

Tom Roeser, a great conservative writer, broadcaster, teacher, and businessman, died on 29 May 2011 at the age of 82. Here's an outstanding piece he wrote less than a year ago.

## **Barack Obama and the reflection of LBJ's loss of the mainstream media**

by Thomas F. Roeser, 21 June 2010

<http://www.cdobs.com/archive/featured/barack-obama-and-the-reflection-of-lbj-s-loss-of-the-mainstream-media/>

## **Our Muslim Troubles: Lessons from Northern Ireland**

### **Part One: The Idiot Paradigm**

by El Inglés, 25 May 2011

...There are four aggregate characteristics/behaviours of Muslims that make it inevitable that they will eventually force European peoples into violent conflict with them, that make them, in short, toxic to Western societies: their criminality (including terrorism), their parasitism, their sedition, and their subversion. All these characteristics manifest themselves with remarkable consistency, whether we look at Pakistanis in the UK, Turks in Germany, Algerians in France, or Moroccans in the Netherlands...

...Imagine a man who sits at a table in front of a large pile of salt. He wets his finger, dips it into the salt, and licks the salt off it. What effect does this have on him? Not a great deal, as the human body requires some amount of salt and has a certain tolerance even for elevated levels of it. But what happens if this man repeats the operation over and over again, taking another small portion of salt, and then another? We can say with certainty that if he continues to sit at the table eating salt, he will start to feel unwell, as salt in excess is poisonous to human beings. If he is so foolish as to continue eating salt past the point of starting to feel sickened by it, he will develop a desperate desire not to consume any more at all. If he ignores this desire and keeps eating, eventually he will die.

The Netherlands is directly analogous to a man eating salt at a table. For several decades now, the Dutch have sat at their table dipping their finger into their pile of salt and licking away, and they have gone well beyond the point of starting to feel queasy. If they continue to eat the salt of Muslim immigration, they will sicken and die. If they resolve not to eat it any more, they have at least a chance to return to health. But they cannot be 'clever' about the way they eat it, taking care to properly 'integrate' it into their bodies. Eventually one must stop eating poison. To conclude that salt is not poisonous because the first small portion did not result in one's death is to misunderstand the matter. The poison of Islam, in the form of Muslims themselves, has accumulated in the body politic of the Netherlands to such an extent that it is starting to kill it...

**More:** <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/05/our-muslim-troubles-lessons-from.html>

Part Two: **The Chocolate Cake Diet** (26 May 2011)

Part Three: **An Explosive Situation** (27 May 2011)

Part Four: **The Military and the Paramilitaries** (29 May 2011)

Part V: **A Discredited State** (30 May 2011)

## **Increase in CO2 emissions means world on the brink, say warmists**

by Rick Moran, 30 May 2011

The only reason I am highlighting this piece in the **Guardian** is because it is a textbook example of everything that's wrong with climate change advocates...

... (1) Absolutely no quoting of skeptics. (2) Warnings of absolute catastrophe with not a shred of evidence to support it. (3) Hiding the fact that the increase in CO2 comes from "developing countries" (China, India) and not from the industrialized world. (one passing reference). (4) A 50-50 chance of a 4c rise in temps by 2100? Talk about hedging your bets! (5) Ascribing reliable authority to people and organizations that have no track record of accuracy whatsoever. (6) The usual picture of smoking industrial smokestacks when CO2 is invisible and is not a pollutant.

I'm sure you could add more to the list. But since most of the increase comes from non-signatories to Kyoto and Copenhagen, it is unclear exactly why western industrialized countries should reduce their emissions even further, damaging their economies in the process, while China and India get a free ride...

**More:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/printpage/?url=http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/05/increase\\_in\\_co2\\_emissions\\_mean.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/printpage/?url=http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/05/increase_in_co2_emissions_mean.html)

## Is Obama above the law?

by George F. Will, 27 May 2011

...Liberals are situational ethicists regarding presidential warmaking: Imagine their comportment if Obama's predecessor — who got congressional authorization for his uses of force — had behaved as Obama is doing regarding Libya. Most conservatives, who preen about their commitment to keeping government on a short leash, seem anesthetized by the administration's sophistries.

"No president," says Sen. John McCain, "has ever recognized the constitutionality of the War Powers Act, and neither do I. So I don't feel bound by any deadline." Oh? No law is actually a law if presidents and senators do not "recognize" it? Now, *there* is an interesting alternative to judicial review, and an indicator of how executive aggrandizement and legislative dereliction of duty degrade the rule of law.

**More:** [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/is-obama-above-the-law/2011/05/26/AGL5zyCH\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/is-obama-above-the-law/2011/05/26/AGL5zyCH_story.html)

## Netanyahu and Obama in their youth



<http://tarpon.wordpress.com/2011/05/25/obama-falls-through-the-outhouse-hole/>

A hard-nosed argument in favor of nominating Paul Ryan for president. No doubt Rep. Ryan is serious when he says he doesn't want to run. But we may need to draft him in order to save the country from Obama.

## From the Midwest to the West Wing

The formula for a winning GOP candidate.

by Jeffrey H. Anderson, 29 May 2011 (June 6 issue)

[http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/midwest-west-wing\\_571622.html](http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/midwest-west-wing_571622.html)

## Herman Cain: Barack Obama is not a patriot

Based on the sum of Barack Obama's lifetime of personal choices, Cain's assertion is remarkably reasonable and evidence-based.

by Tom Blumer, 29 May 2011

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/herman-cain-barack-obama-is-not-a-patriot/?singlepage=true>

See also:

<http://www.hermancain.com/>

<http://hotlineoncall.nationaljournal.com/archives/2011/05/herman-cain-oba.php>

Don't know how we missed this. Better late than never.

## Allen West: "Obama is like a low-level socialist agitator"

22 Apr 2011

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN: Did you hear what Congressman Allen West said? Well, hold onto your seat. He compared President Obama to a dictator. The congressman made those remarks during a recent appearance on *The Laura Ingraham Show*. And to be specific, Congressman West said President Obama showed, quote, "third world dictator-like arrogance" during his budget speech. So what did he mean? Let's ask him...

