

How the Smartest President Ever becomes a one-term president

by Peter Wehner, 29 Apr 2011

...In Pennsylvania—a state Obama carried by double digits not quite two-and-a-half years ago—the president's approval rating is down to 42 percent. Obama will not win reelection if he loses Pennsylvania.

What is happening is a series of interrelated developments. Many of the objective economic conditions of the country are getting worse. The country's mood is darkening. And support for the president, and especially his policies, is dropping to dangerously low levels.

The president can hold as many town halls as he wants. He can attack Republicans to his heart's content. He may be, as his supporters insist, hyper-rational, the very model of the complex, nuanced thinker, perhaps even “**the smartest guy ever to become president.**” He can be charming on *Oprah*. He can do lots of things. But one thing he cannot do is escape the consequences of his actions...

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2011/04/28/how-smartest-president-ever-becomes-one-term-president/>

Don't let debt limit get in the way of the party

by Mark Steyn, 30 Apr 2011

...I tried up above to come up with a real-world comparison for the debt ceiling — imagine you've got a credit card limit of 10K, etc. — but it's harder to do that with the Fed's policy: Imagine your left hand issues an IOU to your right hand in return for an email with a large number on it ... oh, never mind, it'll only make your head hurt.

"Quantitative easing" is extremely quantitative if not terribly easing, so raising the debt ceiling would enable us to issue more debt for us to buy from ourselves. You can see why Secretary Geithner thinks that's a no-brainer.

While Jonah Goldberg was asking why have a debt limit at all, Michael Kinsley took it to the next stage: "If the national debt doesn't matter, why have taxes at all?" Particularly when you no longer have to "print" money, you can just quantitatively ease yourself into it. Once we raise the old debt ceiling, we'll be pretty much at the point where the U.S. government is spending four trillion but only taking in two trillion: For every dollar we raise in taxes, we spend two.

No surprise there: The "poorest" half of the population pay no federal income tax. They're not exactly poor as the term would be understood in almost any other country, but in federal revenue terms they're dependents, so in order to fund government services for the wealthiest "poor" people on the planet we borrow money from a nation of subsistence peasants where pigs are such prized possessions they sleep in the house.

But, if you can spend four trillion of which two trillion is borrowed, why not borrow three and make even more Americans dependent? Hell, why not borrow the whole lot? After all, the sums we're borrowing right now — \$188 million every hour of every day — are unprecedented.

Wouldn't it be easier if we just made them even more unprecedented? That way we could have a federal budget of six trillion, of which, say, five trillion is raised by issuing Treasury bonds for the Federal Reserve to buy. That would stimulate the economy by creating 17 jobs for any remaining Americans who still feel the need to leave the house every morning...

Read it all: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=570635&p=1>

Black Chamber of Commerce CEO blasts "Marxist," "brownshirt" Obama

Laura Ingraham Show, 29 Apr 2011

In an explosive interview, Harry Alford, president and CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, slammed Obama's anti-business administration.

Listen: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecdf4RSVe1Y&feature=player_embedded

Professor's 'F--k You, Republicans' E-Mail Sparks Uproar

Greta Van Susteren talks to student Natalie Ginty, 27 Apr 2011

<http://www.foxnews.com/on-air/on-the-record/transcript/professor039s-039f-k-you-republicans039-e-mail-sparks-uproar?intcmp=obnetwork>

(Hat tip: Todd S.)

Obama and most of his cabinet are on record saying Yes to this question. But now that prices have doubled since the Obamessiah and his thugs took office, they're cynically trying to deflect blame from themselves (where the blame belongs) by attacking the companies who provide the oil.

Are sky-high gas prices good?

by *Victor Davis Hanson*, 28 Apr 2011

http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/265809/are-sky-high-gas-prices-good-victor-davis-hanson?sms_ss=twitter&at_xt=4db953fbcdec37,0

Birth certificate: Where are the indignant questions to Obama?

by *Andrew C. McCarthy*, 28 Apr 2011

...If George W. Bush, Sarah Palin, or even a Republican the media likes (say, John McCain) had taken purposeful steps to block examination of so basic a document, the media would surely have turned such obstinacy into a scandal. The public might not have leapt to extravagant conclusions about whether they'd really been born in Kenya, or on Mars, or wherever. But they'd have thought it was intolerably strange that campaigns were retaining lawyers and amassing affidavits rather than just producing a seemingly innocuous, readily producible document. The story would never have been about the people asking for the birth certificate; it would have been about the candidate who was moving heaven and earth to prevent people from seeing it.

And let's not ignore that Obama did move heaven and earth. This is not just a matter of him thumbing his nose at a fringe collection of nutty "birthers." There have been several court cases. It is flat out bizarre that one should have to be sued to compel conformance with a routine that millions of Americans comply with every day. Many of these court cases, if not all, could have been short-circuited (indeed, many of the later ones would not have been filed at all) if Obama had just produced the birth certificate. Instead, he not only refused to produce it; he and his campaign paid thousands of dollars in legal fees (in some places it is reported to be well over a million dollars) to fight the lawsuits — and Obama's lawyers even threatened to seek disciplinary sanctions against lawyers for daring to file the lawsuits. Since Obama has been president, moreover, not just the time of courts and private lawyers has been tied up; government lawyers have had to spend their time — on the public's dime — on this nonsense...

Other important aspects:

<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/265880/birth-certificate-where-are-indignant-questions-obama-andrew-c-mccarthy>

Democrats should worry about the GOP Field

by *Jay Cost*, 29 Apr 2011

The conventional wisdom is that the emerging Republican field for 2012 is a very weak one. However, like so much else in the topsy-turvy age of Obama, the conventional wisdom on this one is completely upside down...

1. The GOP has several serious candidates... 2. An Obama-Clinton type of battle is unlikely... 3. A "fringe" nominee is unlikely...

4. An "enthusiasm gap" should not be a problem. Suppose that the GOP does nominate another candidate in line with the Bush-Dole-Bush-McCain tradition. Won't enthusiasm be a trouble spot for the party base in 2012? Probably not. The conservative base's intense dissatisfaction with the Obama tenure should be more than enough to make up for the fact that the party is not in love with the nominee (and it is possible, by the way, that the party could fall in love with somebody). On top of that, there are enough very serious figures out there who make the base swoon — perfect for the vice presidential nomination. Marco Rubio is the first that comes to mind. Team the junior senator from Florida up with one of those serious would-be presidential nominees, set that ticket against Obama-Biden next year, and you'll have a great recipe for the most enthusiastic GOP base in decades...

More details: http://www.weeklystandard.com/blogs/morning-jay-gop-looks-strong_558450.html

Evil union professors teach violence

by *PushBackNow*, 27 Apr 2011

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1U7SfNjXdB0>

This is the essence of Islam. The rape and torture of non-Muslims like Lara Logan are required by the words of Muhammad (Hell be upon him), as written in the so-called "holy" Koran.

CBS reporter recounts a 'merciless' assault

by Brian Stelter, 28 Apr 2011

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/29/business/media/29logan.html?_r=2

This 4200-word analysis of all aspects of the alliance reveals some surprising and important facts.

The Ultimate Ally

The "realists" are wrong: America needs Israel now more than ever.

by Michael Oren, 25 Apr 2011 (May-June issue)

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/25/the_ultimate_ally?page=0,5

Daniels for President?

It's a hard slog to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, but many Republicans hope he'll hit the trail.

by Katrina Trinko, 27 Apr 2011

...The reason for that continued interest may be that, as crowded as the field of possible GOP contenders is, there's no Daniels duplicate in the mix. With voters likely to remain focused on the national budget and debt as 2012 rolls around, Daniels's budget-wonk reputation and his past as an OMB director (under George W. Bush) give him credibility. He can also point to an enthusiastic recommendation from House Budget Committee chairman Paul Ryan, who told *The Weekly Standard* last year that Daniels "would be a great president," and that Daniels understood the principles behind Ryan's famed Roadmap and the necessity of implementing it.

"He's the thinking man's candidate," says Chocola. "I think he will be viewed as kind of the moderate in the race. That will be where the media and maybe even his own campaign would try to position him, but his service has been relatively conservative."

A number of grassroots groups have emerged urging Daniels to run. Those groups include Switch2Mitch, Americans for Mitch, and Students for Daniels, a band of young adults who have even run a few commercials in support of a Daniels candidacy. There is also the overall discontent with the existing crop of GOP candidates: Only 43 percent of Republicans are satisfied with the current field, according to a recent *Washington Post*/ABC News poll, making it clear that there's ample room for newcomers. Of course, Daniels would still face plenty of obstacles...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/265671/daniels-president-katrina-trinko>

Obamaflation arrives

by Jeffrey Lord 26 Apr 2011

...You can get away with a lot of things as president and blame them on other people. For Obama it's George Bush or now the oil companies or also now those evil corporations or... well... yada yada yada. But when average Americans begin to understand that Obamanomics is directly responsible for a 28 cent rise in the price of milk (with over a year and a half to go to the 2012 elections), there is going to be political hell to pay. And the buck, so to speak, stops, as it always does, with the president of the United States. And voters here in Pennsylvania are making exactly that connection between Obama and the cost of their milk and their gas...

...What's particularly startling—not to mention ominously telling for Obama—is that Santorum is a former Senator from Pennsylvania, a well-known commodity here, who lost his last re-election race in 2006 (to Bob Casey) by 18 points! Now he trails Obama in the same state—by just 2 points!...

...And whatever else is going on in the Obama White House, you can be sure there is a cluster of increasingly panicked politicians gathering around a president whose record thus far indicates he would rather go down with a ship full of bad economists—read liberals—than do anything that violates left-wing economic orthodoxy and his headlong drive to re-create America into some sort of Europeanized welfare state. A place where all Americans are dependent on government in the name of a mythical "fairness"—and hence the Democrats' political organization—rather than their own creativity, individual initiative, innovation and, dare we say it, imagination and willingness to risk.

As with Jimmy Carter's bleak ending in a politically suicidal witches' brew of inflation, high unemployment and

soaring interest rates, defiant righteousness appears to be preferable for Obama and company in facing the spreading economic conflagration already showing up in supermarkets across the country...

More: <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/04/26/obamaflation-arrives>

Unions on the Ropes

Public employees are fighting back, but they seem almost sure to lose.

by Jack Kelly, 24 Apr 2011

Labor unions fight on in Wisconsin, as the Germans did during the bitter winter of 1944-1945. But the war is lost.

To see how grim is the outlook for public employee unions, let's go to Detroit, where Mayor Dave Bing proposed Tuesday a budget which would cut contributions to public employee health plans by 20 percent and would skip a payment to city pension funds.

"If we do nothing, by 2015 fringe benefits are on pace to consume half of our entire general fund revenue," Mr. Bing said. "We cannot afford benefit packages so rich, nor can we afford to protect the interests of 30,000 people at the expense of 700,000." Mayor Bing is a Democrat in a heavily Democratic city. Yet he has gone "all Scott Walker" on public employee unions...

Continue: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11114/1141260-373-0.stm>

"The Republican Threat to Voting"

New York Times editorial, 27 Apr 2011

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/27/opinion/27wed1.html?_r=2

The *Times* gets out its Stradivarius once again, to play the classic tunes of woe and pity for people who don't have a photo I.D., which would be required under many states' new laws designed to prevent voter fraud.

Before the 1980s, of course, relatively few people in the world had such I.D.'s. But in 2011, it is nearly impossible to lead any kind of active, involved life in America *without* acquiring a photo I.D.—sometimes several of them.

The Gray Lady's editors claim that "Anyone who has stood on the long lines at a motor vehicle office knows that it isn't easy to get such documents. For working people, it could mean giving up a day's wages." And they bemoan the fact that "Before they can register, Kansans will have to produce a proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate. Tough luck if you don't happen to have one in your pocket when you're at the county fair and you pass the voter registration booth."

For the *New York Times* to complain about the inefficiency of government is the height of hypocrisy. And it's not a question of happening to have a birth certificate in your pocket when a convenient voter-registration opportunity presents itself to you on a silver platter. The essential truth is this: if you can't be bothered to acquire a valid photo I.D. in today's America, you are either (a) an illegal immigrant, or (b) too **feckless** to be considered competent to vote.

To its credit, though, the *Times* does hit the mark on one point: the overwhelming majority of feckless Americans are Democrats.

—Don John

Demolishing the intellectual dishonesty of "a woman's right to choose"—to kill her baby.

The canary in the mineshaft: Kermit Gosnell and the abortion industry

The first in a series examines the climate of callous disregard that made Gosnell's attitude not only possible, but the logical consequence of our political and culture posture.

by Timothy Dalrymple, 26 Apr 2011

<http://www.patheos.com/Resources/Additional-Resources/Canary-in-the-Mineshaft-Timothy-Dalrymple-04-26-2011.html>

Obama running on empty

Leftist policies pump up America's dependence on foreign oil.

Washington Times editorial, 26 Apr 2011

...The White House has formed an interagency working group to root out the "traders and speculators" whom he says are responsible for America's gasoline woes. This type of populist blame-game is typical of the Obama administration's approach to policy challenges, and diverts attention from the true proximate causes of the oil spike, such as the crises in the Middle East.

If prices are being manipulated, perhaps Mr. Obama should take it up with the OPEC potentates who are the most direct beneficiaries. Mr. Obama also said he wants to end what he says is a \$4 billion annual taxpayer subsidy to oil and gas companies, though how removing a subsidy will lower gasoline prices has yet to be explained.

Mr. Obama's scapegoat safari notwithstanding, the current energy crisis underscores the general failure of administration energy policies. The promised brave new world of green technologies is slow in coming, and the government is quickly putting reliable domestic fossil fuels further out of reach. Even as vast new energy reserves are being discovered, such as the Saudi-topping Bakken formation in North Dakota, domestic production is declining. Mr. Obama has banned new domestic offshore drilling while subsidizing it in Brazil. This week, Shell Oil Company announced that it is abandoning Arctic Ocean drilling plans because the Environmental Protection Agency is blocking key permits, sacrificing 27 billion barrels of oil. Last month, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) projected a reduction in total U.S. crude oil production of 110,000 barrels per day in 2011 and a further 130,000 barrels per day in 2012. Given the current profitability of oil production, the blame can only rest with the White House...

More: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/apr/26/obama-running-on-empty-713559180/>

Government creates poverty

by John Stossel, 27 Apr 2011

The U.S. government has "helped" no group more than it has "helped" the American Indians. It stuns me when President Obama appears before Indian groups and says things like, "Few have been ignored by Washington for as long as Native Americans."

Ignored? Are you kidding me? They should be so lucky. The government has made most Indian tribes wards of the state. Government manages their land, provides their health care, and pays for housing and child care. Twenty different departments and agencies have special "native American" programs. The result? Indians have the highest poverty rate, nearly 25 percent, and the lowest life expectancy of any group in America. Sixty-six percent are born to single mothers...

More: <http://patriotpost.us/opinion/john-stossel/2011/04/27/government-creates-poverty/>

Race and Economics

by Thomas Sowell, 26 Apr 2011

Walter Williams fans are in for a treat—and people who are not Walter Williams fans are in for a shock—when they read his latest book, *Race and Economics*. It is a demolition derby on paper, as Professor Williams destroys one after another of the popular fallacies about the role of race in the American economy...

More: <http://www.dailymail.com/Opinion/tsowell/201104260887>

'Leading from behind' could doom O

by John Podhoretz, 26 Apr 2011

...A nation's declining power isn't like the moon's effect on the tide, caused by forces beyond our control. It is the result of actions, behaviors, ideas. If the White House truly believes the authority of the United States has suffered a decline, then its paramount responsibility is to *reverse* that decline.

Even for those who don't care about foreign policy, it should make little sense for the planet's most powerful nation to allow its position in the world to erode.

That erosion isn't bad news because it's good fun to be the Big Man on the World Campus. It's bad news because the continued erosion of America's influence will inexorably lead to military, strategic and economic challenges for the United States that will make the current geopolitical chessboard look like a game of Candyland.

And yet one gets the distinct sense not that Obama has been forced into the position of "leading from behind" by the circumstances in which he finds himself, but rather that he *wants* to "lead from behind."...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/leading_from_behind_could_doom_yrOicXetgI0hSYkFmIhq4J

Can you handle the truth?

by Margaret Wentz, 26 Apr 2011

Here's some news you may not have heard: One year after the worst oil spill in history, the Gulf of Mexico is nearly back to normal.

That's right: Armageddon didn't happen. Instead of terrible harm to the biosphere, the Deepwater Horizon spill has caused only mild problems. In fact, because of the fishing bans imposed after the spill, there are more fish than ever. Shark and mackerel populations have exploded. "Red snapper are unbelievable right now," one fisherman said. "You could put a rock on the end a string and they'd bite it."

The economy is chugging along, too. The fear was that livelihoods and even entire communities were finished. But business is looking up—partly because of all the lawyers who flooded in to work on spill claims.

Yet, despite the good news, the coverage of the blowout's anniversary last week was almost unrelievedly grim. Not one story I read bothered to chronicle the Gulf's astonishing recovery. The lone exception was a brave CBC reporter who dared to say that things were looking pretty good...

