate this week, seeing as none of them will experience the consequences of voting to preserve a corrupted process?...

More: <http://www.creators.com/opinion/david-harsanyi/end-the-lame-duck-sessions-10-12-01.html>

Politics As Warfare

by John Hinderaker, 30 Nov 2010 (8:23pm)

This morning three Democratic Party strategists, Ed Kilgore, James Vega and J.P. Green, sent out a "strategy memo" that was titled, rather clumsily: "Beyond 'Sabotage'—The Central Issue About the Growing Political Extremism of the Republican Party Is That It's Undermining Fundamental American Standards of Ethical Political Conduct and Behavior." That's quite a charge; what evidence do the authors offer in support of it?...

The Dems are both pot and kettle: <http://powerlineblog.com/archives/2010/11/027804.php?format=print>

Comply With Me

by Iowahawk, 15 Nov 2010

YouTube has disabled the sound, so just view it right on his website. You may not see the entire screen of the video, but at least you'll hear the music. It's all about copyright, just like Caroline Glick's *We Con the World* last June.

Video: <http://iowahawk.typepad.com/iowahawk/2010/11/comply-with-me-the-video.html>

Lyrics: <http://iowahawk.typepad.com/iowahawk/2010/11/comply-with-me.html>

White House in talks with elusive Taliban leader

by Iowahawk, 24 Nov 2010

<http://iowahawk.typepad.com/iowahawk/2010/11/white-house-in-talks-with-elusive-taliban-leader.html>

Support Our Troops

They're still fighting for us.

Soldiers' Angels

Wounded Warrior Project

Fisher House: help military families

Disabled American Veterans

Our Military

Be sure to read these superb pieces:

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.