**Watch:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGIZtD4uffFo&feature=related>

**Text:** <http://www.foxnews.com/on-air/on-the-record/print/transcript/rep-allen-west-i039m-sick-and-tired-class-warfare-marxist-demagogic-rhetoric-coming-obama>

Social justice? ROFLMAO! The only social justice is *freedom*. These people are climbing up the wrong tree.

## U.N.-backed summit seeks 'social justice' for African descendants

by Susan Jones, 27 May 2011

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/un-backed-summit-seeks-social-justice-af>

## Our Holiday

by Bruce Walker, 30 May 2011

...The American military, of all the forces on our troubled planet, offers hope. It is a meritocracy in a land too often addicted to affirmative action or cronyism. Some of the first big steps in racial equality were through the military, and it is no accident that men like Congressman West in Florida are as courageously conservative as any member of Congress, and that he is wholly untroubled by the ninnies of black groupthink in Congress. Every other minority—Hispanics, Asians, Arabs, and others—serves proudly within our Armed Forces. The very composition of our Armed Forces ought to make leftists beam, especially since no one has been conscripted to serve for almost forty years. But the left still hates this ultimate symbol of America, this first significant organization of our nation in 1776, this group of people who are more inclined to seriously trust God than, say, a community organizer who has never faced real danger.

Memorial Day is our holiday. That does not mean it is the holiday of conservatives—every brave Democrat and every courageous leftist who serves and risks his life for this nation deserves the same respect as a soldier, sailor, or airman whose politics we love more. But it does mean that Memorial Day is our holiday by default. The left wants no part of it, really. An Obama who could not find time for an Easter address, but who sees every obscure Muslim holiday or whimsical invention like Kwanzaa, wants no part of Memorial Day except to scratch up a few style points in the afterglow of bin Ladin's death. Leftists who see nothing of worth in life cannot grasp the sacrifice of young men who saw a lifetime compressed into quiet, lonely moments of mortal sacrifice for freedom. The left, indeed, eschews the very idea of "sacrifice" in an adolescent world of entitlement...

**Read the whole column:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/05/our\\_holiday.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/05/our_holiday.html)

"People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf."

—George Orwell (*Winston Churchill and Rudyard Kipling expressed similar thoughts, too*)

## A salute to the military, bedrock of American democracy

*Washington Examiner editorial, 29 May 2011*

...To say that the military is what makes America great could perhaps give other nations the wrong impression, but it is true all the same. This is not because Americans are a particularly militaristic people. Nor is it because other aspects of the national identity—our freedoms, our ingenuity, our faith and our entrepreneurship—are less important. Rather, it is because the right to practice all of these virtues has been purchased on battlefields, with the blood of those whom we commemorate on Memorial Day.

Our military rightly subordinates itself to the day-to-day prerequisites of civilian life. The very fact that Americans seldom encounter uniformed soldiers on the streets is itself a result of those soldiers' enormous contribution. Thanks to the sacrifices of American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, the rule of law and respect for our Constitution are firmly established. Thanks to the military, Americans do not live under martial law. Military coups and the civil instability that is commonplace in other parts of the world are not a concern in the United States. What's more, the American military is a model for the world in that it is a loyally disinterested party in all domestic matters. It follows in the sacred tradition George Washington established when he surrendered his command to the Continental Congress in 1783, after the American Revolution.

That does not mean that the military's fortunes are not intertwined with domestic politics. In his recent commencement speech at the University of Notre Dame, Defense Secretary Robert Gates noted that "a strong military cannot exist without a strong economy underpinning it. At some point fiscal insolvency at home translates into strategic insolvency abroad." This underscores the need for the budget reforms we expect to see in the coming months. Current projections suggest that entitlement spending will, within decades, consume the entire federal budget. Without serious reforms—including reforms of and cuts to defense spending—the United States could eventually lack the means to maintain a strong military...

**More:** <http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/2011/05/salute-military-bedrock-american-democracy>

## **Cherishing the memory of our dead**

The order that inaugurated Memorial Day.

*by John A. Logan, 5 May 1868*

...We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance.

All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.

If other eyes grow dull, other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us...

**More:** <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/may/27/cherishing-the-memory-of-our-dead/>

Colonel Cancian served in Vietnam, the Gulf War, and Iraq. His two sons who are Marines have served in Afghanistan.

## **Memorial Day and our "military tribe"**

*by Col. Mark Cancian (USMC ret.), 27 May 2011*

<http://www.kansascity.com/2011/05/27/2907746/memorial-day-and-our-military.html>

## **Obama the Weak**

*by Jack Kelly, 29 May 2011*

..."This is what a leader looks like," wrote Bryan Preston of Pajamas Media of Mr. Netanyahu's "very impressive" speech to Congress. "Not a word of it will have to be 'clarified' or walked back in a day or two. It will not be 'misunderstood,' as President Obama claims his speech of last week has been. I have had many friends on the Republican

side tell me 'if only we had a candidate like that.' "

Bibi Netanyahu can't run for president of the United States. But he showed those who are running how to get the better of Mr. Obama: Talk straight. Talk substance. Go directly at him...

...The GOP field arguably is weak—compared to Bibi Netanyahu. But Republicans are running against Barack Obama, who's made a hash of the economy and foreign policy, and who seems to spend more time golfing and partying and campaigning than attending to his duties. The weaker candidate in 2012 won't be the Republican nominee.

**More:** <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11149/1149609-373-0.stm?cmpid=news.xml>

## **Burns Night for Israel: Scotland's literary shame**

A place that boycotts books is not far from a place that burns them.

by *Ben Cohen*, 26 May 26 2011

...West Dunbartonshire's decision to boycott Israeli books stems from a 2009 resolution, in the wake of Israel's defensive "Cast Lead" operation in Gaza, to prohibit the council from purchasing and selling goods produced in Israel. In that sense, the council is merely part of a growing pattern of labor unions, academic institutions, and regional authorities signing up to the international campaign to subject Israel to Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS). While such efforts have been rather flaccid here in America — so much so that some U.S. boycott activists feel they have to lie about their alleged successes — in Europe, South Africa, and Australia, gaining traction has been far easier.