Read on: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/opinion/can-you-handle-the-truth/article1998171/>

NLRB meddling pure union payoff

by Jay Ambrose, 25 Apr 2011

The Boeing Co., an innovator in the rebuilding of a recession-ravaged America, found a way to proceed efficiently on a project that would help South Carolina with 1,000 employees already hired, but no.

The National Labor Relations Board has decided that fair play and an improved economy must not get in the way of union wishes. The independent agency, nowadays in the grip of pro-labor Democrats, has filed a complaint to make Boeing desert South Carolina and build the planned 787 Dreamliner passenger planes in the state of Washington...

...It contends Boeing is undermining the right of unions to strike by moving away from striking unions, an argument that seems to have more to do with ideology than law.

Boeing's lawyers are outraged, one of them telling the *New York Times* this move is absolute nonsense, but absolute nonsense has been getting its way quite a bit in this country lately. If it does this time around, it's thought it could be a bad sign for South Carolina and the other right-to-work states that think individual rights should supersede collectivist power plays...

More: <http://detnews.com/article/20110425/OPINION01/104250306/1008/opinion01/NLRB-meddling-pure-union-payoff>

How Health Reform Punishes Work

The subsidies to buyers of 'qualifying' insurance policies will induce sharp reductions in the supply of labor.

by Daniel P. Kessler, 25 Apr 2011

Supporters of ObamaCare acknowledge it will have some unintended consequences. Yet surprisingly little attention has been focused on the law's most problematic provision: government subsidies to help individuals and families purchase health insurance... For example, a family of four headed by a 55-year-old earning \$31,389 in 2014 dollars (134% of the federal poverty line) in a high-cost area will get a subsidy of \$22,740. This will cover 96% of an insurance policy that the Kaiser Family Foundation predicts will cost \$23,700. A similar family earning \$93,699 (400% of poverty) gets a subsidy of \$14,799. But a family earning \$1 more—\$93,700—gets no subsidy.

Economists call large, discontinuous changes in program benefits like this "notches."... Notches also lead to unfairness. The principle that families of the same size with similar incomes should be treated similarly by tax law and transfer programs has deep philosophical roots and appeals to basic notions of equity. The notch turns this principle on its head. Next-door neighbors with virtually identical circumstances could receive very different levels of government assistance, depending on which side of the notch they happen to fall. This feature will justifiably increase public cynicism about the law and government in general.

Fixing the notch is not so easy. To phase out the subsidy smoothly for families with incomes of 134% to 400% of poverty, the law would have to take away \$22,700 in subsidies as a family's income rose to \$93,700 from \$31,389. In other words, for every dollar earned in this income range, a family's subsidy would have to decline by 36 cents. On top of

25% federal income taxes, 5% state income taxes, and 15% Social Security taxes, this implies a reward to work of less than 20 cents on the dollar—in economists' language, an implicit marginal tax rate of over 80%. Although economists may differ on the effect of taxes on work effort, it is hard to fathom how anyone could argue that this will not reduce economic activity...

More: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704628404576265692304582936.html>

Confronting the Canadian kangaroo courts

by Baron Bodissey, 24 Apr 2011

Ezra Levant, as you may recall, was dragged through a lengthy "trial" before the Alberta "Human Rights Commission" for the crime of publishing the Danish Mootons in *Maclean's* magazine. He eventually beat the rap, but not before spending an inordinate amount of money in legal fees.

Mr. Levant is prominently featured on SUN TV, a new TV channel in Toronto, and plans to use his new platform to speak out on behalf of freedom of expression and against the growing movement to suppress politically incorrect speech in Canada and elsewhere. Many thanks to **Vlad Tepes** for YouTubing this video:

Ezra on the Cartoons: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=D_QxNvM4CLI

America's ever-expanding welfare empire

by Peter Ferrara, 22 Apr 2011

A fundamental misconception about America's welfare state misleads millions of voters to reflexively support ever bigger and more generous government. William Voegeli fingers the attitude in his book, *Never Enough: America's Limitless Welfare State*: "no matter how large the welfare state, liberal politicians and writers have accused it of being shamefully small" and "contemptibly austere."

Barbara Ehrenreich expresses the attitude in her book, *Nickled and Dimed*: "guilt doesn't go anywhere near far enough; the appropriate emotion is shame" regarding the stingy miserliness of America's welfare state. In light of the current budget debate, with House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan putting fundamental entitlement reform on the table, this misconception especially needs to be corrected.

America's welfare state is not a principality. It is a vast empire bigger than the entire budgets of almost every other country in the world...

...By 2008, Robert Rector of Heritage reports that total welfare spending already amounted to \$16,800 per person in poverty, 4 times as much as the Census Bureau estimated was necessary to bring all of the poor up to the poverty level, eliminating all poverty in America. That would be \$50,400 per poor family of three... Even in 2005, government spending on these means tested welfare programs was 25% more than was spent on national defense, and that was at the height of the wars in the Middle East...

...The War on Poverty famously began in 1965. From 1965 to 2008, the total spent only on means tested welfare for the poor in 2008 dollars has been nearly \$16 trillion, according to the Heritage Foundation. Rector reports that has been more than all spending on all military conflicts from the American Revolution to today, in 2008 dollars.

What have we gotten for all of that spending? Poverty fell sharply after the Depression, before the War on Poverty, declining from 32% in 1950 to 22.4% in 1959 to 12.1% in 1969, soon after the War on Poverty programs became effective. Progress against poverty as measured by the poverty rate then abruptly stopped.

Ryan's budget only slows the growth of this welfare/entitlement empire. All of those commentators weeping, wailing and gnashing their teeth over Ryan's budget are not living in the real world.

More facts and details: <http://blogs.forbes.com/peterferrara/2011/04/22/americas-ever-expanding-welfare-empire/>

Obama out of depth in troubled times

by Jennifer Rubin, 25 Apr 2011

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/right-turn/post/obama-out-of-depth-in-troubled-times/2011/03/29/AFzUIadE_blog.html

Doomsday on debt?

by Charles Gasparino, 25 Apr 2011

...In recent weeks, firms like megabank JPMorgan have been scrambling to issue reports predicting apocalypse unless Congress allows the country to borrow ourselves into oblivion. Somehow, we're supposed to see unbridled spending as the responsible course. In fact, raising the debt cap to borrow new money to pay off old debt without making other cuts is exactly what led Greece, Portugal and maybe soon Spain and Italy into financial meltdown—as it did to New York City in the 1970s.

Yet reports like the House of Morgan's ominously titled "The Domino Effect of a US Treasury Technical Default" are being taken seriously among financial analysts and in the financial media—without a necessary discussion of the big banks' huge vested interest in the Washington status quo...

...The free money the Federal Reserve has printed and the massive government spending under Obama have been very, very good to Wall Street. The Fed's policy of printing money and keeping interest rates at rock bottom give the banks access to borrow cheaply to support their operations, even if they don't lend that cash to Main Street. And Wall Street firms are making real money underwriting bonds, thanks to the stimulus, not to mention the various "green" spending programs that are at the heart of Obamanomics.

Notice that Wall Street is telling us much more about the dangers of not raising the debt ceiling than it is about how two-plus years of super-low interest rates are finally starting to fuel inflation, as seen in the recent spike in commodity prices. Wall Street surely will give us more doomsday talk as the debt-ceiling debate rages on, but consider the source. After all, some of these same guys not long ago were making huge bets that housing prices would keep rising forever.

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/doomsday_on_debt_r9X8R66FsfvFQPytZKsPIJ

Cult of Three Cups of Tea should have known better

by Debra Saunders, 24 Apr 2011

The first tip-off that Greg Mortenson's memoir *Three Cups of Tea* has some credibility issues comes in the book's introduction. Co-author David Oliver Relin writes that as Mortenson is flying over Pakistan, the helicopter pilot marvels to Mortenson, "I've been flying in northern Pakistan for 40 years. How is it you know the terrain better than me?"

The pilot also confides, "Flying with President Musharraf, I've become acquainted with many world leaders, many outstanding gentlemen and ladies. But I think Greg Mortenson is the most remarkable person I've ever met."

People don't talk like that. Books don't lead with that level of self-aggrandizement. Unless they want to induct you into a cult...

Read on:

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

His top picks for the Republican nomination: Romney, Pawlenty, Daniels, and Barbour.

The Racing Form, 2012

by Charles Krauthammer, 21 Apr 2011

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-racing-form-2012/2011/04/21/AFT4TxKE_story.html

The Donald: doing the job the media won't do

by Larry Elder, 21 Apr 2011

...No, the real story about Trump isn't Trump. It's the pass given Obama by the media. Whether it's regarding Obama's birthplace, whether Obama personally heard Wright's racist and anti-Semitic sermons, or whether unrepentant terrorist Bill Ayers wrote Obama's first book, Obama manages to avoid careful examination from the adoring media. Trump would not be relevant—if the media had been.

More: <http://www.larryelder.com/f/articles;jsessionid=A1712BF4D31F58E54F138202710E7F32>

McDonald's attack started over gender, not race

by Rosslyn Smith, 23 Apr 2011

There is more to [this story](#) than what's apparent on the video, although there is clue in the attackers yanking a

wig off the victim's head. That's because while the media's description of the victim as a 22 year old woman is politically correct it is also anatomically inaccurate. The victim is **transgendered** and chose to use the ladies room. That facility was already in use by a girl who evidently had not learned in school that gender is merely a social construct.

What has to be giving local politicians and prosecutors heartburn is that just recently the Maryland legislature voted down a controversial bill that would have made it legal for the transgendered to decide which public restrooms they want to use. Thus we have the gay lesbian and transgendered community agitating for prosecution as a hate crime even as prosecutors wonder how they will find a local jury who won't think that a 22 year old man who entered a bathroom occupied by a 14 year old girl wasn't out of line to begin with.

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/04/mcdonalds_attack_started_over.html

The Europeanization of America

by Baron Bodissey, 23 Apr 2011

...So it seems the Obama administration — oops, I mean the Center for American Progress — has invited over these fine Progressives to help them plan the American version of full state socialism.

As happened in Britain, this will be aided by an official government policy that promotes Multiculturalism and opposes "hate speech," "intolerance," "bigotry," and "Islamophobia." Like the British establishment, its American counterpart is enlisting Muslim Brotherhood front groups to help implement this agenda.

Also like the British, American Progressives intend to accomplish these ambitious projects quietly, without any particular notice in the newspapers or on TV, and without the need for Congress to pass many new laws. It simply requires the right administrative decisions, the assistance of well-funded private progressive organizations, and a few carefully choreographed judicial decisions by hand-picked judges.

Remember: the Labour Party brought more than two million Muslim immigrants into Britain over the course of a decade without causing a public stir, and with the acknowledged purpose of nailing down a permanent electoral base for Labour among the imported foreigners.

Remember: Barack Hussein Obama has already indicated his intention to bring thousands of additional Muslim immigrants into the USA every year. He is also intent on pushing through some form of amnesty for the illegals, and he may well achieve his goal, with the help of useful idiots in the Republican Party.

So don't think it can't happen here. It *can* happen here. It *is* happening here. It's been going on for a long time, but the Light-Bringer is really speeding things up...

More: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/04/europeanization-of-america.html#more>

Mr. Dickey is a leftist who opposed the war in Iraq. But here, he exposes the fecklessness of current U.S. policy.

Obama's Middle East Head Spin

by Christopher Dickey and John Barry, 22 Apr 2011

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2011-04-22/obamas-middle-east-head-spin-his-missing-strategy-on-syria-libya-more/?cid=hp:mainpromo2#>

The Disappearing Dollar

by Mark Steyn, 23 Apr 2011

...The president's plan is to balance the budget by climbing into his Little Orphan Obammie costume and singing: "The sun'll come out tomorrow / Bet your bottom dollar that tomorrow there'll be sun." We've already bet our bottom dollar and it's looking like total eclipse. But Obammie figures if we can only bet Daddy Warbucks's bottom dollar, the sun will shine. The "rich" don't have enough money to plug the gap: As a general principle, whatever the tax rates, the Treasury can never take in more than about 19 percent. Since Obama took office, the government's spent on average 24.4 percent of GDP. That five-point gap cannot be closed, and it's the difference between the possibility of a future and the certainty of utter ruin. Hence, outlook "negative."

By the way, if you were borrowing (as the United States government does) 188 million dollars every hour, would your bank be reassured by a 12-year plan?

That's 2023. Go back 12 years. That's 1999. Which, if any, politicians in that year correctly identified the prevailing conditions in the America of 2011? Most of our problems arise from the political class's blithe assumptions about the future. European welfare systems assumed a mid-20th-century fertility rate to sustain them. They failed to foresee that

welfare would become a substitute for family and that Continentals would simply cease breeding. Bismarckian-Rooseveltian pension plans assumed you'd be living off them for the last couple of years of your life. Instead, citizens of developed nations expect to spend the final third of their adult lives enjoying a prolonged taxpayer-funded holiday weekend.

What plans have you made for 2023? The average individual attempts to insure against future uncertainty in a relatively small number of ways: You buy a house because that's the surest way to preserve and increase wealth. "Safe as houses," right? But Fannie/Freddie subprime mumbo-jumbo and other government interventions clobbered the housing market. You get an education because that way you'll always have "something to fall back on." But massive government-encouraged expansion of "college" led Americans to run up a trillion dollars' worth of student debt to acquire ever more devalued ersatz sheepskin in worthless pseudo-disciplines. We're not talking about the wilder shores of the stock market — Internet start-ups and South Sea bubbles and tulip mania — but two of the safest, dullest investments a modestly prudent person might make to protect himself against the vicissitudes of an unknown future. And we profoundly damaged both of them in pursuit of fictions...

Read it all: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/265491/disappearing-dollar-mark-steyn>

Obama says it's only 'fair' to raise taxes on the rich. He's wrong.

by Arthur C. Brooks, 19 Apr 2011

...While conservatives have criticized the economic principles and class-baiting cadences of Obama's budget rhetoric, no one has answered his fundamental charge that the Ryan plan is unfair. Conservatives have long stayed away from fairness debates, preferring to build unemotional arguments on the right angles of economic efficiency. This is a lost opportunity. Advocates for limited government can win the fairness argument in a walk...

Here's how: http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/obama-says-its-fair-to-raise-taxes-on-the-rich-hes-wrong/2011/04/19/AFZYRmPE_print.html

Voodoo economics? How about voodoo climate science?

by Patrick J. Michaels, 21 Apr 2011

When will our greener friends at the UN learn that it's just not a good idea to make definite predictions about certain disasters?

This time they have been called out on their 2005 prediction that by now there would be 50 million "climate refugees"—people choosing to emigrate because of bad weather. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) even came up with a global map showing precisely where people would migrate from.

Pretty much every forecast about climate change or its effects should be viewed as a hypothesis rather than a fact. After all, as Firesign Theater once noted, "the future's not here yet." But the UN named a specific year (2010) which allows for an actual test of their prediction.

Census takers around the world have inadvertently adjudicated the UN's forecast. It was dead wrong. Pretty much every recent census reveals that populations are growing rapidly precisely where everyone was supposed to be migrating from...

...Did I mention that global hurricane activity has recently sunk to its all time measured *low*, despite the UN's strident statements about more frequent and terrible storms? (Note that the hurricane data is only reliable for the last fifty years or so, hence the word "measured.")

Is this exaggeration of an affect of climate change by the UN an isolated incident? Hardly. Recent history reveals the UN to be a systematic engine of climate disinformation...

More: <http://blogs.forbes.com/patrickmichaels/2011/04/21/voodoo-economics-how-about-voodoo-climate-science/>

The truth about the debt ceiling and default

by Sen. Pat Toomey, 22 Apr 2011

...On last Sunday morning's talk shows, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner once again implied that, if the debt limit is not promptly raised, the United States will default on its debt and the resulting catastrophe will be the fault of congressional Republicans.

But Secretary Geithner knows that congressional delay in raising the debt limit will in no way cause a default on our national debt. If Congress refuses to raise the debt ceiling, the federal government will still have more than enough

money to fully service our debt. Next year, about 7 percent of all projected federal government expenditures will go to interest on our debt. Tax revenue is projected to cover at least 70 percent of all government expenditures. So, under any circumstances, there will be plenty of money to pay our creditors.

Moreover, as the Congressional Research Service has noted, the Treasury secretary himself has the discretion to decide which bills to pay first in the event that a cash flow shortage occurs. Thus, it is he who would have to consciously, and needlessly, choose to default on our debt if the debt ceiling is not promptly raised upon reaching it. It takes a lot of chutzpah to preemptively blame congressional Republicans for a default only he could cause...

More: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2011/04/22/the_truth_about_the_debt_ceiling_and_default_109633.html

Obama's permanent spending binge

If government got by with 20% of GDP in 2007, why not in 2021, when GDP will be substantially higher?

by John B. Taylor, 22 Apr 2011

...The chart clearly reveals a number of important facts that are not coming up in town hall meetings. Most obvious is the huge bulge in spending in the past few years. In 2000 spending was 18.2% of GDP. In 2007 it was 19.6%. But in the three years since 2009 it's jumped to an average of 24.4%.