The long-established ideological obsessions about Jews underlying these activities puncture the misconception that a boycott of Israel, whether generalized or targeted, is simply a tactic to change Israeli policy. Boycotting is the tangible expression of a visceral opposition to Jewish empowerment that, as the anti-Semitism scholar Robert Wistrich **observed** back in 1990, observes in Zionism a "code word for the forces of reaction in general."

West Dunbartonshire, in fact, was an early adopter of this outlook. The area is home to the city of Dundee which, back in 1980, flew a Palestinian flag from the parapet of its town hall after being twinned with the West Bank town of Nablus. The prime mover behind that particular gesture was a local Labour Party organizer named George Galloway...

**More:** <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/burns-night-for-israel-scotlands-literary-shame/?singlepage=true>

## **David Mamet's coming out party**

Before he moved to California, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Mamet had never talked to a self-described conservative. 'I realized I lived in this bubble.'

by *Bari Weiss*, 28 May 2011

...Now Mr. Mamet has written a book-length, raucous coming-out party: *The Secret Knowledge: On the Dismantling of American Culture*. (If only the Voice editors had been around to supply a snappier title.)

Hear him take on the left's sacred cows. Diversity is a "commodity." College is nothing more than "Socialist Camp." Liberalism is like roulette addiction. Toyota's Prius, he tells me, is an "anti-chick magnet" and "ugly as a dogcatcher's butt." Hollywood liberals—his former crowd—once embraced Communism "because they hadn't invented Pilates yet." Oh, and good radio isn't NPR ("National Palestinian Radio") but Dennis Prager, Michael Medved and Hugh Hewitt.

The book is blunt, at times funny, and often over the top. When I meet the apostate in a loft in Manhattan's Greenwich Village, he's wrapping up a production meeting. "Bye, bye, Bette!" he calls to the actress walking toward the elevator. That'd be Bette Midler. Al Pacino gets a bear hug. The two are starring in an upcoming HBO film about Phil Spector's murder trial. Mr. Mamet is directing and he looks the part in a scarf, black beret and round yellow-framed glasses. Looking out the window at NYU film school, where he used to teach, I ask him to tell me his conversion story.

He starts, naturally, with the most famous political convert in modern American history: Whittaker Chambers, whose 1952 book, *Witness*, documented his turn from Communism...

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304520804576347110395478634.html>

## **Barney Frank's friends with benefits**

The Massachusetts congressman's shady ethics history.

by *Michelle Malkin*, 27 May 2011

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/268254/barney-frank-s-friends-benefits-michelle-malkin>

## **Awkward moment during Obama toast to Queen**

by Jake Tapper, 24 May 2011

<http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2011/05/awkward-moment-during-obama-toast-to-queen-.html>

## **Who's winning the Budget War?**

by Kimberley Strassel, 27 May 2011

Here's the Washington headline of the week that nobody in America got to read: Paul Ryan, 40. Barack Obama, 0. Forty is the number of Senate votes that went in favor of Mr. Ryan's reformist budget, a tally that included nearly every Senate Republican. Zero is the number of votes President Obama got for his own tax-and-spend budget, a blueprint that not one of his own party had the backbone to support. It went down, 97-0.

Washington is in a game of high-stakes chicken over raising the debt limit, though so far only one side is flinching. According to the headlines (and Democrats), Republicans are on defense over Mr. Ryan's plan, are risking America's creditworthiness, and are delaying sensible compromise by refusing tax increases. It is only a matter of time, goes the betting, before the party swerves.

This has little relation to reality, in which **it is Democrats who keep calling their own bluffs**. It was Mr. Obama who first swerved, submitting a "do-over" of his initial, embarrassing budget. It is Democrats who have since swerved on the debt-limit debate, agreeing to spending-cut negotiations, then continuing to up the size of a package.

By refusing to blink, Republicans keep forcing Democrats to acknowledge a very simple political reality: Voters do want spending reform, and do not want tax hikes. That's why this debate has so far moved in the GOP's direction...

**Read on:** [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304066504576347623877424728.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_BelowLEFTSecond](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304066504576347623877424728.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_BelowLEFTSecond)

## **A win for Arizona, and the rule of law**

*National Review editorial, 27 May 2011*

The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld Arizona's 2007 law requiring all employers in the state to use the federal E-Verify system for screening out illegal aliens and revoking the business licenses of firms that knowingly hire them...

...The Court's decision was a resounding loss for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce—Obama administration effort to prevent states from buttressing federal immigration law. While it doesn't necessarily follow that the Court will also uphold the suspended portions of last year's SB1070 — which makes it a state crime to be an illegal immigrant in Arizona and imposes stiff penalties on those who employ and enable illegals — the ruling is a green light for other states to pass their own E-Verify laws. A dozen have already enacted mandates of varying breadth, most recently Georgia and Indiana...

...Responsible, law-abiding businesses now have an incentive to work in Congress for a single, national E-Verify mandate...

...House Judiciary Committee chairman Lamar Smith (R., Texas) will be introducing an E-Verify bill soon, and Speaker Boehner would be well-advised to put it on a fast track. Passage will not be easy; the reason the Chamber of Commerce and the Obama administration made defeat of the Arizona E-Verify law in court such a high priority is that each wants to trade mandatory E-Verify for something else...

**More:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/268252/win-arizona-and-rule-law-editors>

## **Corporate power blesses, not oppresses, the American people**

by Michael Medved, 17 Oct 2007

...As Thomas J. DiLorenzo points out in his illuminating book *How Capitalism Saved America*: "Capitalism improves the quality of life for the working class not just because it leads to improved wages but also because it produces new, better and cheaper goods...When Henry Ford first started selling automobiles only the relatively wealthy could afford them, but soon enough working-class families were buying his cars." The efficiency and productivity made possible by corporate organization gave typical Americans a range of choices and an economic power unimaginable for prior generations.

**CONSERVATIVES** Board economists Michael Cox and Richard Allen made clear: “A nineteenth century man couldn’t grab a cold drink from the refrigerator. He couldn’t hop into a smooth-riding automobile for a 70-mile-an-hour trip down an interstate highway to the mountains or seashore. He couldn’t call up news, movies, music and sporting events by simply touching the remote control’s buttons. He couldn’t jet north to Toronto, south to Cancun, east to Boston or west to San Francisco in just a few hours. He couldn’t transmit documents to Europe, Asia, or anyplace else in seconds.

He couldn’t run over to the mall to buy auto-focus cameras, computer games, mountain bikes, or movies on videotape. He couldn’t escape the summer heat in air conditioned comfort. He couldn’t check into a hospital for a coronary bypass to cure a failing heart, get a shot of penicillin to ward off infection, or even take aspirin to relieve a headache.” In this context, jeremiads about the “horrifying” gap between rich and poor miss the point that poor people in America’s 21st century enjoy options and privileges that the wealthy couldn’t claim a hundred years ago. Far from oppressing the working class, the corporate system brought about a vast improvement in purchasing power for all Americans.

The 1999 book *Myths of Rich and Poor* by Michael Cox and Richard Alm indicates that a worker in 1900 worked two hours and forty minutes to earn the cost of a three point chicken; in 1999, a mere 24 minutes of toil could buy him the bird. If anything, the growth in rewards for working only accelerated in the last fifty years. In 1950, typical workers put in more than two hours to afford 100 kilowatts of electricity; by 1999, the cost had dropped to fourteen minutes. A three minute coast-to-coast phone call cost 104 minutes of labor in 1950, but by 1999 that was down to two minutes (and it’s no doubt even less today)...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.660worl.com/column.aspx?id=06b3ac31-b0d1-4b6b-976d-401847e1aa74>

## DC liberals sign petition to ban conservative websites

by Stephen Gutowski, 26 May 2011

**Watch:** <http://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/stephen-gutowski/2011/05/26/video-dc-liberals-sign-petition-ban-conservative-websites>

## Students want to ban conservatives from radio & TV

by Oliver Darcy, 20 May 2011

**Watch:** <http://exposingleftists.com/archives/242>

## Polar Ice Rapture misses its deadline

by James Taylor, 26 May 2011

While Harold Camping spends this week trying to wipe egg off his face after real-world events spectacularly falsified his prediction that the Christian rapture would occur on May 21, global warming alarmists are similarly trying to wipe egg off their faces after real-world events spectacularly falsified their predictions of an imminent polar ice rapture.

This week, a 1979 *Palm Beach Post* article **resurfaced** in which Stephen Schneider, who for the past 30 years was one of the most prominent global warming alarmists, claimed the west Antarctic ice sheet could melt before the year 2000 and inundate American coastlines with up to 25 feet of sea level rise. Obviously, the west Antarctic ice sheet was not raptured away last century, and New Yorkers can still drive rather than swim to work.

If Stephen Schneider was the only alarmist making spectacular—and spectacularly wrong—predictions about global warming and polar ice melt, then perhaps we could simply write it off as a single person who walked a little too far off the deep end. But spectacularly wrong global warming predictions, about polar ice and many other global warming-related issues, is par for the course for global warming alarmists...

**Continue:** <http://blogs.forbes.com/jamestaylor/2011/05/25/polar-ice-rapture-misses-its-deadline/>

## No way to pick a President

by Andrea Neal, 25 May 2011

Bring back the smoke-filled rooms, please. Without the smoke. Thoughtful deliberation by political insiders intent on winning the general election would produce far better candidates for president than the mass-media vetting process we use now...

...Here's how our system works. A few years before a presidential election, prospects start floating their names in trial balloons. Pundits start bursting them. *Saturday Night Live* starts mocking them. Dirty laundry gets aired. Most self-eliminate for family or financial reasons before they even declare they're running.

Who are the candidates left going into primary season? A few high-profile politicians addicted to running or those with egos too big to recognize how demeaning the whole thing is. The best leaders are not necessarily the most ambitious. But if you're not ambitious, you don't stand a chance of becoming president.

George Washington, who ranks in the top three on anybody's "Best Presidents" list, never would have "declared" a candidacy let alone have subjected Martha to reporters prying into their marriage. He became president the old-fashioned way. The leaders of his day backed by public opinion convinced him of his obligation to his country...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.indystar.com/article/20110525/OPINION04/105250309/>

## **Obama skirts rule of law to reward pals, punish foes**

by *Michael Barone*, 24 May 2011

...One basic principle of the rule of law is that laws apply to everybody. If the sign says "No Parking," you're not supposed to park there even if you're a pal of the alderman. Another principle of the rule of law is that government can't make up new rules to help its cronies and hurt its adversaries except through due process, such as getting a legislature to pass a new law.

The Obamacare waiver process appears to violate that first rule. Two other recent Obama administration actions appear to violate the second.

One example is the National Labor Relations Board general counsel's action to prevent Boeing from building a \$2 billion assembly plant for the 787 Dreamliner in South Carolina, which has a right-to-work law barring compulsory union membership. The NLRB says Boeing has to assemble the planes in non-right-to-work Washington state. "I don't agree," says William Gould IV, NLRB chairman during the Clinton years. "The Boeing case is unprecedented."

The other example is the Internal Revenue Service's attempt to levy a gift tax on donors to certain 501(c)(4) organizations that just happen to have spent money to elect Republicans. A gift tax is normally assessed on transfers to children and other heirs that are designed to avoid estate taxes. It has been applied to political donations "rarely, if ever," according to *New York Times* reporter Stephanie Strom. "The timing of the agency's moves, as the 2012 election cycle gets under way," continues Strom, "is prompting some tax law and campaign finance experts to question whether the IRS could be sending a signal in an effort to curtail big donations."...