Second, and perhaps even more striking, the chart shows that Mr. Obama, in his budget submitted in February, proposed to make that spending binge permanent...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704071704576276584062512382.html?mod=WSJ_hp_MIDDLENexttoWhatsNewsTop

'Fight Like a Girl'

Sarah Palin's speech at Madison, Wisconsin, 16 Apr 2011

transcript: <http://nation.foxnews.com/politics/2011/04/16/palin-gop-fight-girl>

video: [part 1](#) [part 2](#)

But I don't think this is what Sarah meant:

Niggers* Gone Wild

Ubangi bitches beat white girl until she has a seizure, as several black bucks look on.

21 Apr 2011

http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=ec0_1303444048

*Most black people aren't niggers. But these certainly aren't "a credit to their race," as people used to say. If they want a race war, let's go. We're already wearing our epidermal uniforms.

There is a 'magic' formula for lower gas prices

Washington Examiner editorial, 21 Apr 2011

...Thanks to Obama's ban on deep-water drilling and his administration's subsequent slow-walking of permit applications, we are losing out on 375,000 barrels of oil per day. That's just over 2 percent of American consumption that simply vanished—an amount that is more than enough to affect prices at the pump—and about one-third of the daily production losses because of Libya's ongoing civil war.

At today's prices, the Obama-induced loss of production represents \$40 million per day in lost oil revenue. Spread over a full year, that comes to \$14.6 billion that could be supporting thousands of sustainable, good-paying American jobs at no cost to the taxpayer. That is a much better deal than Obama's \$800 billion stimulus package, which appears to have added far more to the national debt than it ever will to national employment. It seems clear that ideological and not economic considerations are at work in this administration's energy policy...

The rest: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/2011/04/there-magic-formula-lower-gas-prices>

The Gas Revolution

Amazingly, an era of energy abundance is upon us, unless politicians and environmentalists get their way.

by Steven F. Hayward, 18 Apr 2011

...For the time being natural gas producers and utilities are joining with environmentalists to tilt the playing field in favor of forcing gas as a replacement for coal, by offering incentives and subsidies for fuel switching. Colorado enacted sweetheart legislation last year to prod its utilities to convert from coal to gas, and Texas—which uses the most coal-fired electricity of any state by a large margin—is considering the same market-bending mischief. This coalition won't long endure, however, because the other edge of the cheap gas sword is coming into play already: Cheap gas makes expensive wind and solar power even less cost competitive than they already are.

Environmentalists used to love natural gas—so long as it was expensive and used in part as a backstop for intermittent wind and solar power. Now that it is suddenly cheap and practical for baseload generation, environmentalists are changing their minds. *Politico's* Bob King noted this about-face in a mid-February story, "Greens Sour on Natural Gas." The Environmental Defense Fund, ProPublica, and the Sierra Club are suddenly voicing opposition to the expansion of natural gas use. King quoted Sierra Club chairman Carl Pope calling for phasing out natural gas use in the United States entirely by the year 2050, and Sierra's deputy executive director Bruce Hamilton said, "We want people to know that natural gas is not a clean fuel." As recently as a December appearance with me on CNBC, Hamilton endorsed using "clean" natural gas "for a very long time." You might call this **the theorem of environmental duplicity**: namely, there is no form of "clean" or "alternative" energy that environmentalists won't decide to oppose if it becomes practical and affordable on a large scale...

More: http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/gas-revolution_557014.html

Brother, Can You Spare a Trillion?

Government Gone Wild, 10 March 2011

Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/VtVbUmcQSuk>

(Hat tip: Greg K.)

Two outstanding essays by the acclaimed Scottish composer.

Unthinking Dogmatism

by James MacMillan, Feb 2008

...The political education I received from old Catholics like my grandfather and even from old Marxists I met at Communist party meetings in the 1970s has made me contemptuous of the simplistic banalities of the modern progressive élites. They lack intellectual rigour and ethical integrity, their politics are bland and sentimental, their hatred of Christianity is fundamentalist. My revulsion is particularly acute in the artistic circles I sometimes find myself in. I regret to say that the most eager acceptance of the new hectoring political puerilities are to be found in The Arts...

...The common purpose of this new cultural élite is to attack the institutions and principles of our shared common life. What passes in Britain for an intelligentsia has appropriated the Arts for their own designs — a recent debate at the South Bank proclaimed 'All Modern Art Is Left Wing'. No dissent from the party line goes unpunished. What we are seeing here is a cultural regime which adjudicates artists and their work on the basis of how they contribute to the remodelling, indeed the overthrow of society's core institutions and ethics...

...In the *Daily Telegraph* last year Dominic Cavendish asked, 'Why do so few of today's plays challenge the left-liberal consensus? Is there a tacit complicity between many of today's writers and the liberal establishment? Is the "liberal consensus" and the fear of appearing right-wing hobbling the urge to conduct tough, awkward debates?'

The response from Lisa Goldman, artistic director of the Soho theatre, was telling, and depressing in its simplistic caricature of what 'right-wing' means. She asked, 'What would a right-wing play have to offer? Anti-democracy, misogyny, bigotry, nostalgia of all kinds? Let's get back to a white Britain? That the slave trade had a civilising influence? That women should stay in the home?' For her, and many like her, anything that is not left-wing is intrinsically and irredeemably evil. There seems no room in her intellectual and aesthetic view to observe a huge and diverse world of moderate and civilised thinkers who have rejected the extreme narrowness of the modern Left.

There is a growing backlash against this bullying, hectoring and unthinking dogmatism. More and more artists describe themselves as lapsed lefties or recovering liberals. There is a growing resolve to confront a liberal establishment in the Arts, media and elsewhere, responsible for the systematic trashing of much that has been our common heritage...

More: <http://www.spectator.co.uk/print/arts-and-culture/all/476936/unthinking-dogmatism.thtml>

Music and Modernity

by James MacMillan, Nov 2009

...And then there's the question of religion, which has become such a defining battleground in many areas of culture and public life. The liberal elites who control the commanding heights of culture and criticism have an instinctive anxiety about religion. They thought it should have died out by now. But they have been mugged by history, as that hasn't happened and it's unlikely to. This is yet another example of how the once powerfully cocksure analysis of the '68ers has been proved wrong. This is another reason why the prophets of Marxist-inspired modernism are in retreat right across the board. They are perplexed at how the world has gone. Their view has not prevailed, even in modern music. Everything, including our understanding of recent history, is up for grabs. As far as the classic modernist is concerned, we live in a period of chaos. They have lost the argument. The case for modernism has been undermined by the flow and permanence of tradition, and many other things that they didn't see either as important or effective in the making of the modern world. ..

...What began life in the post-war years as a deadly serious challenge to tradition and a Duchampian provocation is now enshrined in academia and cultural officialdom, with fences all around. To give an example: I agreed to adjudicate on a composition competition at a New Music festival in Hanover. They were all ready to send me the scores. I discovered that the deal usually was that "esteemed professors," when they were asked on to the panel, would have their music played at the festival. But then it became clear that none of my music was being played. When my representatives asked why, the explanation was, "Our New Music festival does not give a platform to tonal and conservative composers." Then why have you asked me to adjudicate? I pulled out.

The modernist hierarchy is still so powerful in places such as German radio stations and German and French New Music festivals that it acts like a politburo. And like all good politburos in recent times, it sees religion as an enemy to be confronted and defeated. This is why it is often airbrushed from official readings of recent musical history. But there is a huge untold story that is worth pursuing, with religion in the fault lines of this ongoing discussion...

All 4,000 words: <http://standpointmag.co.uk/node/2358/full>

The divide for 2012

by Michael A. Walsh, 21 Apr 2011

...Conventional wisdom says that Americans don't like partisan "bickering," that we want our politicians to just get along. Principled combat and loyal—but vehement—opposition, the thinking goes, make Main Street uncomfortable.

Baloney. Disputation is as American as apple pie. It's what made our country great—vigorous disagreement, not cringing servility. So let the battle begin.

On one side is the business-as-usual, the bipartisan, rigged Washington poker game in which the media act as the bouncers and the rubes are the taxpayers, being fleeced as surely as the hapless mark in *The Sting*. There is only one way for government to go—up. On the other side are the disparaged Tea Partiers—vilified by the Washington Republicrat-media complex as unlettered and unwashed rabble from flyover country, bitter clingers with a touching belief in the words of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

As we head into the 2012 election, which side would you rather be on?

The full column: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/the_divide_for_E6M9NRMMP94d7bR0iAtBIN

No, beauty is *not* in the eye of the beholder

by Selwyn Duke, 19 Apr 2011

...This is, of course, precisely as with the matter of moral relativism vs. Moral Truth. To say that morals are relative is to say they don't exist; once again, we are then just talking about taste, consensus or otherwise. If "morality" has any meaning, it is only because it has an existence unto itself. And if we don't believe this, we ought to stop fooling ourselves with water-muddying terminology such as "values." Taste is taste is taste is taste, no matter how you dress it up with what, if the relativists were correct, could only be meaning-lending linguistic Trojan Horses...

...The acceptance of the relativistic nonsense "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" is precisely why we have a proliferation of garbage masquerading as art and public funding for it. And, as with morality, we ought to think matters through to their logical conclusion. There was only ever one good reason to fund art: "Good" exists, and society has a vested interest in promoting good. Thus, since beauty is a real thing that is a good, it behooves man to beautify his surroundings. As soon as we embrace the notion that beauty doesn't exist because it's all a matter of perspective, however, this line of reasoning collapses. We then are confronted with the proposition that we're using tax money to promote and fund certain people's tastes...

...The reason why the West no longer knows what to fund or fight for—or fear—is that it wallows in a relativistic morass of moral confusion. This is why we fund deviancy but tear down the Ten Commandments, abort children in the womb but insist they mustn't drink soda out of it, and promote Islam while punishing those who speak against it. If the West wants to survive, relativism has got to go...

Read it all: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/04/no_beauty_is_not_in_the_eye_of.html

Bull about Bullying

by *Thomas Sowell, 19 Apr 2011*

...The courts have created a legal climate where any swift and decisive action against bullies can lead to lawsuits. The net results are indecision, half-hearted gestures and pious public pronouncements by school officials, none of which is going to stop bullies.

When judges create new "rights" for bullies out of thin air, just as they do for criminals, and prescribe "due process" for school discipline, just as if schools were little courtrooms, then nothing is likely to happen promptly or decisively. If there is anything worse than doing nothing, it is doing nothing spiced with empty rhetoric about what behavior is "unacceptable"—while in fact accepting it.

Might educators abuse their power, if the courts did not step in? Of course they could. Any power exercised by human beings can be abused. But, without the ability to exercise power, there is anarchy. When responsible officials are prevented from exercising power, then bullies exercise power.

President Barack Obama has joined the chorus of those deploring bullying. But his own administration is pushing the notion that a disproportionate number of suspensions or other punishments for members of particular racial or ethnic groups is discriminatory. In other words, if a school suspends more black males than Asian females, that is taken as a sign of discrimination. No one in his right mind really believes that, but it is part of the grand make-believe that pervades our politics and even our courts...

More: <http://www.freedompolitics.com/articles/bullying-2555-school-nothing.html>

The nature of Arab unrest

Neither the Arab Street nor the Obama administration has looked for the real causes of Arab poverty and oppression.

by *Victor Davis Hanson, 20 Apr 2011*

...In such a mess, the challenge for America should have been to prod pro-American authoritarians to reform (but not to abdicate), to support staunchly our very few democratic friends, to oppose publicly anti-American totalitarians, and wherever possible to stay out of intervening militarily, given that no resistance group as of yet has proved democratic, or indeed has even published much of a liberal reform manifesto. Instead, the Obama administration has done exactly the opposite in every case.

There are two, and only two, democratic states in the region: Israel and Iraq. The Obama administration has serially pressured the former and cannot refer to the latter without expressing regret or apology for the conditions that led to the present constitutional government. The message seems to be that pro-American democracies are either taken for granted or actively distrusted...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/265197/nature-arab-unrest-victor-davis-hanson>

Wonkette editor comments on reprehensible birthday greeting to Trig Palin

by *Tommy Christopher, 20 Apr 2011, 5:09 pm*

Political humor website *Wonkette* has long been trending toward nihilistic snark for snark's sake, but Jack Stuef's column "honoring" Trig Palin's birthday is about the most irredeemably vile, unfunny thing I've ever seen. As if jokes about Trig's Down Syndrome aren't bad enough on their own, Stuef goes the extra mile to pen kneeslappers about incest, child rape, and fetal alcohol syndrome. I don't want to reproduce too much of it here, but this quote is fairly representative:

Today is the day we come together to celebrate the snowbilly grifter's magical journey from Texas to Alaska to deliver to the America the great gentleman scholar Trig Palin. Is Palin his true mother? Or was Bristol? (And why is it that nobody questions who the father is? Because, either way, Todd definitely did it.)

Hey, that's really funny, calling Trig a gentleman scholar because he has Down Syndrome. And the speculation that

Todd Palin may have raped his daughter? Pure comedy gold. You know what will be even funnier? The first time Jack Stuef runs into Todd Palin. That one practically writes its own punchline...

Ken Layne and Jack Stuef: one syllable, starting with "C":

<http://www.mediaite.com/online/wonkette-editor-comments-on-reprehensible-birthday-greeting-to-trig-palin/>

Liberals' impatience with democracy, rule of law is growing

by Hugh Hewitt, 18 Apr 2011

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/04/liberals-impatience-democracy-rule-law-growing>

And, sure enough, even more shocking evidence surfaced the very next day:

LEAKED: Obama executive order intends to implement portions of DISCLOSE Act

Says our source: "They lost in the Supreme Court, they lost in Congress, they lost at the FEC, so now the president is just going to do it by edict."

by Hans A. von Spakovsky, 19 Apr 2011

... With this proposed Executive Order, the administration is engaging in a back-door maneuver that promotes transparency only in the form of transparent political gamesmanship. It's an alarming proposal that should raise great concern among members of Congress and the American public.

More: <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/leaked-obama-executive-order-intends-to-implement-portions-of-disclose-act/?singlepage=true>

Andrew Breitbart on Palin, Couric, Tina Fey, Glenn Beck and more

by Shushannah Walshe, 18 Apr 2011

Conservative provocateur and right-wing media guru Andrew Breitbart's new book, *Righteous Indignation: Excuse Me While I Save the World!*, is out. The scandal-prone commentator spoke with The Daily Beast about that righteous indignation (he promises he's usually quite laid back), the Shirley Sherrod episode, his picks for 2012, what he sees as the future of journalism, and his advice for Sarah Palin. He also goes after the media, Katie Couric, Tina Fey, John McCain, and surprisingly, Glenn Beck—although he says he doesn't want Beck's old job—all in the most colorful of terms. Breitbart may be indignant, but don't call him angry...

More: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2011-04-18/andrew-breitbart-righteous-indignation-toward-the-left/?cid=hp:beastoriginalsL7>

Bad government deals all around

by Dennis Byrne, 19 Apr 2011

When President Barack Obama was in Chicago last week, he candidly told campaign contributors he had challenged Republicans to repeal Obamacare with this taunt: "You think we're stupid?"

Right back at you, Mr. President. You think Americans bought your line that you actually "cut" \$38 billion out of what remains of fiscal 2011 spending? I'd say the same thing about the Illinois education "reform compromise" that legislators, teachers unions and others sprang on us last week.

All sides tell us that we're on a roll, that Washington's budget "cuts" were "historic" and that the clipping of Illinois teachers' goodies was "landmark" and "game-changing." Just as a starving dog should be grateful to discover a crumb under the table...

Continue: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/ct-oped-0419-byrne-20110419,0,1147360.column>

The S&P outlook and Obama

by Abe Greenwald, 18 Apr 2011

Standard & Poor's **lowered** its outlook for the United States from "stable" to "negative," and said there is a one in three chance it will downgrade the U.S.'s triple-A credit rating in the next couple of years. We've enjoyed that credit rating since 1917. Barack Obama can cook up entitlement schemes as much as he likes, but if America loses its ability to

borrow money on favorable terms there will be no safety net big enough to catch us all...

...The U.S. may lose its triple-A rating and the best Obama can do is peddle feel-good pop slogans in defense of suicidal entitlements. If only he believed what he was saying. Indeed, we *are* connected to one another. Which is why entitlements put all of us in debt, why taxing income for some of us will shrink our national tax base, and why every last one of us will go down with the ship unless the administration acquaints itself with reality...

More: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2011/04/18/the-sp-outlook-and-obama/>

Obama pushes healthcare reform...again!

by Liz Peek, 16 Apr 2011

President Obama is in full campaign mode, now promising to Fix Our Budget Deficits!

Unfortunately, Mr. Obama as Cost-cutter is about as believable as Buffy as Vampire-slayer; meanwhile, the need to rally his liberal base is paramount. Consequently, he has offered up juicy sound bites about hitting up "millionaires and billionaires" and a promise—not to raise taxes, which might not play well on prime time—but rather to cut "tax expenditures."

In other words, we are now being treated to more Obama gobbledegook, from the same press office that came up with kinetic military action" and "man-caused disasters." And—this is a president that ran on transparency!...

Biting wit: <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2011/04/16/obama-pushes-healthcare-reformagain/>

Vandals damage divisive photo of a crucifix in urine at French art exhibit

Paris, 18 Apr 2011 (AP)

...The museum says it will reopen Tuesday, with the destroyed works on display so that the public can view the damage. The museum closed early Saturday because of a protest of young Christian activists.