**More:** <http://washingtonexaminer.com/politics/2011/05/obama-skirts-rule-law-reward-pals-punish-foes>

## **The truth behind Chrysler's fake auto bailout payback**

by *Conn Carroll*, 24 May 2011

...To recap, the Obama Energy Department is loaning a foreign car company \$3.5 billion so that it can pay the Treasury Department \$7.6 billion even though American taxpayers spent \$13 billion to save an American car company that is currently only worth \$5 billion.

Oh, and Obama plans to make this "success" a centerpiece of his 2012 campaign.

**The lying s. o. s.:** <http://washingtonexaminer.com/blogs/beltway-confidential/2011/05/truth-behind-chrysler-s-fake-auto-bailout-pay-back>

## **A 62% Top Tax Rate?**

Democrats have said they only intend to restore the tax rates that existed during the Clinton years. In reality they're proposing rates like those under President Carter.

by *Stephen Moore*, 26 May 2011

...If the Democrats' millionaire surtax were to happen—and were added to other tax increases already enacted last year and other leading tax hike ideas on the table this year—this could leave the U.S. with a combined federal and state top tax rate on earnings of 62%. That's more than double the highest federal marginal rate of 28% when President Reagan left office in 1989. Welcome back to the 1970s...

...Now let's consider how our tax system today compares with the system that was in place in the late 1980s—when the deficit was only about one-quarter as large as a share of GDP as it is now. After the landmark Tax Reform Act of 1986, which closed special-interest loopholes in exchange for top marginal rates of 28%, the highest combined

federal-state marginal tax rate was about 33%. Now we may be headed to 62%. You don't have to be Jack Kemp or Arthur Laffer to understand that a 29 percentage point rise in top marginal rates would make America a highly uncompetitive place.

What is particularly worrisome about this trend is the deterioration of the U.S. tax position relative to the rest of our economic rivals. In 1990, the highest individual income tax rate of our major economic trading partners was 51%, while the U.S. was much lower at 33%. It's no wonder that during the 1980s and '90s the U.S. created more than twice as many new jobs as Japan and Western Europe combined...

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304066504576343611464445594.html>

## Obama is grounding JFK's space legacy

by Neil Armstrong, Jim Lovell, and Gene Cernan, 24 May 2011

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2011-05-24-Obama-grounding-JFK-space-legacy\\_n.htm#](http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2011-05-24-Obama-grounding-JFK-space-legacy_n.htm#)

## The Supremes order up a crime wave

by Hans von Spakovsky, 25 May 2011

It's not often that the murder, rape and assault of American citizens can be tied directly to a court decision. But that's the foreseeable consequence of the Supreme Court's outrageous ruling on Monday in *Brown v. Plata*.

Justice Anthony Kennedy's order—joined, unsurprisingly, by his four liberal brethren—forces California to release 46,000 convicted criminals. It is, as dissenting Justice Antonin Scalia dubbed it, "the most radical injunction issued by a court in our Nation's history."...

**Read on :** [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/the\\_supremes\\_order\\_up\\_crime\\_wave\\_osurbyUs8zNMreY2IPtbJO](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/the_supremes_order_up_crime_wave_osurbyUs8zNMreY2IPtbJO)

## The insult behind Obama's U.K. codename

by Asra Q. Nomani, 24 May 2011

...No doubt about it, she said. "It's an insult." My mother dusted off our edition of the Oxford Practical English-Urdu Dictionary, published in Lahore, Pakistan, by the Oriental Book Society on Ganpat Road, and turned to page 156, where she read the definition of chalak. It read: "adj. skilful; knowing; crafty; sly." My father, Zafar Nomani, then faxed me over a copy of pages of the dictionary, including 156.

Trust me, when they mean "skilful" and "knowing," that's not meant as a compliment. The word is a derogatory term for anyone older than about 7. For a youngster, it can mean clever, like, "What a cunning boy." Think somewhere between Eddie Haskell from *Leave It to Beaver* and the Uriah Heep character from Dickens' *David Copperfield*...

...But for a grown man, especially, it's a putdown...

**More:** <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2011-05-24/obamas-uk-codename-the-insult-behind-chalaque/full/#>

Mr. Rusher, who worked as publisher of *National Review* from 1957 through 1988, died on 16 April 2011.

## A closer look under the bed

by William Rusher, 20 Apr 2007

...But the year 1995 was an epochal one for the study of American Communism. For in that year, thanks to the insistence of the late Democratic Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, who had long specialized in intelligence matters, some 2,900 documents collectively known as "the Venona papers" (a deliberately meaningless code phrase) were de-classified and published. These were radio messages from the top KGB agents in Washington and New York to their superiors in Moscow from approximately 1943 to 1948. They had been recorded at the time by the U.S. Army Signal Corps, but they were, of course, in code, and their decoding was an immensely arduous job carried out by a number of heroic government cryptanalysts over the period from 1945 to 1980.

A second new source of information on the American Communist Party was the archives in Moscow of the defunct Soviet Union, which began to be partially accessible to American investigators in the early 1990s, during the Yeltsin years.

The Venona papers, together with these archives, made it absolutely clear that the American Communist Party was

from its beginning the willing agent of Soviet intelligence, obedient to its orders, financed by its contributions, and serving not only as a propaganda organ for Soviet policies but as a generous source for the recruitment of agents who would thereupon influence American policy and gladly commit espionage as well. It is now plain that by 1945 every important branch of the American government, from the White House itself to the State Department, the Defense Department, the Justice Department, the Treasury Department, the Office of Strategic Services (predecessor to the CIA), and the Office of War Information, to name only a few, was infested with Communists busily doing the work of the Soviet Union...

**Read the rest:** [http://www.claremont.org/publications/crb/id.1375/article\\_detail.asp](http://www.claremont.org/publications/crb/id.1375/article_detail.asp)

## **Was medieval China superior to Europe in the sciences?**

*by Fjordman, 23 May 2011*

...When the pro-Chinese English scholar Joseph Needham investigated the history of science among the Chinese he was eventually forced to conclude that “one can hardly speak of a developed science of physics” in China prior to modern contact with Europeans. It lacked the systematic thinkers that one encounters in the history of mechanics in medieval Europe, where there was an established tradition of arguing with Aristotle’s conceptions of motion. These include names such as Philoponus, Buridan, Bradwardine and Oresme, who all contributed to developments that culminated in Galileo’s work. In China there was no Galileo, nor Kepler’s laws of celestial motions, which formed the basis for Newton’s great synthesis.

The great Temple of Heaven was constructed in fifteenth century Beijing. Symptomatically, the Earth was represented by a flat square and Heaven by a circle, which accurately reflects the fact that the Earth was widely held to be flat in Chinese cosmology well into modern times. By contrast, it was common in medieval Europe to see a cross-bearing orb on royal regalia, symbolizing Christ’s dominion over the world. One striking aspect of this is that the Earth was here represented as a spherical object. This was for instance the case with the Orb, Scepter and Crown insignia of the Holy Roman Empire, possibly dating back to the tenth century AD.

At this time, Europe was barely recovering from the collapse of urban civilization, while China, with the world’s largest and most sophisticated economy, went from the Tang to the Song Dynasty and was in the middle of one of the most technologically creative phases in its history. Another way of saying this is that Europeans had a more scientifically correct understanding of the shape and size of the Earth in a period when urban civilization barely existed there than the Chinese had while performing at their very best.

The consensus among Chinese scholars until around 1600 AD, more than two thousand years after Greek thinkers had demonstrated that the Earth is spherical, was that the Earth is flat. This basic error wasn’t corrected until they encountered modern European astronomers...

**More:** <http://tundratabloids.com/2011/05/fjordman-report-was-medieval-china-superior-to-europe-in-the-sciences.html>

## **O'Bama? Oh Puh-Lease!**

*by James Delingpole, 23 May 2011*

...I’ve argued before that Tony Blair and Barack Obama have an awful lot in common. Both are lawyers; both are snake-oil-salesman; both claim to be post-partisan, and Third Way and consensual; both play the acceptable, moderate-seeming public face of a regime chock full of Communists, class warriors, single issue rabble rousers, malcontents, communitarians and eco-loons hell bent on destroying every last vestige of what once made their country great. And both do (or did) the things dodgy political leaders always do when the going gets tough at home and their domestic audience finally wises up to how totally useless they are: they hop on the plane and pose as international statesman instead...

**And then there are the satirical parts:** <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100088971/obama-oh-puh-lease/>

Without mentioning their names, Mr. Steele makes a great case for nominating Herman Cain—or Allen West.

## **Obama's unspoken re-election edge**

*by Shelby Steele, 24 May 2011*

...How can the GOP combat the president's cultural charisma? It will have to make vivid the yawning gulf between Obama the flattering icon and Obama the confused and often overwhelmed president. ...Republicans will have to break through the barrier of political correctness...Lastly, there must be a Republican message of social exceptionalism...

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704569404576299241421694066.html>

## **Speech to a joint session of the U.S. Congress**

*by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, 24 May 2011*

...The peace with Egypt and Jordan has long served as an anchor of stability and peace in the heart of the Middle East...We must also find a way to forge a lasting peace with the Palestinians. Two years ago, I publicly committed to a solution of two states for two peoples: A Palestinian state alongside the Jewish state.

I am willing to make painful compromises to achieve this historic peace. As the leader of Israel, it is my responsibility to lead my people to peace. This is not easy for me. I recognize that in a genuine peace, we will be required to give up parts of the Jewish homeland. In Judea and Samaria, the Jewish people are not foreign occupiers. We are not the British in India. We are not the Belgians in the Congo.

This is the land of our forefathers, the Land of Israel, to which Abraham brought the idea of one God, where David set out to confront Goliath, and where Isaiah saw a vision of eternal peace. No distortion of history can deny the four thousand year old bond between the Jewish people and the Jewish land. But there is another truth: The Palestinians share this small land with us. We seek a peace in which they will be neither Israel's subjects nor its citizens. They should enjoy a national life of dignity as a free, viable and independent people in their own state. They should enjoy a prosperous economy, where their creativity and initiative can flourish...

...We've helped the Palestinian economy by removing hundreds of barriers and roadblocks to the free flow of goods and people. The results have been nothing short of remarkable. The Palestinian economy is booming. It's growing by more than 10% a year...Imagine what could happen with peace. Peace would herald a new day for both peoples. It would make the dream of a broader Arab-Israeli peace a realistic possibility.

So now here is the question. You have to ask it. If the benefits of peace with the Palestinians are so clear, why has peace eluded us? Because all six Israeli Prime Ministers since the signing of Oslo accords agreed to establish a Palestinian state. Myself included. So why has peace not been achieved? Because so far, the Palestinians have been unwilling to accept a Palestinian state, if it meant accepting a Jewish state alongside it.

You see, our conflict has never been about the establishment of a Palestinian state. It has always been about the existence of the Jewish state. This is what this conflict is about. In 1947, the United Nations voted to partition the land into a Jewish state and an Arab state. The Jews said yes. The Palestinians said no. In recent years, the Palestinians twice refused generous offers by Israeli Prime Ministers, to establish a Palestinian state on virtually all the territory won by Israel in the Six Day War. They were simply unwilling to end the conflict. And I regret to say this: They continue to educate their children to hate...

**Read the whole speech:** <http://www.jpost.com/DiplomacyAndPolitics/Article.aspx?id=222056>

## **An Anti-Israel President**

The president's peace proposal is a formula for war.

*by Bret Stephens, 24 May 2011*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304066504576341212934894494.html>

## **General Motors will never repay taxpayers**

Obama's spin on GM's latest profit report is pure baloney.