More: <http://abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/wireStory?id=13400159>

Cool. Next time, they should just destroy the whole museum.

Elie Wiesel does the right thing

by Baron Bodissey, 17 Apr 2011

Back in February we reported on the (ultimately successful) campaign by an organization known as the Institute for the Research of Genocide Canada to keep the historian Srdja Trifkovic from speaking at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

The IRGC is a front group for radical Bosnian Muslims who aim to perpetuate the narrative of the "genocide" at Srebrenica during the civil war in Bosnia. They don't take kindly to anyone who interrupts their fantasy with the truth; hence their antipathy towards Srdja Trifkovic.

Dr. Trifkovic's subsequent research into the background of the IRGC has borne fruit: the renowned scholar and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel resigned last week from the advisory board of the IRGC. Here 's the report from The Lord Byron Foundation...

More: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/04/elie-wiesel-does-right-thing.html#more>

Camp of the Saints: the Week in Brief

by Baron Bodissey, 16 Apr 2011

...During the course of the week, the Italian policy of giving temporary residence visas to the refugees caused alarm in Germany, France, Spain, Belgium, Austria, and the Netherlands, each of which protested to the Italian government. The EU promised Italy more money. Italy remarked that the EU was mostly useless, and threatened to secede. Then it took back its threat.

Italy now says the agreement with the Tunisia has been effective, and that the flood of refugees is abating. I'm not so sure, because boats are still arriving at Lampedusa, Malta, and Pantelleria.

Our enrichment digest will begin with a few recent news items. From today, the French Prime Minister is thinking

about applying a little tough love to the boatloads of enrichers...

More: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/04/camp-of-saints-week-in-brief.html>

The Incredible Shrinking Obama

by Peter Wehner, 18 Apr 2011 (April 25 issue)

...Obama's argument is built on sand. A tax increase on the wealthy would fall far short of the revenues needed to reverse our fiscal trajectory. Our budget problems are significantly worse today than they were in the 1990s. There are not nearly enough wealthy people in the nation to tax in order to tame our debt. If the president wants higher taxes to improve our fiscal imbalance, he will need to embrace a massive middle-class tax increase and/or a value added tax (VAT). But Obama hasn't shown the slightest preference for that option. It's pure fiction to pretend that higher taxes on those making more than \$200,000 will make much of a dent in our debt, given the size of our long-term spending problem. Obama's argument isn't with Republicans. It's with basic arithmetic...

...What liberals are interested in isn't growth so much as egalitarianism and redistribution for its own sake. For many on the left, increasing taxes isn't about economics as much as morality. They believe taxing the wealthy is a virtue, to the point that they would penalize "the rich" even if that has harmful economic consequences. Recall that during a campaign debate, when asked by Charles Gibson about his support for raising capital gains taxes even if that caused a net revenue *loss* to the Treasury, Obama sided with tax increases "for purposes of fairness."

Higher taxes would keep our current welfare state in place for only a little while longer. The entitlement apparatus would remain unsustainable. Tax increases might slightly delay, but could not forestall, a fiscal crack-up. The only thing that can is reconfiguring and restructuring our entitlement programs, most especially Medicare. That is what Paul Ryan's plan does—and what President Obama's budget avoids doing...

More: http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/incredible-shrinking-obama_557490.html

President Boring

by Roger L Simon, 13 Apr 2011

...But what is it about Obama that makes him so boring? I submit it is something quite simple — he has nothing to say. He is a boring person, the quintessential "hollow man" in the T.S. Eliot sense. He is kind of a socialist, kind of a liberal, kind of a multi-culturalist, kind of an environmentalist, kind of globalist, kind of a budget cutter — but none of them with any real commitment. Basically, he's a vague and uncommitted person pretending to be otherwise. He is the man that voted "present," now in the presidency. The fact that he never specified the targets of "hope" and "change" during his election was far from a campaign ploy and more typical than we ever dreamed. There never was a there there. And now, I strongly suspect, there never will be...

More: <http://pajamasmedia.com/rogerlsimon/2011/04/13/president-boring/>

(Hat tip: Ann Marie)

see also: **The Story of O (Icarus, not Pegasus)**

by Clarice Feldman, 10 April 2011

http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/04/the_story_of_o_icarus_not_pegasus_1.html

Where the tax money is

Obama targets the middle class while pretending to tax only the rich.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 18 Apr 2011

A dominant theme of President Obama's budget speech last Wednesday was that our fiscal problems would vanish if only the wealthiest Americans were asked "to pay a little more." Since he's asking, imagine that instead of proposing to raise the top income tax rate well north of 40%, the President decided to go all the way to 100%.

Let's stipulate that this is a thought experiment, because Democrats don't need any more ideas. But it's still a useful experiment because it exposes the fiscal futility of raising rates on the top 2%, or even the top 5% or 10%, of taxpayers to close the deficit. The mathematical reality is that in the absence of entitlement reform on the Paul Ryan model, Washington will need to soak the middle class—because that's where the big money is...

Read on: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704621304576267113524583554.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Your money's gone with the wind (and solar)

Ready for a renewable-energy green future?

Pull out your wallet, put away your car keys, and prepare to grope in the dark.

by *Mark Landsbaum*, 17 Apr 2011

Stunning facts about the costs of forced conversion to 'green' energy:

<http://www.ocregister.com/opinion/-296431--.html>

Apparently the movie is pretty good, and Taylor Schilling is terrific as Dagny Taggart.

Sidestepping studios to bring *Atlas Shrugged* to the big screen

by *Vin Suprynowicz*, 16 Apr 2011

<http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/sidestepping-studios-to-bring-atlas-shrugged-to-the-big-screen-119984744.html?ref=744>

Some conservatives really love Ayn Rand.

The Historic Significance of *Atlas Shrugged*

by *Robert Tracinski*, 5 Oct 2007

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2007/10/the_historic_significance_of_a.html

And others, including this great American hero, have been moved to eviscerate her.

Big Sister Is Watching You

by *Whittaker Chambers*, 28 Dec 1957

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/222482>

Ayn Rand and Whittaker Chambers

With a word on *Atlas Shrugged* in the contemporary scene.

by *Jason Lee Steorts*, 24 Aug 2010

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/print/244497>

Do we really need to raise the debt ceiling?

by *Jude Federspiel*, 16 Apr 2011

...To predict the outcome of not raising the debt "ceiling," let's model the nation's current economic morass, and try to predict the outcome. For our study we will consider an American household, since that is a financial model most of us can comprehend.

Let's say the household has two working adults and two children, a home with a mortgage, two cars with one car loan, and some credit cards. Their debt (between the mortgage and the car loan and credit cards) is very high compared to their income, and their "nondiscretionary" expenses such as food, and utility bills cannot be easily reduced. They have another expenditure category which we will describe as "discretionary," comprised of clothing, entertainment, eating out, pursuing hobbies, vacations, gifts, and other non-mandatory expenses. In order to pay their expenses each year, they pay more and more of their total outlays via credit card, because they spend annually approximately 40% more money than they earn. Despite making their payments on time, they cannot pay off any of the credit cards and in fact the principal increases steadily.

Each year they have an annual budgeting meeting where Mom and Dad debate contacting their credit card companies and requesting a credit limit increase. They acknowledge they should spend less, but they don't know how to cut back. Therefore they keep spending, they increase the portion of their income dedicated to interest and debt payments, annually increase their credit limits, and keep incurring more and more debt. This situation is comparable to the one faced by our government right now...

Outstanding: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/04/do_we_really_need_to_raise_the.html

Walker plan holds down property taxes, delivers lowest structural deficit in 15 years

by Ed Morrissey, 16 Apr 2011

...Wisconsin voters sent Republicans to Madison to fix the state's finances. Democrats controlled state politics for decades and left a legacy of overspending and debt, and Republicans were given an opportunity to fix it. It looks as though they've succeeded, and that's *very bad news* indeed for unions and their Democratic allies.

The unions stoked hysteria over the supposed extermination of public employees by ending the closed shop, mandatory dues payments, and limiting collective bargaining to pay only. Any result that falls short of that rhetoric damages their credibility. Having Walker succeed in delivering fiscal restraint and balance over their screaming voices and attempts to blockade the legislature makes that problem infinitely worse. Walker's success will prove that the adults have returned to Madison, and that voters made the right choice in kicking the Democrats and their union allies out of power in 2010...

More: <http://hotair.com/archives/2011/04/16/walker-plan-holds-down-property-taxes-delivers-lowest-structural-deficit-in-15-years/>

The correct link to Fred Barnes's "Obama sinks to the occasion" (13 Apr 2011, below):

http://www.weeklystandard.com/blogs/obama-sinks-occasion_557372.html

16 Tons of Debt

by Iowahawk, 14 Apr 2011

Watch: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpeIV9X-smg&feature=player_embedded

Who's turning U.S. into the Third World?

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 16 Apr 2011

President Obama says Republicans, if they get their way, will turn the U.S. into a "Third World" nation. Has he looked recently at the course he's set us on? As psychologists say, it sounds like projection to us.

One of the cheapest tricks in political rhetoric is to accuse your opponents of doing something bad that you yourself are doing. That's exactly what President Obama did when he charged that GOP efforts to restore fiscal responsibility would turn us into "a nation of potholes, and our airports would be worse than places ... that we used to call the Third World."...

...Can't happen here, you say? In 1920, Argentina was one of the five richest countries on Earth. Then it followed policies similar to Obama's — kowtowing to unions, government control of industry, price controls. It crashed, burned and never really recovered.

We're headed down that road. Today, government spending is at a record 25% of GDP, while government regulation costs the U.S. economy \$1.7 trillion a year...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/569371/201104151858/From-1st-World-To-3rd-World-htm>

Orwell was an optimist

by Ellen Meade, 16 Apr 2011

...If we don't act now, it will only get worse. We'll have a generation of people who don't remember a time before surveillance cameras.

Those in power try to sweeten the sound of them by calling them security cameras. And technology has made it possible for people to live in denial that they're being tracked and recorded. There's a disconnect for people. If a surveillance camera is mounted above your head, off in a corner, you don't think about being recorded. But, imagine, if every time you went to Target, an employee walked up to you, turned on a video camera, and followed you around the store, recording every move you made. Or, walking down the street, and having a police officer stand next to you, with

his Handycam, recording your every move because you might do something wrong. Or, in my case, lying out by your pool, and having someone sit there and record you because you might try to light up.

We might feel a little differently about it then and speak up for ourselves.

Those in favor of a surveillance state believe they can create a sort of utopia by mitigating risk. But risk is inherent in freedom. Police officers, and even the concierge in my building, argue, "Well, I have a right to watch you in person when you're outside, so recording you is no different."

But, having someone come out to look around a few times a day is reasonable; being under constant recorded surveillance is not. We're forgetting what it means to be free in this country. Surveillance, in all its forms, is beginning to have a chilling effect on our thoughts and speech...

And be sure to read the Comments: <http://comments.americanthinker.com/read/42323/805151.html>

Doubling down on a bad bet

by Mark Steyn, 16 Apr 2011

...The United States Postal Service has now gone the Hollywood apocalyptic one better and produced a somewhat subtler image of civilizational ruin. The other day the post office apologized for its new stamp honoring Lady Liberty. Due to an unfortunate error, the stamp shows not the 19th century Statue of Liberty that stands in New York Harbor but the 1990s replica that stands at the New York-New York hotel and casino in Las Vegas.

An ersatz statue of pseudo-liberty standing guard over the world's biggest gambling operation: What better way to round out a week in which the Republicans pretended to pass the most historically historic budget cut in history while the president pretended to come up with a plan to address the debt? All while pretending to wage a war in Libya whose most likely outcome seems to be that the only Arab dictator to sleep soundly in his bed at night during these turbulent times will be doing so under cover of a NATO no-fly zone for the rest of his 75-year term of office. In such a world, the USPS, bless 'em, has come up with a far more plausible emblem of societal devastation than Hollywood's space monsters and climate-change fairies...

More: <http://www.ocregister.com/opinion/future-296586-one-new.html>

No "fallout" is necessary

by Quin Hillyer, 14 Apr 2011

...It's time for me to step up to the plate and explain some budgetary facts of life. I speak from fairly deep knowledge of this stuff. I was press secretary on the payroll of the House Appropriations Committee during the two years (1995-96) during which it cut \$50 billion, in actual dollars, from domestic discretionary spending, back when that was a MUCH larger percentage of the overall domestic discretionary pie. In other words, those were MAJOR cuts, and they paved the way directly for the budget balance, and even surplus, that occurred later in the decade. During those two years, I (for obvious reasons) learned how this process works.

Anyway, yes, the cuts are not of the high quality of cuts we might like. Yes, there are a few which can only be characterized as smoke and mirrors. But no, the bulk of these cuts are not meaningless; most of them actually will keep money from being spent that otherwise would, yes, be spent. In other words, most of the complaints are groundless...

More: <http://spectator.org/blog/2011/04/14/no-fallout-is-necessary>

Yes, I backed Romney in 2008. But that was before most of us knew how badly RomneyCare would work out—or what nightmares ObamaCare would have in store for us.

Romney and Obama—Bipartisan Brothers

by Debra J. Saunders 14 Apr 2011

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

Tax Day truth: you'll pay for Obama spending

New Hampshire Union Leader editorial, 15 Apr 2011

...Just two days ago, the President gave Americans his usual insincere pablum about supporting markets, rugged

individualism and low taxes before getting to the truth: he believes (deeply and passionately) that the government needs to take more revenue from the people so it can fund all of the grand schemes the left can dream up.

And in his customary fashion, he misled the people about how much they would have to pay for his vision of an ever-growing government that does all things for all people. Rhetorically, he always presents this as the "rich" or "wealthy" paying their fair share to support the poor and needy. ..

...But Obama's deception is even greater. He cannot fund the massive expansion of government that he desires by raising taxes only on the richest 2 percent of Americans. The budget Obama proposed in February would raise taxes by \$2 trillion on the richest 2 percent of Americans over the next decade. But it proposed \$8.7 trillion in new spending and a total of \$26 trillion in deficit spending in that same time period.

The President doesn't believe government should get smaller or cost less. He thinks it should get significantly larger and cost a great deal more. And he thinks he can convince you to support this by tricking you into thinking Warren Buffett and his friends will pay for it all. They won't. You will pay, too: in higher taxes, a weaker economy and a more burdensome government.

More: <http://unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Tax+Day+truth%3a+You%27ll+pay+for+Obama+spending&articleId=4bc804a1-6354-499f-97ca-fde474837cf6>

Folly in Libya: The war is beginning to look like a lost cause

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette editorial, 15 Apr 2011

President Barack Obama's war in Libya, launched nearly four weeks ago, isn't going well... For Mr. Obama to have taken the United States into this war, without congressional approval and with a weak U.N. Security Council mandate that lacked the support of Brazil, China, Germany, India and Russia, was unwise at the outset. Continued American involvement as the war evolves badly and its financial cost rises is moving his decision into the category of folly.

More: <http://post-gazette.com/pg/11105/1139409-192.stm>

Coming from one of his RINO supporters, this is interesting.

Obama is likely to lose

But Republican unseriousness may be his trump card.

by Peggy Noonan, 14 Apr 2011

Suppose everything we think we know about the president's political position is wrong? That's what I think became clear this week...

...In this week's polls: An Ipsos survey says 69% of Americans believe the country is on the wrong track, up five points since March. Zogby has only 38% of national respondents saying Mr. Obama deserves re-election, with 55% wanting someone new. Mr. Obama carried Pennsylvania in 2008 by double digits; a poll there this week shows only 42% approving his leadership, with 52% disapproving. Gallup had the president's support slipping among blacks and Hispanics, with the latter's numbers dramatic: 73% supported him when he was inaugurated, 54% do now. Support among whites on Inauguration Day was 60%. Now it is 39%.

We're all so used to reporting the general trend of these polls that we fail to see their significance: The more that people experience his leadership, the less they like his leadership. There's no real reason to think upticks in this direction or that will seriously change this. Another way to say it is that there have been upticks that might have benefited the president, and so far they haven't...

...I suspect, and it's only a suspicion, that there's a degree to which people tell pollsters they like Mr. Obama to take the sting out of the fact that they just told the pollster they don't approve of his leadership...

...You would think Democratic professionals, who read the same numbers Republicans do and pick up similar trends, would be hanging their heads in despair.

They are not. They have hope. Their hope is that Republicans in the early caucus and primary states will go crazy. They hope the GOP will nominate for the presidency someone strange, extreme or barely qualified...

Full column: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704116404576263411383190464.html#articleTabs%3Darticle>

The Obama growth discount

by Phil Gramm, 15 Apr 2011

...A compelling case can be made that Reagan's tax cuts, Social Security reforms, regulatory reforms, and limits on

the growth and power of the federal government not only helped the economy shake off the malaise of the 1970s but generated an economic growth premium that bore dividends for Americans until 2007.

And if the Reagan policies of the 1980s were sufficiently different from those of the previous decade to generate a growth premium, cannot a case be made that the policies of the Obama administration are sufficiently different from those of the previous quarter-century to alter the growth trend and impose a growth discount?

Under President Obama's policies, federal spending has exploded like never before. If his 2011 budget were implemented, this president would increase the outstanding federal debt more than the previous 43 presidents combined. Government control of the health-care system and the financial system has been greatly expanded. The administration also supported last year's failed "card check" legislation, an attempt at the most dramatic expansion of the power of organized labor since the Great Depression; launched diatribes against wealth accumulation; undertook a massive expansion in the regulatory power of the federal government; and proposed the largest tax increases in American history. Those tax increases were aimed almost exclusively at America's entrepreneurs, risk takers and small businesses.

The Obama administration arrived in Washington with a mandate from voters in one hand and a blank check from Congress in the other. How convenient it was to assume that government could take over the health-care system, raise taxes, hugely expand regulatory power and unleash a deficit spending orgy without producing a significant deviation in the growth trend of the previous quarter century. Apparently, Mr. Obama failed to notice that President Bill Clinton saw his strongest period of economic growth only after his health-care takeover and stimulus bills were defeated, welfare rolls were pared, the capital gains tax was cut, and the budget was balanced.

The recovery is being stifled by the unprecedented policy changes undertaken by this administration and the previous Congress. Whether in absolute or relative terms, whether in comparison to our own experience or the performance of our competitors, America's wealth-producing ability has been diminished...

Read the rest: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703983104576262763594126624.html>

Tax increases are spending cuts?

by John Hayward, 13 Apr 2011

...Let's apply a little Obama logic. If the government is the rightful owner of all resources, then every dollar retained by private citizens is a dollar the State "gives" them. That's why socialists describe tax cuts as a "gift" or "expense."

Obama used this reasoning several times in his speech. He said we made our fiscal problems worse "with trillions of dollars in unpaid-for tax cuts," which were a boon to "every millionaire and billionaire in the country." These cuts will "force us to borrow an average of \$500 billion every year over the next decade." He claimed that "in the last decade, if we had simply found a way to pay for the tax cuts and the prescription drug benefit, our deficit would currently be at low historical levels in the coming years."

To Obama, the matter at hand does not involve reducing the cost of government to match its revenue, or returning economic liberty to the people by lowering their tax rates. It's a question of "paying" for tax cuts, which must therefore be something the government *purchases*, and dispenses to lucky citizens as a gift...

More: <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=42921>

Long-term debt? How about short-term implosion?

by John Podhoretz, 13 Apr 2011

As Barack Obama was delivering his speech on the nation's long-term debt crisis, word came that JP Morgan has radically downgraded its projection of the nation's short-term prospects for economic growth. Morgan now thinks the economy will grow at an annual rate of 1.4 percent this year. This comes hard on the heels of Macroeconomic Advisers lowering its growth projection for 2011 from 4 percent at the beginning of the year to 1.7 percent today.

These aren't just horrible numbers for the U.S. economy. They are a potential death knell for Barack Obama's presidency...

Qué lástima: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2011/04/13/longterm-debt-how-about-shortterm-implosion/>

The Presidential Divider

Obama's toxic speech and even worse plan for deficits and debt.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 14 Apr 2011

Did someone move the 2012 election to June 1? We ask because President Obama's extraordinary response to Paul Ryan's budget yesterday—with its blistering partisanship and multiple distortions—was the kind Presidents usually outsource to some junior lieutenant. Mr. Obama's fundamentally political document would have been unusual even for a Vice President in the fervor of a campaign...

...Mr. Obama did not deign to propose an alternative to rival Mr. Ryan's plan, even as he categorically rejected all its reform ideas, repeatedly vilifying them as essentially un-American. "Their vision is less about reducing the deficit than it is about changing the basic social compact in America," he said, supposedly pitting "children with autism or Down's syndrome" against "every millionaire and billionaire in our society." The President was not attempting to join the debate Mr. Ryan has started, but to close it off just as it begins and banish House GOP ideas to political Siberia.

Mr. Obama then packaged his poison in the rhetoric of bipartisanship—which "starts," he said, "by being honest about what's causing our deficit." The speech he chose to deliver was dishonest even by modern political standards...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703730104576260911986870054.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Obama's vision of a redistributive America

Orange County Register editorial, 14 Apr 2011

...Mr. Obama's class-warfare rhetoric painted a portrait of two Americas, two competing ideologies and two visions for the nation's future. The battle, he said, is "about changing the basic social compact in America."

His vision of a government taking ever-more from its productive citizens, then acting as a kind of national conscience and clearinghouse that decides who should get the spoils, left us chilled and wanting a different America, one of individual initiative and self-responsibility, of voluntary participation in our community life, and of voluntary contributions of time and money to our fellow citizens in need...

...Higher taxes historically have not always yielded more in tax revenue to government. The opposite is true. As economist Thomas Sowell noted this week, "Cuts in very high taxes ended up bringing in more revenue to government in the Coolidge, Kennedy, Reagan and Bush 43 administrations."

President Obama's approach is not a vision consistent with our nation's founding. Perhaps, as foreseen by Benjamin Franklin, "When the people find they can vote themselves money, that will herald the end of the republic." President Obama is correct that there are two competing visions for the future of the nation; one born of our nation's founders and that honors individual achievement and prosperity, or one that extorts from it.

More: <http://www.ocregister.com/opinion/-296269--.html>

Obama's Deceit

by Frank Gutting, 13 Apr 2011

Okay, I have had it with this President's blatant dishonesty. His speech today was appallingly deceitful and misleading. This President, has spent more money and added more debt than any other President in history. This is not political rhetoric, this is simply fact! Barack Obama's budget deficit in March of 2011 was larger than the deficit for all of 2007!...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/04/obamas_deceit.html

The tax and debt bomb

by Larry Kudlow, 13 Apr 2011

...Basically, the president is giving successful earners and small-business filers a double tax hike. *That's* what it really is.

Of course, the president's formula of estimating higher revenues to lower the deficit is completely wrong. The reality is that higher tax rates will *slow* the economy, *inhibit* new start-up companies, *penalize* investors, and may very well *lose* revenues and *increase* the deficit.

In the latter part of his speech the president did mention some kind of middle-class and corporate tax reform. But he gave no specifics. He also touted \$750 billion in discretionary spending cuts, but again without any details...

...In effect, the president has moved to the *left*. He has embraced the Democrats' so called progressive caucus in the House by slashing defense and jacking up taxes, all while offering no serious entitlement reform...

...President Obama's harsh-rhetoric rejection of the Ryan budget and his new (presidential) campaign to raise taxes on the rich sets up a huge confrontation with House Republicans on the eve of the hugely important debt-limit expiration...

More: <http://dailycaller.com/2011/04/13/the-tax-and-debt-bomb/>

Obama sinks to the occasion

No hope, no change.

by Fred Barnes, 13 Apr 2011

...Obama didn't rise to the occasion. He actually sank, as he did two months ago when he released a 2012 budget that would increase spending by \$40 billion and double the national debt over the next decade.

Let me list the lowlights of the president's speech this afternoon at George Washington University:

The problem is George W. Bush's fault. This is a hardy perennial of Obama's. "America's finances were in great shape by the year 2000," he said. Then spending skyrocketed due to two wars and a prescription drug program and "we didn't pay for any of this new spending." The fiscal problem was made worse "with trillions of dollars in unpaid for tax cuts." He didn't mention that discretionary spending soared on his watch by 11 percent in 2009 and 14 percent in 2010, up from 6 percent in 2008, the last Bush year. Nor did he concede that Democrats wanted a bigger, more expensive Medicare drug program...

More: http://www.weeklystandard.com/blogs/obama-sinks-occasion_557372.html

Strike One

National Review editorial, 13 Apr 2011

We initially supported the deal House Speaker John Boehner cut with the White House to cut \$38.5 billion from the rest of the fiscal year 2011 budget. It was only a pittance in the context of all of Washington's red ink, but it seemed an acceptable start, even if we assumed it would be imperfect in its details. What we didn't assume was that the agreement would be shot through with gimmicks and one-time savings. What had looked in its broad outlines like a modest success now looks like a sodden disappointment.

All the cuts in the deal aren't equal. The ones that matter most are the cuts in discretionary spending that reduce the budget baseline in future years. Even with more the details of the deal released early yesterday morning, the exact numbers are still shrouded in confusion, but it is clear the cuts are much less than meets the eye — the gimmickry is not merely around the edges. The \$38.5 billion includes real cuts, but also a dog's breakfast of budgetary legerdemain...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/264599/strike-one-editors>

FCC internet regulation: Not so fast

by John White, 12 Apr 2011

...The FCC and the House of Representatives have begun a classic **Separation of Powers** struggle. The debate involves a simple yet critical question: is policy established by an elected Congress or imposed by appointed agency bureaucrats?...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/04/fcc_internet_regulation_not_so.html

Lindsey Graham: The Little Metrosexual That Could

by Stuart Schwartz, 12 Apr 2011

Call him the little metrosexual that could.

The fussy, fastidious, and pampered senator from South Carolina just keeps chugging along supremely impressed with the face looking out from the mirror in his posh Senate office and his status as the Beltway insiders' favorite Republican. "I'm [...] at the front of the line" for Barack Obama on Capitol Hill, he brags to the New York Times, which describes his "delight" in letting "people know" how important he is. After all, he is Lindsey Graham and he *is* Washington, nestled among the Beltway's palace courtiers like a flea on a Carolina Dog. And, in the battle raging for the future and soul of the nation, it is well to remember he is everything that is wrong with the Republican Party in Washington; indeed, he is everything that is wrong with both parties.

He is Lindsey Graham and the late Sen. Ted Kennedy is his role model....

Devastating: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/04/lindsey_graham_the_little_metr.html

Longish, at 6400 words. But a vital explanation of a crushing flaw in our modern political system.

Government by Waiver

by Richard A. Epstein, Spring 2011 issue

One of the great achievements of Western civilization is what we commonly call "the rule of law." By this we mean the basic principles of fairness and due process that govern the application of power in both the public and the private spheres. The rule of law requires that all disputes — whether among private parties or among the state and private parties — be tried before neutral judges, under rules that are known and articulated in advance. Every party must have notice of the charge against him and an opportunity to be heard in response; each governing rule must be consistent with all the others, so that no person is forced to violate one legal requirement in order to satisfy a second. In the United States, our respect for such principles has made our economy the world's strongest, and our citizens the world's freest.

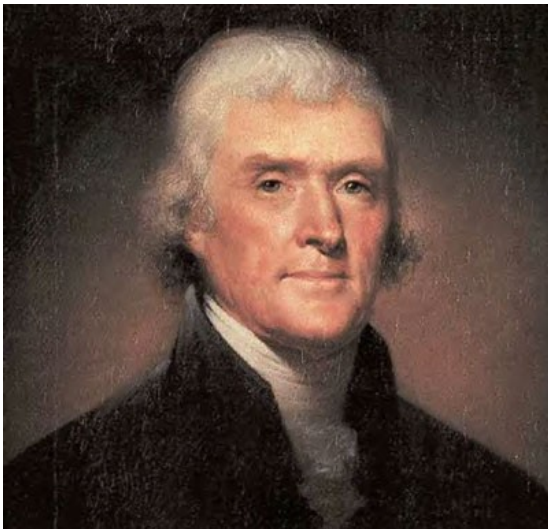
Though we may take it for granted, the rule of law is no easy thing to create and preserve. Dictators and petty despots of all sorts will rebel against these constraints in order to exercise dominion over the lives and fortunes of their subjects. But anyone, of any political persuasion, who thinks of government as the servant of its citizens — not their master — will recognize that compliance with the rule of law sets a minimum condition for a just legal order.

That, however, is precisely where the difficulties begin — for minimum conditions by themselves are not enough. Law is not just an idealized system of rules: It also involves the public administration of those rules by a wide range of elected and appointed officials in an endless array of particular circumstances. For those who would defend a just legal order, the basic challenge is to strike a proper balance — between limiting the discretion of these officials so that they do not undermine the rule of law, while also allowing them enough leeway to perform their essential roles.

Lately in America, we have done a poor job of preserving this balance...

Read on: <http://nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/government-by-waiver>

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



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

Biography

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

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

Declaration of Independence (1776)

Notes on the State of Virginia (1783)

First Inaugural Address (1801)

All Honor to Jefferson by Jean Yarbrough, 16 Apr 2009

Big Government on the brink

by Robert Samuelson, 11 Apr 2011

We in America have created suicidal government; the threatened federal shutdown and stubborn budget deficits are but symptoms. By suicidal, I mean that government has promised more than it can realistically deliver and, as a result, repeatedly disappoints by providing less than people expect or jeopardizing what they already have. But government can't easily correct its excesses, because Americans depend on it for so much that any effort to change the status arouses a firestorm of opposition that virtually ensures defeat. Government's very expansion has brought it into disrepute, paralyzed politics and impeded it from acting in the national interest...

... "Once politics was about only a few things; today, it is about nearly everything," writes the eminent political scientist James Q. Wilson in a recent collection of essays ("American Politics, Then and Now"). The concept of "vital national interest" is stretched. We deploy government casually to satisfy any mass desire, correct any perceived social shortcoming or remedy any market deficiency. What has abetted this political sprawl, notes Wilson, is the rising influence of "action intellectuals"—professors, pundits, "experts"—who provide respectable rationales for various political agendas.

The consequence is political overload: The system can no longer make choices, especially unpleasant choices, for the good of the nation as a whole...

Outstanding: http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/big-government-on-the-brink/2011/04/09/AFNcwrGD_story.html

Christiane Amanpour: Her latest inanity

by Jennifer Rubin, 11 Apr 2011

Christiane Amanpour has had some pretty shabby outings. She's shilled for the **Ground Zero mosque proponents**. She's cheered **Democrats** and boosted **liberal spin**. And she's shown herself to be, **unserious, under-informed and unskilled**. So when she decided to interview liberal Robert Redford about his latest film, **egging him** on to make parallels between the military trial of Abraham Lincoln conspirator Mary Surratt, you knew it was going to be bad. But I bet you didn't know it would be **this** bad...

More: http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/right-turn/post/christiane-amanpour-her-latest-inanity/2011/03/29/AFRI5LHD_blog.html

The U.S. mainstream media have provided no coverage of this important drama. None.

Camp of the Saints: Daily Briefing

by Baron Bodissey, 9 Apr 2011

... Viewing all these articles together, a picture emerges of what is happening to Italy. Since the crisis began in January, the process has gone something like this:

1. Thousands of impoverished culture-enrichers from Tunisia, Libya, and points south arrive with distressing regularity on the beaches of Lampedusa and Sicily. **2.** Italy is required by EU law to feed, clothe, house, and give medical treatment to the refugees. It is forbidden to summarily return them whence they came. **3.** The Italians construct temporary camps on the mainland and convert military barracks into holding centers to house their new charges. **4.** After complaining to the EU, the Italians receive a bit of money from Brussels. **5.** The culture-enrichers riot, escape from the camps, and commit crimes in their new country of residence.

6. Some of the escapees attempt to cross the border into France, but the French border guards forcibly return them to Italy. **7.** Italy retaliates by granting the migrants "temporary residence" papers, which by the Schengen Agreement permit them to travel freely among the states that signed the agreement. **8.** France responds by imposing new requirements on any arrivals who hold these temporary residence permits: they must demonstrate means, and be able to prove that they are no threat to French security. This effectively excludes almost all of them, and back they go to Italy.

9. The Italians complain loudly to the French and the EU that France has unilaterally withdrawn from the Schengen Area. **10.** The EU sends Italy a bit more money. **11.** Italy signs an agreement with Tunisia that permits the repatriation of illegal migrants, and promises a joint effort to prevent more boats from coming. **12.** Italy repatriates about thirty Tunisian criminals, or approximately 0.1% of the refugees who have arrived since the trouble started in January. **13.** Thousands of new boat people arrive at the harbor in Lampedusa. **14.** The European Union says it's sorry, but there's nothing much else it can do except maybe send a little more money. The Italians will just have to handle the whole mess on their own.

The title for this little melodrama might be "Fourteen Steps to Disaster." But we're not done with the steps; we will surely see #15, and #16, and any number of additional steps before reaching the dénouement.

The UN says there are 440,000 sub-Saharan refugees in North Africa waiting to cross the Mediterranean and gain a coveted refuge in the Land of Milk and Generous Social Benefits. These coveted destinations include many of the

gleaming alabaster cities far to the north of the Italian border. If the last thirty years are any indication, most of those desperate migrants will eventually find their way to their intended new homes. The EU is praying that this cup will pass, but it won't.

More: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/04/camp-of-saints-daily-briefing.html#more>

And more: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/04/camp-of-saints-sunday-roundup.html#more>

Nanny State on steroids:

Chicago public school bans lunches brought from home

by Monica Eng and Joel Hood, 11 Apr 2011

Fernando Dominguez cut the figure of a young revolutionary leader during a recent lunch period at his elementary school. Who thinks the lunch is not good enough?" the seventh-grader shouted to his lunch mates in Spanish and English.

Dozens of hands flew in the air and fellow students shouted along: "We should bring our own lunch! We should bring our own lunch! We should bring our own lunch!" Fernando waved his hand over the crowd and asked a visiting reporter: "Do you see the situation?"

At his public school, Little Village Academy on Chicago's West Side, students are not allowed to pack lunches from home. Unless they have a medical excuse, they must eat the food served in the cafeteria...