*by Shikha Dalmia, 24 May 2011*

...This means that, outside of a miracle, taxpayers will lose anywhere from \$13 to \$19 billion on their principal and another \$45 billion on taxes for a grand total of up to \$58 to \$64 billion in losses. And that's just for GM. Chrysler is whole different—and equally sordid—story...

**Details:** <http://reason.com/archives/2011/05/24/general-motors-will-never-repa>

## **Yes, we Cain**

A first-hand report from Atlanta, where Herman Cain announced his presidential candidacy on Saturday.

by Mary Grabar, 22 May 2011

...Cain hit Obama hard on all the issues on which he has disappointed voters, citing the high unemployment rate. “Hope and change is not a job,” he quipped. He referred to Obama’s \$2 billion loan to Brazil for offshore oil exploration, saying he would never go to a foreign country, loan them money, and promise to be their best customer. He cited the Justice Department’s lawsuit against Arizona’s law on illegal immigration. “The last thing I will do is sue a state,” he said. Instead, he suggested, we send Arizona “a peace prize.”

News reports have referred to Cain’s weakness in foreign policy experience. He seemed to have that in mind when he said, “I know you don’t throw your friends under the bus. You don’t need years in the statehouse to know that.” The “Cain Doctrine” would be “If you mess with Israel, you’re messing with the United States.”

His last point was that the nation has slipped into being an entitlement society. Another memorable line followed: “We can take this from an entitlement society to an empowerment society.”

Cain hit the right notes, drawing enthusiastic applause and cheers from the audience. The rhetorical question, “Is America ready for a leader and not a reader?” drew wild cheers and the chant, “Herman.” A man shouted, “Where’s your teleprompter?” in case anyone didn’t pick up on the allusion to Obama’s teleprompter addiction...

**More:** <http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/yes-we-cain/>

(Hat tip: Ann Marie)

## **Muslim invasion of Europe not with tanks but under trucks**

bankorandotcom, 22 May 2011

**Watch:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TebQts3JXsI>

## **Obama praises CIA for bin Laden raid—while saying “me” 3 times, “my” 6 times, and “I” 35 times in 92 lines**

20 May 2011

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/05/20/remarks-president-cia-director-leon-panetta-and-dni-director-james-clapp>

## **QE2 was a bust**

Economic data is worse than before

by Brett Arends, 23 May 2011

...An analysis of the real numbers tells a very different story. Turns out the program has created maybe 700,000 full-time jobs — at a cost of around \$850,000 each. House prices are lower than before QE2 was launched. Economic growth is slower. Inflation is higher...

...Even the stock market boom hasn’t been what it appears. An analysis shows that most of the rise in the Standard & Poor’s 500 Index under QE2 has simply been a result of the decline in the dollar in which shares are measured. The truth? QE2 has created a massive new bubble in dollar-based financial assets, from stocks to gold. Meanwhile, it has had zero visible effect on the real economy.

Take jobs. According to the U.S. Labor Department, since last August the number of full-time workers has gone up by just 700,000, from 111.8 million to 112.5 million. At a cost of \$600 billion, that’s \$850,000 a job. The picture’s even more meager. Over the same period, the number of part-time workers has gone down by 600,000. In other words, we’ve basically shifted 600,000 or 700,000 workers from part-time jobs to full-time jobs.

The percentage of the population in work is actually lower today — 58.4%, compared to 58.5% last August. The percentage of the workforce in actual work, the so-called “participation rate,” has fallen by half a percentage point. Some recovery...

**More:** [http://www.marketwatch.com/story/qa2-was-a-bust-2011-05-21?link=MW\\_latest\\_news](http://www.marketwatch.com/story/qa2-was-a-bust-2011-05-21?link=MW_latest_news)

## **Why budgets are busted**

by David Boaz, 22 May 2011

Three stories in today’s *Washington Post* help us to understand why governments around the world are facing

unmanageable deficits...

**The stories:** <http://www.cato-at-liberty.org/why-budgets-are-busted/>

...As has been noted many times, politicians spend all the money that comes in when times are good. They don't put anything aside for the possibility of lean years. And they make commitments, like pensions and collective bargaining agreements, that will prove to be fiscal time bombs, exploding long after the next election. It looks like the long run is here.

## **The farce continues**

*by Baron Bodissey, 23 May 2011*

Geert Wilders took a bit of a vacation earlier this month, visiting Canada and **Tennessee**. Now everything has returned to normal, and he's back in the dock in the Netherlands.

The Amsterdam court that is trying Mr. Wilders is engaged in a surgical operation for political purposes under the mandate of the Dutch ruling class. Its task is to excise the PVV leader from the Dutch body politic and restore the multicultural state to its previous dominance.

If there were ever any doubt that this is a kangaroo court, and that the verdict was determined well in advance, the following brief article would lay it to rest...

**More:** <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/05/farce-continues.html#more>

## **Cornel West is an expert showman but nothing more: The lead huckster of the Ivy League's takedown**

*by Stanley Crouch, 23 May 2011*

...Serious black intellectuals privately dismissed West many years ago as no more than an academic loudmouth with a good show business game. He has perfected a variety of poses—from academic to conciliator to rapper—that are intended to give the impression that a very substantial mind is mulling over something and will soon drop some rhetorical bombs that will blow away all nonsense.

The effect is usually the opposite: West is best at going beyond sentimentality to pure bathos. His answer to a teaspoon of unnecessary sugar is a barrel of syrup. His most faithful audience is made up of liberal white cornballs and the black cornballs who mirror them...

**More:** [http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2011/05/23/2011-05-23\\_lead\\_huckster\\_of\\_the\\_ivy\\_league.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2011/05/23/2011-05-23_lead_huckster_of_the_ivy_league.html)

## **Dear Congress, your credit application has been turned down**

*by A. Barton Hinkle, 20 May 2011*

After reviewing the information provided in your application as well as your credit report, we regret to say that we are unable to extend you further credit at this time. The reasons for our decision are as follows:

(1) *Inadequate income.* Our records indicate that your annual income for the 2011 taxable year was \$2,170,000,000,000. You have requested a credit limit of \$17,000,000,000,000. These figures exceed the American Public's debt-to-income guidelines for credit issuance.