More: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/education/ct-met-school-lunch-restrictions-041120110410,0,4567867.story>

Bolt on trial for heresy against High Church of Political Correctness

Trying to ban words that some find personally upsetting is a travesty of free speech.

by Ted Lapkin, 1 Apr 2011

I never thought I'd have an opportunity to see a real-life heresy trial in 21st-century Australia, but that's exactly what's been going on this week in Melbourne's Federal Court.

Herald Sun columnist Andrew Bolt has been dragged before a judge and accused of thought crimes against the high church of political correctness. He's being prosecuted and persecuted for the lèse-majesté of challenging the cult of victimhood that dominates racial discourse in Australia...

Read the rest:

<http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/bolt-on-trial-for-heresy-against-high-church-of-political-correctness-20110331-1cn9s.html>

Act has chilling effect on freedom of speech

by James Allan, 6 Apr 2011

Columnist Andrew Bolt is before the Federal Court because various plaintiffs are seeking a declaration against him under the Racial Discrimination Act (together with a court-ordered apology, which sounds Orwellian even writing it down)...

More: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/commentary/act-has-chilling-effect-on-freedom-of-speech/story-e6frgd0x-1226034320717>

A clever take on last Friday's fiscal failure by the GOP.

Cleveland Indians fans are disbelieving, too

by Hugh Hewitt, 11 Apr 2011

<http://washingtosexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/04/cleveland-indians-fans-are-disbelieving-too>

But the WSJ continues to call it a success—even on the editorial page.

The Tea Party's first victory

Obama opposes spending cuts right up to the time he calls them historic.

Wall Street Journal editorial, 11 Apr 2011

...Yes, we know, \$39 billion in spending cuts for 2011 is less than the \$61 billion passed by the House and shrinks the overall federal budget by only a little more than 1%. The compromise also doesn't repeal ObamaCare, kill the EPA's anticarbon rules, defund Planned Parenthood, reform the entitlement state, or part the Red Sea.

On the other hand, the Obama-Pelosi Leviathan wasn't built in a day, and it won't be cut down to size in one

budget. Especially not in a fiscal year that only has six months left and with Democrats running the Senate and White House. Friday's deal cuts more spending in any single year than we can remember, \$78 billion more than President Obama first proposed. Domestic discretionary spending grew by 6% in 2008, 11% in 2009 and 14% in 2010, but this year will fall by 4%. That's no small reversal.

The budget does this while holding the line against defense cuts that Democrats wanted and restoring the school voucher program for Washington, D.C. for thousands of poor children. Tom DeLay—the talk radio hero when he ran the House—never passed a budget close to this good.

The political gains are also considerable...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704390604576253281066078842.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

C'mon Donald Trump! Give 'em your worst!

by *Howie Carr, 10 Apr 2011*

...The *Today* show would never book a real "birther" but they did put Trump on. He's one of the Beautiful People, or was. And Trump smacked Obama on every imaginable issue. Meredith Vieira's jaw dropped. He talked about "\$7 or \$8" gasoline, described Obamacare as a "total disaster." He was doing something you seldom see on *Today*. He was telling the truth.

Trump's been doing the same thing with the agitprop sheet known as the *New York Times*. After an attack by the snoremonger Gail Collins, Trump wrote a snide letter to the editor expressing his great respect for her because "she has survived so long with so little talent."

Again, the truth hurts. And then he added, "For some reason, the press protects President Obama beyond anything or anyone I have ever seen." For some reason indeed. Even Sarah Palin has never stepped into that affirmative-action minefield, the free ride that dares not speak its name...

More: <http://bostonherald.com/news/columnists/view.bg?articleid=1329643>

Arab League to appeal for Gaza 'no-fly zone'

Agence France-Presse, 10 Apr 2011

Arab League chief Amr Mussa said on Sunday the organisation will ask the UN Security Council to impose a no-fly zone over Gaza, which Israel has pounded with air strikes in response to rocket fire....

More: <http://www.france24.com/en/20110410-arab-league-amr-mussa-appeal-no-fly-zone-gaza-israel-air-strikes-libya-un-palestine>

How about a "no rockets into Israel zone," you Islamist f&ck?

EPA's days as 'rogue agency' are numbered

Washington Examiner editorial, 9 Apr 2011

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/editorials/2011/04/epas-days-rogue-agency-are-numbered>

Catastrophe looming thanks to Obamacare

by *Rep. Mike Rogers, 7 Apr 2011*

<http://detnews.com/article/20110407/OPINION01/104070341/1008/OPINION01/Catastrophe-looming-thanks-to-Obamacare>

Fads & myths make for poor public policy

by *Jonah Goldberg, 10 Apr 2011*

New York Times columnist, best-selling author and three-time Pulitzer Prize winner Tom Friedman wishes America could be more like China. Specifically, he wishes we could adopt their authoritarian style in pursuit of the so-called green revolution and clean energy.

Casting what he calls an "envious eye" on China, Friedman finds that country's "one-party autocracy" so much more efficient, informed and wise than our messy democratic way of doing things. In China," Friedman explained on

"Meet The Press" last year, "if the leadership can get around to an enlightened decision, it can order it from the top down." Meanwhile here in America, with our two-party system, "every solution is sub-optimal."

In his book *Hot, Flat and Crowded*, Friedman offers what he believes to be an irrefutable example of China's superior sagacity and why he yearns for America to become "China for a day."...

Surprising facts: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/opinion/s_731400.html

Medicare CPR

by Michael D. Tanner, 10 Apr 2011

...Ryan's plan is based on a model that he originally worked on with Alice Rivlin, President Bill Clinton's budget director. (Now there's a rabid right-winger).

Will it mean that in the future seniors will have to pay more of their own money or settle for a plan with fewer benefits, as Democrats have charged? Quite probably.

But here's the dirty little secret: That is going to happen with or without Ryan's plan. Even if you accept the Obama administration's most rosy scenario, Medicare is facing unfunded liabilities in excess of \$45 trillion. More objective estimates suggest that Medicare's shortfall could top \$89 trillion. Medicare simply cannot continue to pay all the benefits that it has promised.

Traditionally, the federal government has responded to Medicare's insolvency by cutting reimbursements to providers. That approach, though, has gone about as far as it can go. Medicare now reimburses hospitals and physicians only about 80% of their actual costs, meaning more and more physicians are refusing to accept Medicare patients. An estimated 12% of physicians no longer see any Medicare patients; as many as a third are not accepting new patients.

The alternative to cutting reimbursements is for the government to directly ration care. That, of course, is what national health care systems in countries such as Canada or Britain do.

Ryan recognizes that Medicare cannot simply continue to promise paying for everything for everyone, when it doesn't have the money to do so. But rather than have the government impose rationing from the top down, he shifts those decisions to individuals...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/medicare_cpr_H1gWCBt7NyjF97Hym6d3hP

Mr. Stossel explains why government has no business issuing gun licenses at all, much less publicizing them.

Gun owners have a right to privacy

by John Stossel, 6 Apr 2011

If you own a gun in Illinois, take precautions. The state attorney general, Lisa Madigan, wants to release the names of guns owners in response to an Associated Press request. Publication of that list would tell the criminal class where the guns are, which could be useful to two different sorts of lawbreakers: gun thieves who want to know where the guns are and burglars who want to know where they are not...

Read the rest: <http://patriotpost.us/opinion/john-stossel/2011/04/06/gun-owners-have-a-right-to-privacy/>

The GOP made a bad deal

by William Lalor, 9 Apr 2011

Last night's budget compromise amounted to series of broken promises by the GOP, and it was a tremendous opportunity lost. No matter what the accounting tricks and PR machinations say, the simple facts are that the GOP **promised** conservatives \$100 billion in cuts, and didn't deliver. Worse yet, the GOP misread its mandate for massive spending reform, and will suffer for it to the benefit of Democrats. Here's why...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/04/the_gop_made_a_bad_deal.html

Mr. Lifson is always worth listening to, even if we disagree.

The GOP did just fine

by Thomas Lifson, 9 Apr 2011

There is more good in the budget deal than is revealed in the budget cut number agreed on last night. Measured against the size of budget cutting necessary for the future, the numbers are small, to be sure, but this number was a

tactical, not a strategic engagement. The key to the matter is momentum, principle, and precedent, which set up the strategic environment for 2012...

More: http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/04/the_gop_did_just_fine.html

Ending America as we know it

The Democrats' solution to the problem is to deny there is one.

by Mark Steyn, 9 Apr 2011

...One way or another, Medicare as we know it is going to end. So, if you think an unsustainable 1960s welfare program is as permanent a feature as the earth and sky, you're in for a shock. It's just a question of whether, after the shock, what's left looks like Japan or looks like Haiti...

...America, 2011: A man gets driven in a motorcade to sneer at a man who has to drive himself to work. A guy who has never generated a dime of wealth, never had to make payroll, never worked at any job other than his own tireless self-promotion literally cannot comprehend that out there beyond the far fringes of the motorcade outriders are people who drive a long distance to jobs whose economic viability is greatly diminished when getting there costs twice as much as the buck-eighty-per-gallon it cost back at the dawn of the Hopeychangey Era.

So what? Your fault. Should have gone to Columbia and Harvard and become a community organizer.

Another ten years of this, and large tracts of America will be Third World. Not Somalia-scale Third World, but certainly the more decrepit parts of Latin America. There will still be men with motorcades, but they'll have heavier security and the compounds they shuttle between will be more heavily protected. For them and their cronies, the guys plugged in, the guys who still know who to call to figure out a workaround through the bureaucratic sclerosis, life will be manageable, and they'll still be wondering why you loser schlubs are forever whining about gas prices, and electricity prices, and food prices.

What's about to hit America is not a "shock." It's not an earthquake, it's not a tsunami, it's what Paul Ryan calls "the most predictable crisis in the history of our country." It has one cause: spending...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/264288/ending-america-we-know-it-mark-steyn>

Ann Barnhardt fights totalitarian Islam and its useful idiots

by Andrew G. Bostom, 9 Apr 2011

...Kansas-born **Ann Barnhardt** was raised on a farm with a working cow-calf operation. Her formal training includes a B.S. in Animal Husbandry and Agricultural Economics, obtained at Kansas State University. Now a Colorado-based commodity broker, **she** reacted with singular clarity and courage to the recent carnage by the all too familiar Afghan Muslim mobs, and of equal importance, their witless, morally cretinous American apologists. Her verbal dismembering of Lindsey Graham (in **Part 1**) is epochal.

Diana West introduced me to Ann's highly informed, if appropriately trenchant videos (in two parts), which can be viewed in full at these links [(**Part 1**); (**Part 2**)] Diana's **commentary** and a subsequent equally insightful blog by **Roger Kimball** provide valuable context to Ann Barnhardt's videos seen through the prism of two of our most perspicacious cultural critics.

My focus is on Barnhardt's astute, irrefragable observation (starting at **1:54**) that Islam is a "...*totalitarian political system masquerading as a religion*," and her accurate "exegesis" of Koranic verses, entirely consistent with their interpretation by a classical mainstream Koranic commentary that remains the seminal work introducing Muslims to "Koranic understanding..."

Read it all: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/04/ann_barnhardt_fights_totalitar.html

I'm not familiar with the authors of the story below. But Weisman and Levitz seem like they're from another planet. I'll bet they're from the Journal's famously non-conservative news staff, rather than its editorial staff. If they were actual conservatives of any kind, they'd know enough to capitalize Tea Party, and not randomly insert a hypthen between the two words. They'd also be familiar with the what Tea Party people actually expected the House GOP to achieve in this week's confrontation.

The size of the budget cuts being considered was paltry enough at \$61 billion. But the final figure of "up to \$39 billion" is an insult, in view of the fact that it isn't accompanied by *any* of the four riders that the Tea Party really wanted:

defunding Planned Parenthood's abortion mills, defunding NPR, defunding ObamaCare, and blocking the EPA's dictatorial, unconstitutional, economy-killing regulations. If *any two* of the four were defunded, we would have been happy with much less than \$39 billion (for now). But the GOP delivered none of the four riders.

And so Friday night's deal with Obama and Reid is nothing but a craven capitulation, an utter defeat for a GOP that rarely displays enough backbone, and never seems to know its own strength. As Hugh Hewitt **wrote** recently, "The majority in the House of Representatives isn't just 'one-half of one-third.' That majority holds a veto. Nothing happens in D.C. unless the House GOP goes along. Nothing at all." But in order to exercise that veto, the Republicans have to be ready to shut down the government—and possibly more than once. If they're not, they might as well turn everything back over to Chairman Maobama and let him ruin the country just as fast as he wants to.

—Don John, 9 Apr 2011

Activists give Boehner a nod of approval

by Jonathan Weisman and Jennifer Levitz, 9 Apr 2011

Leaders of the small-government, Tea Party movement are generally giving House Speaker John Boehner high marks for his leadership in the spending showdown, even though the agreement eventually reached Friday night fell short of the cuts the Tea Party once demanded...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704415104576251390267843346.html?mod=WSJ_hp_LEFTTopStories

Son of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg admits one parent's guilt

by Ron Radosh, 8 Apr 2011

...After decades of denial, and insistence that his father was framed up and was innocent, Robert Meeropol for the first time has admitted that his father — but not his mother — was legally guilty of the charge for which he had been indicted.

Moreover, Meeropol seemed to have been stunned and surprised by the revelation that Steven Usdin and I had in our *Weekly Standard* **article** about the case two weeks ago, in which co-defendant Morton Sobell revealed to us that on a July 4th weekend in 1948, he and three other men, including Julius Rosenberg, photographed top secret documents obtained for them by scientist William Perl, which they passed on directly to a KGB officer.

On this, Meeropol wrote: "I'd be less than honest if I did not admit that the latest news that Morton Sobell, my father and two others provided aeronautical information to the Soviet Union in 1948 gives me pause. My parents wrote in their last letter to me and my brother: 'Always remember that we were innocent and could not wrong our conscience.' My father, at least, doesn't seem quite so innocent anymore."...

More: <http://pajamasmedia.com/ronradosh/2011/04/08/the-confused-admission-of-his-parents-guilt-by-the-rosenbergs-youngest-son-robert-what-does-it-mean/?singlepage=true>

Chicago White Sox fans jeer Mayor-elect Rahm Emanuel on Opening Day

7 Apr 2011

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2011/04/07/emanuel-having-a-tough-couple-of-days/>

House passes measure to keep government open another week

by Michael A. Memoli, 7 Apr 2011

Despite a veto threat from President Obama, the House of Representatives passed a spending measure Thursday that would fund the Department of Defense through September and also keep the government open for an additional week.

Though there is broad agreement on the terms of the defense authorization bill, **Democrats object** to \$12 billion in budget cuts that the measure calls for in the seven-day extension of funding for other areas of the government. House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer...

More: <http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-pn-spending-resolution-20110408,0,2265172.story>

Ryan vs. Obama: Where's the real change?

New Hampshire Union Leader editorial, 7 Apr 2011

...In February, President Obama said: "What my budget does is to put forward some tough choices, some significant spending cuts so that by the middle of this decade our annual spending will match our annual revenues. We will not be adding more to the national debt."

The Pulitzer Prize-winning Politifact.com rated that statement "false." According to the CBO, during the next decade Obama's budget would spend a total of \$9.5 trillion that we don't have.

What we do have is a President who is lying to the American people. He says his budgets balance when they don't. He says he controls spending when spending rockets upward.

In contrast to President Obama's, Ryan's budget is a deeply serious and honest document...

More: <http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Ryan+vs.+Obama%3a+Where+is+the+real+change%3f&articleId=fc52254d-fc97-45bf-a1d3-91a73aeebe4d>

48% say their views closer to Tea Party than Congress

Rasmussen Reports, 5 Apr 2011

...The latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey finds that 48% of Likely U.S. Voters say when it comes to the major issues facing the country, their views are closer to the average Tea Party member as opposed to the average member of Congress. Just 22% say their views are closest to those of the average congressman. Even more (30%) aren't sure...

More: http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/general_politics/april_2011/48_say_their_views_closer_to_tea_party_than_congress

45% say government programs increase poverty in America

Rasmussen Reports, 6 Apr 2011

...A new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey shows that 45% of American Adults think current government anti-poverty programs actually increase poverty in America. Only 18% say these programs decrease poverty, while 24% say they have no impact. Another 14% are undecided...

More:

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/business/general_business/april_2011/45_say_government_programs_increase_poverty_in_america

This is a masterpiece!

Inside Obama's energy lecture series: Honest talk or phony outreach?

by Andrew Malcolm, 7 Apr 2011

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2011/04/obama-clean-energy.html>

Petraeus misfires on Quran burning

Mobs murder more than 20 innocents in the name of God—and the commander of Afghan forces rebukes a publicity-hungry pastor in Florida.

by Dorothy Rabinowitz, 7 Apr 2011

...By making no mention of the perpetrators of the current massacres—while managing to suggest they were understandably driven to their action—Gen. Petraeus doubtless believed he was taking the appropriate politic path. It's a path that's unquestionably familiar—called appeasement—and one whose usual outcome is also familiar.

Displays of cringing deference to the forces loosed on the streets of Afghanistan over the weekend will not strengthen the American mission. They will stiffen the spines of the jihadists. Such displays count as victories, reassuring indicators that the threat of terrorism—mob terrorism, in this case—continues to work its wonders as a weapon of war. The sort that could send the commanding general of U.S forces in Afghanistan and a NATO official into swoons of apology while denouncing the pastor's act. For a moment there during their joint statement it seemed altogether possible that one or another of them might begin rending his garments...

Read the rest: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703806304576244782887423062.html>

Conservative takes huge lead in Wis. high court race

Newsmax, 7 Apr 2011, 5:39 PM

MADISON, Wis - Officials in Waukesha County on Thursday said a final review of paperwork and records from a closely watched Wisconsin Supreme Court election uncovered thousands of uncounted votes, a potentially stunning development that could upend the contest.

Unofficial returns on Wednesday gave the union-backed challenger, JoAnne Kloppenburg, a narrow 204 vote statewide lead over Republican David Prosser.

But late Thursday, the county clerk in Waukesha, a Republican stronghold, said workers had found 7,582 votes uncounted votes for Prosser. News of the uncounted votes came as officials throughout Wisconsin were conducting county canvasses, a final review of voting records that allows the state to certify this week's bitterly contested elections...

More: http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/prosser-takes-lead-kloppenburg/2011/04/07/id/392189?s=al&promo_code=C0BB-1

(Hat tip: Steve C.)

Judge who struck down Prop 8 confirms he's homosexual

Associated Press, 7 Apr 2011

<http://dailycaller.com/2011/04/07/judge-who-struck-down-prop-8-confirms-hes-gay/>

Obama officials implicated in seditious plot to dismantle U.S. Constitution

by Alan Keyes, 6 Apr 2011

...Just days after Marxist Free Market Saboteur Steve Lerner's plans for mass May Day national economic disruptions have become known via secretly caught exposure of a taped meeting with other extremists, now new evidence implicates the Obama White House in sedition. Regulatory Czar Cass Sunstein; his wife Samantha Power, Senior Director of the National Security Council; and Department of Justice Attorney General Eric Holder are key players in a related plot to dismantle and destroy America's Constitutional republic.

In April 2005, Sunstein opened a conference at Yale Law School sponsored by George Soros' Open Society Institute entitled, "The Constitution in 2020." The event was designed as a forum to craft the agenda and assign the tasks for changing the nature and interpretation of the Constitution into a fully "progressive" Marxist Manifesto by the year 2020. Sunstein was a natural fit for the conference, as his 2004 book, "The Second Bill of Rights: FDR'S Unfinished Revolution and Why We Need It More than Ever" proposed a radical new document to replace America's traditional Bill of Rights.

The conference was co-sponsored by the American Constitution Society, another hard Left Marxist organization which seeks to rewrite the Constitution. Attorney General Eric Holder not only previously served on the ACS Board of Directors, but is keynote speaker for their 2011 Convention...

More: <http://obamalies.org/15686/two-obama-officials-implicated-in-seditious-plot/>

An Open Letter to David Cameron

by Nicolai Sennels, 28 July 2010

Dear Prime Minister,

You say you want Turkey to be member of EU. I personally think that you just want the rest of Europe to have the same problems with Muslims as you do. But that is my personal guess — here are the hard facts:

99.8 percent of the more than 77 million Turks living in Turkey **are Muslims**. Please study the Quran and see what that means: It is a criminal book that **forces people to do criminal things!** From September 11th 2001 (do you remember...?) to July 28th 2010 there have been 15,373 confirmed murders motivated by the Quran and the inhuman example of the Muslims prophet as described in **his life story in the Hadiths**. Do you really think we need to open our European borders to 77 million followers of such an ideology?

Turkish immigrants in Denmark have a crime index of 184 (meaning that they are **close to double** as criminal as the average Danish citizen). Do you really think we need more of that on our continent?

Did you know **that** "Three out of four women in all of Turkey is in average victim to physical or psychological violence at least one time per month."? Do you want such a view on women to take root in our societies?...

More: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2010/07/nicolai-sennels-open-letter-to-david.html>

Paul Ryan's Homer Capehart problem

by Jeffrey Lord, 5 Apr 2011

Can Paul Ryan avoid becoming the next Homer Capehart? And if so, how? Homer Capehart, after all, was right. Early. The issue was in fact just as real as he said it was and every bit as dangerous.

He stood up when few were willing and said why it was dangerous—over and over again. He called the President of the United States to task for not paying attention. There would be extremely serious consequences for ignoring the problem, he insisted. He spoke, he pleaded, he demanded. He did everything up to and including begging for something to be done. He even presented two different ways to deal with this problem. And still, he was brushed off. Dismissed by the so-called sophisticates of the day—in the White House, the Congress and certainly in the dominant liberal media of the day—the latter more than effectively the *only* media of the day.

Who was Homer Capehart? He was, in the summer of 1962, the conservative Republican who was serving as the senior Senator from Indiana. What was he so concerned about?...

Read it all: <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/04/05/paul-ryans-homer-capehart-prob>

Because it's by David Brooks, I didn't get around to reading this for a couple of days.

But it's his best column in at least 3 years.

Moment of Truth

by David Brooks, 4 Apr 2011

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/05/opinion/05brooks.html?_r=3&ref=opinion

"Better than a chimp" is not high praise

by A. Barton Hinkle, 5 Apr 2011

Some years ago *Spy* magazine punctured the pretensions of the art world with a simple prank. It took a bunch of paintings by preschoolers and hung them in a Soho gallery, then recorded the remarks of art aficionados who showed up and said the gassy sort of things people generally say about modern art. The episode offered some vindication for anyone who ever looked at a modern painting or sculpture and scoffed, "My kid could do that."

But last week the art world enjoyed a few minutes of vindication itself, thanks to a study by two psychologists at Boston College. Angelina Hawley-Dolan and Ellen Winner paired genuine works of art by famous abstract impressionists with drawings made by children, chimpanzees, and elephants. Sometimes they labeled the paintings correctly and sometimes they switched the labels around or omitted labels altogether. Then they asked study participants which works they preferred and why...

Read on: <http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/oped/2011/apr/05/tdopin02-quotbetter-than-a-chimpquot-is-not-high-p-ar-949925/>

One Woman, One Vote

by Ned Ryun, 6 Apr 2011

...People across the country are beginning to notice Catherine Engelbrecht and the King Street Patriots' work. They recently won the Ronald Reagan Award at the CPAC event in Washington, D.C., and are working on trainings and summits across the country in preparation for 2012. It's been an amazing journey for Engelbrecht, from small business owner to Tea Party organizer to recipient of national attention...

Read all about 'True the Vote': <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/04/06/one-womanone-vote>

Fired up over nothing

by Michael Graham, 5 Apr 2011

In his indispensable book *America Alone*, Mark Steyn records how British Gen. Sir Charles Napier handled India's tradition of "suttee" — the practice of burning widows to death in their husband's funeral pyre. He told the locals: "You say that it is your custom to burn widows. Very well. We also have a custom: When men burn a woman alive, we tie a rope around their necks and we hang them. Build your funeral pyre; beside it, my carpenters will build a gallows. You may follow your custom. And then we will follow ours."

In America, we used to have a custom, too: Freedom of expression. Citizens moved to protest burned books, waved posters calling for the death of unpopular presidents, torched flags and the like. Americans didn't necessarily like watching elected officials being burned in effigy, but we didn't get too worked up about it, either.

Now we have a new standard: The Muslim Standard. Burning books is fine — just not the Koran. Offensive political cartoons are no problem — unless they offend Islamists.

The result is a moment that is extremely *uncustomary*: The president of the United States, members of Congress and key military leaders joining together to condemn an American citizen for political protest — not because it violates our values, but because it violates the values of militant, living in the 9th-century Islamists. In other words, Barack Obama has brought the free speech standards of Iran and the Gaza Strip to the streets of the United States...

More: http://www.bostonherald.com/news/opinion/op_ed/view/2011_0405fired_up_over_nothing_book_burning_neither_illegal_nor_interesting/

The Republican Budget

by Yuval Levin, 5 Apr 2011

...The **budget** released this morning by House Budget Committee chairman Paul Ryan is nothing short of stunning. It is easily the most comprehensive and ambitious conservative policy program ever put forward by an actual officeholder. Nothing that Newt Gingrich or even Ronald Reagan ever proposed quite compares. Gingrich and Reagan also actually got legislation enacted, of course, and it remains to be seen what will come of this bold agenda in the coming years. But as an agenda, it is just what this difficult moment calls for.

The document offers not just tables of spending levels in various categories (which is all that is technically required of a budget resolution) but a vision of a transformed federal government and American welfare state: entitlement reform, tax reform, welfare reform, budget process reform, and cuts and reforms of many individual discretionary programs all aimed at making possible a thoroughgoing but gradual and palatable course correction from a path that leads to a catastrophic debt crisis toward a path to sustainable growth.

The top line numbers and the entitlement reforms have been getting the most attention, and rightly so of course. The savings achieved in both the short and long term are pretty extraordinary. This budget spends \$6.2 trillion less than President Obama's budget over just the next 10 years, and imposes \$1.5 trillion less in taxes. It reduces the ten-year deficit by more than \$4 trillion. It brings government spending below 20 percent of GDP again—roughly the postwar average. And it starts significantly reducing the size of the debt as a percentage of the economy very swiftly—while the president's budget never does. Here is a quick comparison of the effect on the debt in just the next decade, which I put together using the CBO's baseline and its assessments of the Obama and Ryan budgets...

More: <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/263941/republican-budget-yuval-levin>

Holder's ungracious punt

New York Post editorial, 5 Apr 2011

It took 500 days, but President Obama yesterday abandoned his ill-conceived effort to try 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheik Mohammed in a civilian courtroom. Attorney General Eric Holder was none too gracious about it...

...The AG, however, felt compelled to wag his middle finger at Congress, the CIA and the American people: "Members of Congress simply do not have access to the evidence" to determine where the trials should be held.

Asked by reporters whether Congress reflected the will and wisdom of its 300 million constituents, Holder smoldered: "Do I know better than them? Yes." He next accused critics of using the trials to "scor[e] political points."

(Politics? He should know. Yesterday's announcement came on the very day that Team Obama kicked off its 2012 reelection bid—and getting KSM & Co. off the radar screen won't hurt that effort.)

Then Holder sullied the CIA: "There is no other tool that has demonstrated the ability to both incapacitate terrorists and collect intelligence from them . . . as our justice system."

That's a breathtaking claim, without a shred of evidence to support it, as far as foreign terrorists are concerned. And it's also an astonishing slap at the intelligence agents who captured, interrogated and collected intelligence from KSM—and who have moved mountains to protect this nation from harm. That is, Holder scoffed at the very people who

delivered KSM for prosecution...

More: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/editorials/holder_ungracious_punt_DSjpPmKufQsJGseyFaV9HM

Samantha Power's Power

On the ideology of an Obama adviser.

by Stanley Kurtz, 5 Apr 2011

A member of the president's National Security Council who shares Noam Chomsky's foreign-policy goals? An influential presidential adviser whom 1960s revolutionary Tom Hayden treats as a fellow radical? A White House official who wrote a book aiming to turn an anti-American, anti-Israel, Marxist-inspired, world-government-loving United Nations bureaucrat into a popular hero? Samantha Power, senior director of multilateral affairs for the National Security Council and perhaps the principal architect of our current intervention in Libya, is all of these things.

These scary-sounding tidbits might be dismissed as isolated "gotchas." Unfortunately, when we view these radical outcroppings in the full sweep of her life's work, Samantha Power emerges as a patriot's nightmare — a woman determined to subordinate America's national sovereignty to an international order largely controlled by leftist bureaucrats. Superficially, Power's chief concern is to put a stop to genocide and "crimes against humanity." More deeply, her goal is to use our shared horror at the worst that human beings can do in order to institute an ever-broadening regime of redistributive transnational governance.

Knowing what Samantha Power wants reveals a great deal about Barack Obama's own ideological commitments...

An appalling person: <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/263872/samantha-power-s-power-stanley-kurtz>

The GOP Path to Prosperity

Our budget cuts \$6.2 trillion in spending from the president's budget over the next 10 years and puts the nation on track to pay off our national debt.

by Rep. Paul D. Ryan, 5 Apr 2011

...No one person or party is responsible for the looming crisis. Yet the facts are clear: Since President Obama took office, our problems have gotten worse. Major spending increases have failed to deliver promised jobs. The safety net for the poor is coming apart at the seams. Government health and retirement programs are growing at unsustainable rates. The new health-care law is a fiscal train wreck. And a complex, inefficient tax code is holding back American families and businesses.

The president's recent budget proposal would accelerate America's descent into a debt crisis. It doubles debt held by the public by the end of his first term and triples it by 2021. It imposes \$1.5 trillion in new taxes, with spending that never falls below 23% of the economy. His budget permanently enlarges the size of government. It offers no reforms to save government health and retirement programs, and no leadership.

Our budget, which we call The Path to Prosperity, is very different. For starters, it cuts \$6.2 trillion in spending from the president's budget over the next 10 years, reduces the debt as a percentage of the economy, and puts the nation on a path to actually pay off our national debt. Our proposal brings federal spending to below 20% of gross domestic product (GDP), consistent with the postwar average, and reduces deficits by \$4.4 trillion.

A study just released by the Heritage Center for Data Analysis projects that The Path to Prosperity will help create nearly one million new private-sector jobs next year, bring the unemployment rate down to 4% by 2015, and result in 2.5 million additional private-sector jobs in the last year of the decade. It spurs economic growth, with \$1.5 trillion in additional real GDP over the decade. According to Heritage's analysis, it would result in \$1.1 trillion in higher wages and an average of \$1,000 in additional family income each year...

More, including a chart showing how this plan compares to the path America is currently on:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703806304576242612172357504.html>

\$4 trillion in cuts is just a start

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 5 Apr 2011

Republicans are set to unveil common-sense changes to entitlements that cut spending \$4 trillion over the next decade and start to restore our fiscal health. Predictably, do-nothing Democrats call them "extremist."

But who's the real extremist here? The one who recognizes that \$10 trillion-plus in expected deficits over the next

10 years is a serious problem? Or those who insist there's no budget problem so bad that more spending and a massive tax hike on all Americans can't fix it?...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/568095/201104041921/Ryans-Hope.htm>

Ryan Budget: a huge opportunity to improve health care

by Michael F. Cannon, 4 Apr 2011

...As it should, Ryan's budget would repeal ObamaCare. With a national debt roughly three-fourths the size of the entire economy, we simply cannot afford that law's two new entitlement programs or its trillion-dollar price tag.

Repeal would also relieve states of the law's staggering burdens. My colleague Jagadeesh Gokhale estimates ObamaCare's Medicaid expansion will cost New York \$53 billion in its first 10 years. It will cost Florida, Illinois and Texas around \$20 billion each.

Even former Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., has conceded ObamaCare's supposed spending restraints were never a plausible strategy for containing Medicare spending. Even if they were, ObamaCare just spends the presumed savings elsewhere. Scrapping the law will enable Congress to replace those phony measures with spending restraints that stick.

Second, the budget should restrain Medicare spending by giving enrollees fixed vouchers they can use to purchase any private health plan of their choice. Poor and sick enrollees should get larger vouchers, but the average voucher amount should grow only at the overall rate of inflation.

Because vouchers enable seniors to keep the savings, they will do what ObamaCare won't: reduce the wasteful spending that permeates Medicare. Seniors will choose more economical health plans and put downward pressure on prices across the board. Indeed, vouchers are the only way to contain Medicare spending while protecting seniors from government rationing...

More: http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=12939#

The manifesto of an evil totalitarian political system

4 Apr 2011

A young woman in Colorado named Ann Barnhardt watched Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) holding forth on television yesterday about the necessity for rolling back the First Amendment in order not to anger Muslims. This did not sit well with her, and she made a two-part video for YouTube expressing her outrage, and vigorously affirming her right to patriotic dissent.

She declares herself strongly at the beginning of the first video: "Hello, my name is Ann Barnhardt, and I am apparently one of the very, very last people left in Western Civilization who possesses any quantity of brains and balls simultaneously..."

More: <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/04/manifesto-of-evil-totalitarian.html>

Video 1 (9:36) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qeyrp-V3Jvc&feature=player_embedded#at=75

Video 2 (14:47) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_LCLDjPNpf4&feature=player_embedded

GOP anti-appropriators break up the spending party

by Timothy P. Carney, 4 Apr 2011

The third party on Capitol Hill, Washington's gray-haired conservatives used to grumble, was the "Appropriators Party"—an autonomous, bipartisan bloc of obdurate spenders and shameless porkers who marched in lockstep with their committee leaders and were rewarded with the choicest earmarks.

But a rump of conservative Republicans on the House Appropriations Committee has quietly rebelled this year against the committee leaders by repeatedly doing what was once unthinkable for an appropriator: voting on the House floor against the chairman on appropriations amendments, and even appropriations bills. Even more unfathomable, a handful of Republican appropriators have voted against spending bills...

Read on: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/politics/2011/04/gop-anti-appropriators-break-spending-party>

The Golden Years Of AARP

Investor's Business Daily editorial, 1 Apr 2011

...The millions forced by ObamaCare to lose the Medicare Advantage coverage will result, the report says "in a massive migration of seniors to Medigap plans. AARP is the nation's leading provider of Medigap plans and has a contract in which AARP financially gains for every additional Medigap enrollee. "

The amount AARP will gain from ObamaCare — with cost-effectiveness mandates leading to rationed care, the destruction of medical innovation and health care decisions made by bureaucrats rather than doctors and patients — is staggering.

"AARP's financial gain from the health care law," the report states, "could exceed \$1 billion during the next 10 years. This is because AARP will see their royalty payments increase as seniors are forced out of (Medicare Advantage) plans and buy AARP Medigap plans instead."

This morphing of a touted seniors service organization to just another lobby feeding at the federal trough for fun and profit has Republicans questioning the group's tax-exempt status...

More: <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=567804&p=1>

Non-subscribers must pay \$4.95 to read the full article (2900 words). But you may well find it worthwhile.

The Worst Study Ever?

by Scott W. Atlas, April 2011 issue

The World Health Organization's World Health Report 2000, which ranked the health-care systems of nearly 200 nations, stands as one of the most influential socialscience studies in history. For the past decade, it has been the de facto basis for much of the discussion of the health-care system in the United States, routinely cited in public discourse by members of government and policy experts. Its most notorious finding—that the United States ranked a disastrous 37th out of the world's 191 nations in "overall performance"—provided supporters of President Barack Obama's transformative health-care legislation with a data-driven argument for swift and drastic reform, particularly in light of the fact that the U.S. spends more on health than any other nation...

...In fact, World Health Report 2000 was an intellectual fraud of historic consequence—a profoundly deceptive document that is only marginally a measure of health-care performance at all. The report's true achievement was to rank countries according to their alignment with a specific political and economic ideal—socialized medicine—and then claim it was an objective measure of "quality."...

...Before WHO released the study, it was commonly accepted that health care in countries with socialized medicine was problematic. But the study showed that countries with nationally centralized health-care systems were the world's best. As Vincente Navarro noted in 2000 in the highly respected *Lancet*, countries like Spain and Italy "rarely were considered models of efficiency or effectiveness before" the WHO report. Polls had shown, in fact, that Italy's citizens were more displeased with their health care than were citizens of any other major European country; the second worst was Spain. But in *World Health Report 2000*, Italy and Spain were ranked #2 and #7 in the global list of best overall providers...

More, for \$4.95: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/article/the-worst-study-ever/>

The Unified Theory of Obama

by Clarice Feldman 3 Apr 2011

For as long as I can remember, scientists have been trying to put together a Theory of Everything which would explain and connect all the knowledge we have of physical phenomena. So far they haven't been successful, but they keep trying. I wondered if it would be possible to explain the many contradictions of Obama and the mystery of his origins and incomprehensible nature of his domestic and foreign policies to better understand him and predict why he seems to be steering the ship of state onto the shoals.

I think I've finally got it, though a night of watching old movies —*The Man in the Iron Mask* and *The Prince and the Pauper*—helped me along.

Barack is not one person. The man we know as Barack Obama is really two people, identical (possibly conjoined at the head Janus-like but later separated) twins. Don't laugh. I'll explain...

This is good; includes photos and videos: http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/04/the_unified_theory_of_obama.html

Judge Richard Goldstone's stunning re-evaluation of his own Report

by Ron Radosh, 2 Apr 2011

In a stunning and unexpected turn of events, Judge Richard Goldstone has essentially reversed himself on the findings of the Goldstone Report. He does, of course, qualify his remarks to make it appear that he has not reversed himself...

...Savvy readers will have no problem finding many sources that pointed to the report's many flaws in 2009. Nevertheless, it is refreshing to find today that Goldstone now says: "That the crimes allegedly committed by Hamas were intentional goes without saying—its rockets were purposefully and indiscriminately aimed at civilian targets." As for serious crimes against civilians that resulted from Israeli defensive action, Goldstone now writes that "civilians were not intentionally targeted as a matter of policy" by Israel. The moral equivalence, thankfully, has now disappeared in the judge's new conclusions. Moreover, where possible violations of human rights were committed by Israel, Goldstone now writes that in one case if an Israeli officer was found to have acted inappropriately, and is "found to have been negligent, Israel will respond accordingly."

He now argues, perhaps out of guilt or perhaps he decided his critics were correct, that "the purpose of the Goldstone Report was never to prove a foregone conclusion against Israel," and that the original mandate of the UN Human Rights Council "was skewed against Israel." Score yet another point for his critics. And, Goldstone adds, Israel "has the right and obligation to defend itself and its citizens against attacks from abroad and within." He also stresses, although one would be hard pressed to find this in all the press reports about it, that "our report marked the first time illegal acts of terrorism from Hamas were being investigated and condemned by the United Nations." Rather strange, then, that all the coverage emphasized Israel as the sole villain, and few could find any emphasis in the Report about Hamas and its war crimes...

More: <http://pajamasmedia.com/ronradosh/2011/04/02/judge-richard-goldstones-stunning-re-evaluation-a-partial-apologia-but-one-that-comes-at-the-right-time/?singlepage=true>

In St. Louis, a protest sign meets government arrogance

by George F. Will, 1 Apr 2011

...St. Louis is not the problem; government is. Many people go into it because they enjoy bossing people around. Surely this is why a court had to overturn a decision by the government of Glendale, Ohio, when it threatened a man with fines and jail because he put a "for sale" sign in his car parked in front of his house. The city said that people might be distracted by the sign and walk into traffic.

St. Louis Alderman Phyllis Young is distressed that Roos's speech might escape government control: "If this sign is allowed to remain, then anyone with property along any thoroughfare can paint signs indicating the opinion or current matter relevant to the owner to influence passersby with no control by any City agency. The precedent should not be allowed."

The alderman's horror of uncontrolled speech is an example of what Elizabeth Price Foley, law professor at Florida International University, calls "an ineluctable byproduct of disregarding the morality of American law." In her book *Liberty for All* (2006, Yale), she says that the growing exercise of legislative power "in the name of majoritarian whims" has eroded America's "twin foundational presumptions" — limited government and residual individual sovereignty.

The original constitutional structure has, she says, been inverted: Citizens are required to convince the courts that laws restricting liberty are "irrational"; government should be required to articulate justifications for limiting liberty...

More: http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/in-st-louis-a-protest-sign-meets-government-arrogance/2011/04/01/AFvR4wJC_story.html

57% okay with government shutdown if it leads to deeper budget cuts

Rasmussen Reports, 1 Apr 2011

A majority of voters are fine with a partial shutdown of the federal government if that's what it takes to get deeper cuts in federal government spending.

A new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey finds that 57% of Likely U.S. Voters think making deeper spending cuts in the federal budget for 2011 is more important than avoiding a partial government shutdown. Thirty-one percent (31%) disagree and say avoiding a shutdown is more important. Twelve percent (12%) are not sure...

More:

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/general_politics/march_2011/57_okay_with_government_shutdown_if_it_leads_to_deeper_budget_cuts

All Benefits, No Costs

The false promises of Obama's regulators.

by *Ike Brannon and Sam Batkins*, 2 Apr 2011 (*April 11 issue*)

Many companies complain that the Obama administration has increased the cost of doing business by issuing loads of new regulations. The administration does not deny being aggressive in issuing new rules or that compliance costs may ultimately total in the billions of dollars. Instead, it has rejected logic and common sense and argues that increasing the costs of doing business benefits the economy. The chain of reasoning by which it reaches this conclusion is breathtakingly audacious, not to say absurd.

Continue: http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/all-benefits-no-costs_556153.html

As Wisconsin's battle heads to court, unions try to oust a judge

Next Tuesday's judicial election could swing the state Supreme Court majority from right to left.

by *John Fund*, 2 Apr 2011

...Legal analysts say it's preposterous for a judge to enjoin publication of a law before it has even taken effect, as citizens don't have standing to challenge a law until they are subject to it. In a similar case in 1943, the state's Supreme Court ruled that a judge had no such authority. In 1977, another state Supreme Court opinion reiterated that under separation of powers "no court has jurisdiction to enjoin the legislative process at any point." Rick Esenberg, an assistant professor of law at Marquette University, says he is "speechless" over the fact that Judge Sumi "has failed to articulate why she has the authority" to issue her ruling.

The case will ultimately be decided by the state Supreme Court. That's why unions and liberal groups are now pouring millions into TV ads to try to oust Justice David Prosser—a member of the court's 4-to-3 conservative majority—in an election next Tuesday.

Victory would mean a seat on the court for JoAnne Kloppenburg, an assistant state attorney general—and a court with a liberal majority that may well uphold Judge Sumi's decision...

...Why are the unions and their liberal allies so desperate to block Mr. Walker's reforms? It's all about the money. Unions can't abide the loss of political clout that will result from ending the state's practice of automatically deducting union dues from employee paychecks. For most Wisconsin public employees, union dues total between \$700 and \$1,000 a year, much of which is funneled into political spending to elect the officials who negotiate their contracts...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703806304576236583966428502.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

If there's no mission, when's it accomplished?

by *Mark Steyn*, 2 Apr 2011

...So, having agreed to be the Libyan Liberation Movement Air Force, we're also happy to serve as the Gadhafi Last-Stand Air Force. Say what you like about Barack Obama, but it's rare to find a leader so impeccably multilateralist that he's willing to participate in both sides of a war. It doesn't exactly do much for holding it under budget, but it does ensure that for once we've got a sporting chance of coming out on the winning side. If a coalition plane bombing Gadhafi's forces runs into a coalition plane bombing the rebel forces, are they allowed to open fire on each other? Or would that exceed the U.N. resolution?

Who are these rebels we're simultaneously arming and bombing? Don't worry, the CIA is "gathering intelligence" on them. They should have a clear idea of who our allies are round about the time Mohammed bin Jihad is firing his Kalashnikov and shouting "Death to the Great Satan!" from the balcony of the presidential palace. But America's commander-in-chief thinks they're pretty sound chaps. "The people that we've met with have been fully vetted," says President Obama. "So we have a clear sense of who they are. And so far they're saying the right things. And most of them are professionals, lawyers, doctors—people who appear to be credible."

Credible people with credentials—just like the president! Lawyers, doctors, just like Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, al-Qaida's No. 2. Maybe among their impeccably credentialed ranks is a credible professional eye doctor like Bashir Assad, the London ophthalmologist who made a successful midlife career change to dictator of Syria. Hillary Rodham Clinton calls young Bashir a "reformer," by which she means presumably that he hasn't (yet) slaughtered as many civilians as his late dad...

More: <http://www.ocreger.com/opinion/gadhafi-294586-people-war.html>

The floating dollar as a threat to property rights

by Seth Lipsky; adapted from a speech delivered on 16 Feb 2011

...So, the *New York Sun* asked, why not float the kilogram? After all, when you go into the grocery to buy a pound of hamburger, why should you worry about how much hamburger you get—so long as it's a pound's worth? A pound is supposed to be .45359237 of a kilogram. But if Congress can permit Mr. Bernanke to use his judgment in deciding what a dollar is worth, why shouldn't he—or some other Ph.D. from M.I.T.—be able to decide from day to day what a kilogram is worth?

No doubt some will cavil that the fact that the dollar floats makes it all the more reason for the kilogram to be constant. But what's so special about the kilogram? If the fiat dollar floats, one has no idea what it will be worth when it comes time to spend it. If the kilogram also floats, it will simply be twice as hard to figure out what something we're buying will be worth. So what if, when we unwrap our hamburger, the missus has to throw a little more sawdust in the meatloaf?

Or let us consider a compromise. Let's go to a fiat kilogram—that is, permit the kilogram to float—but apply the new urgency to fixing the dollar at a specified number of grains of gold. To those who say it would be ridiculous to fix the dollar but let the butcher hand you whatever amount of hamburger he wants when you ask for a kilogram, I say, what's the difference as to whether it's the measure of money or of weight that floats?

For that matter, one could go all the way and fix the value of both the kilogram and the dollar but float the value of time. You say you want to be paid \$100 an hour. That's fine by your boss. But he—or Chairman Bernanke—gets to decide how many minutes in the hour. Or how long the minute is. You know you'll get a kilogram of meat for the price a kilogram of meat costs. But you won't know how long you have to work to earn the money...

Outstanding: <http://www.hillsdale.edu/news/imprimis/archive/issue.asp?year=2011&month=02>

Muslims and Westerners: the psychological differences

by Nicolai Sennels, May 2010

...If a Muslim does not respond in a threatening way to insults or social irritation, he, *not* "she" (Muslim women are, mostly, expected to be humble and to not show power) is seen as weak, as someone who cannot be depended upon and loses face.

In the eyes of most Westerners it looks immature and childish when people try to use threatening behavior, to mark their dislikes. A Danish saying goes "...Only small dogs bark. Big dogs do not have to." That saying is deeply rooted in our cultural psychology as a guideline for civilized social behavior. To us, aggressive behavior is a clear sign of weakness. It is a sign of not being in control of oneself and lacking ability to handle a situation. We see peoples' ability to remain calm as self confidence, allowing them to create a constructive dialogue. Their knowledge of facts, use of common sense and ability in producing valid arguments is seen as a sign of strength.

The Islamic expression of "holy anger" is therefore completely contradictory to any Western understanding. Those two words in the same sentence sound contradictory to us. The terror-threatening and violent reaction of Muslims to the Danish Mohammed cartoons showing their prophet as a man willing to use violence to spread his message, is seen from our Western eyes as ironic. Muslims' aggressive reaction to a picture showing their prophet as aggressive, completely confirms the truth of the statement made by Kurt Westergaard in his satiric drawing.

This cultural difference is exceedingly important when dealing with Muslim regimes and organizations. Our way of handling political disagreement goes through diplomatic dialogue, and calls on Muslim leaders to use compassion, compromise and common sense. This peaceful approach is seen by Muslims as an expression of weakness and lack of courage. Thus avoiding the risks of a real fight is seen by them as weakness; when experienced in Muslim culture, it is an invitation to exploitation...

Fascinating: http://www.newenglishreview.org/custpage.cfm/frm/63122/sec_id/63122

We've become a nation of takers, not makers

More Americans work for the government than in manufacturing, farming, fishing, forestry, mining and utilities combined.

by Stephen Moore, 1 Apr 2011

...Surveys of college graduates are finding that more and more of our top minds want to work for the government. Why? Because in recent years only government agencies have been hiring, and because the offer of near lifetime security is highly valued in these times of economic turbulence. When 23-year-olds aren't willing to take career risks, we have a real problem on our hands. Sadly, we could end up with a generation of Americans who want to work at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The employment trends described here are explained in part by hugely beneficial productivity improvements in such traditional industries as farming, manufacturing, financial services and telecommunications. These produce far more output per worker than in the past. The typical farmer, for example, is today at least three times more productive than in 1950.

Where are the productivity gains in government? Consider a core function of state and local governments: schools. Over the period 1970-2005, school spending per pupil, adjusted for inflation, doubled, while standardized achievement test scores were flat. Over roughly that same time period, public-school employment doubled per student, according to a study by researchers at the University of Washington. That is what economists call negative productivity.

But education is an industry where we measure performance backwards: We gauge school performance not by outputs, but by inputs. If quality falls, we say we didn't pay teachers enough or we need smaller class sizes or newer schools. If education had undergone the same productivity revolution that manufacturing has, we would have half as many educators, smaller school budgets, and higher graduation rates and test scores.

The same is true of almost all other government services...

More: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704050204576219073867182108.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

Foolish Thoughts

by Ben Stein, 1 Apr 2011

...The Moslem Brotherhood of Egypt, sworn to destroy Israel, hand in glove with Hamas, proponent of Shariah law worldwide, is poised to take over the whole country and put it on a war footing with Israel. This Revolution (as I respectfully predicted) is turning into exactly the kind of nightmare that the Iranian "Revolution" against the Shah became: the replacement of a fairly mild tyranny with a brutal, violently reactionary Moslem terror state. The amazing part is that this was coming as plainly as a freight train barreling down the track.

Mr. Barack H. Obama ignored it, and pushed for Mubarak's ouster. Now, instead of a friend in Egypt, we have a bitter enemy—armed with superb U.S.-made weapons.

The exact same thing is happening in Libya. Certainly Col. Gaddafi is a wild man. But we don't even know who the rebels are. The Israelis, who have a life or death interest in knowing these things, say the al Qaeda is a big part of the rebellion. The Moslem Brotherhood is another big part.

So, we are attacking Col. Gaddafi—again, a crazy man—on behalf of people who may well be far more dangerous to us than Gaddafi was in the last ten years. Surely this must be the first time we have ever gone to war for total strangers. Of course, Libya will end up dominated by the Islamists, because that's how all Moslem countries in the Middle East wind up when there is a rebellion. That's as predictable as gravity. They are organized, smart, and fearless. Our present leadership is confused, confused, and confused...

Read it all: <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/04/01/foolish-thoughts>

A clueless presidency adrift in a sea of confusion: Barack Obama sinks again at the polls

by Nile Gardiner, 1 Apr 2011

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/nilegardiner/100082108/a-clueless-presidency-adrift-in-a-sea-of-confusion-barack-obama-sinks-again-at-the-polls/>

Support Our Troops

They're still fighting for us.

Soldiers' Angels

Wounded Warrior Project

Fisher House: help military families

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*

**Disabled American Veterans
Our Military**

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.