(2) *Excessive spending.* The receipts you provided indicate your annual expenditures for the 2011 fiscal year total \$3,820,000,000,000, or \$1,650,000,000,000 more than your total income for the year. The American Public prefers that its members of Congress maintain a positive or neutral rather than a negative cash flow.

(3) *High debt utilization.* Your credit report indicates that you have a credit limit of \$14,300,000,000,000, and of that amount you have utilized \$14,300,000,000,000, for a debt utilization ratio of 100 percent. Consumer banking industry guidelines recommend a debt utilization ratio of no greater than 30 percent for standard creditworthiness, and 10 percent for exemplary creditworthiness. A debt utilization rate of 100 percent meets our classification of "You're \*&^% \$#@! kidding, right?"

(4) *High credit activity.* Our records indicate you have credit accounts open with the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States, the Social Security Administration, the People's Bank of China, the Bank of Japan, the European Central Bank, the Bank of the Republic of Burundi, Bank Frick & Co. AG Liechtensteiner Privatbank, Quik-Cash Loans, Three Gold Balls Pawn Shop (Ann Arbor, Mich.), MyFast Loan.com (Antigua), paydayloans-r-us.com (Cayman Islands), Frank the bartender (Old Towne Tavern), and several members of the extended family of Salvatore "Sammy Meatballs"

Montigliano of Montclair, N.J. While account activity thresholds vary by lender, your activity exceeds American Public guidelines for further credit issuance...

**More:** <http://reason.com/archives/2011/05/20/dear-congress-your-credit-appl>

## Borderline Treachery

Obama proposes leaving Israel indefensible.

by *Andrew C. McCarthy*, 21 May 2011

...As the president utters his paeans to nonviolence, **Egyptians** and **Iraqis** continue **slaughtering** their religious minorities, and Bashar Assad, the “reformer,” murders his Syrian subjects in the street with the help of his friends at Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed terrorist organization whose day job is running the Lebanese government. The democracy fetish that gave Hezbollah and Hamas thugs the patina of political legitimacy is about to place Egypt under the thumb of the Muslim Brotherhood, which is itching to deep-six the treaty that has kept peace with Israel for 30 years. Speaking of Israel, it is recovering from a weekend in which thousands of “peaceful protesters” **stormed** four of its borders. Meanwhile, Iraq, which is touted by Arab Spring enthusiasts — and now even the Obama Left — as a Democracy Project success story, just **announced** that it will show its gratitude to American soldiers and taxpayers by expanding military ties with Iran...

...In its implacable hostility to Israel, the “international community” chooses to forget how and why the Arab side first grabbed, then lost, the territory in question. For nearly a half century since the adoption of U.N. Security Council resolution 242, the Washington Institute’s Robert Satloff **explains**, American administrations of both parties have called for eventual Israeli withdrawal to “secure and recognized” borders, a phrase interpreted as “not synonymous with the pre-1967 boundaries.”...

...Bear in mind that what are called the “1967 borders” were never agreed-upon national boundaries... The Arabs, of course, never created a Palestinian state when it was within their power to do so. Thus, the final disposition of this territory has never been resolved. It is a subject for negotiations, not predetermined Palestinian sovereignty.

When, in the decades after the 1967 war, Israelis built homes in Judea and Samaria, they were building on ancient Jewish land. Hundreds of thousands of them now live in the thriving communities that the world, in its glossary of delegitimization, calls “settlements.” But recognizing how dramatically conditions on the ground had changed since 1967, President Bush declared in 2004 that there could not realistically be “a full and complete return to the armistice lines of 1949.” As the *Washington Times*’ Eli Lake **reports**, Prime Minister Netanyahu — who was sandbagged by Obama’s newly announced policy only a day before his scheduled meeting with the president — will now press for a reaffirmation of this U.S. commitment, reminding Obama that Bush’s conclusion was overwhelmingly supported by Congress. Not only is Obama’s new position on the borders a sellout of this American commitment to Israel; it is an adoption of Hamas’s position...

**More:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/267796/borderline-treachery-andrew-c-mccarthy>

## Israel's 1967 borders aren't defensible

by *Dore Gold*, 21 May 2011

...Remember that before the Six Day War, those lines in the West Bank only demarcated where five Arab armies were halted in their invasion of the nascent state of Israel 19 years earlier. Legally, they formed only an armistice line, not a recognized international border. No Palestinian state ever existed that could have claimed these prewar lines...

...Prior to the Six Day War, Jerusalem had been sliced in two, and the Jewish people were denied access to the Old City and its holy sites. Jerusalem's Christian population also faced limitations. As America's ambassador to the U.N., Arthur Goldberg, would explain, Resolution 242 did not preclude Israel's reunification of Jerusalem. In fact, Resolution 242 became the only agreed basis of all Arab-Israeli peace agreements, from the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli Treaty of Peace to the 1993 Oslo Agreements between Israel and the Palestinians.

How were Israel's legal rights to new boundaries justified? A good explanation came from Judge Stephen Schwebel, who would later be an adviser to the State Department and then president of the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Writing in the *American Journal of International Law* in 1970, he noted that Israel's title to West Bank territory—in the event that it sought alterations in the pre-Six Day War lines—emanated from the fact that it had acted in lawful exercise of its right to self-defense. It was not the aggressor...

...Mr. Abbas's unilateral move at the U.N. represents a massive violation of a core commitment in the Oslo Agreements in which both Israelis and Palestinians undertook that “neither side shall initiate or take any step that will

change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip pending the outcome of Permanent Status negotiations." Palestinian spokesmen counter that Israeli settlements violated this clause. Yet former Prime Minister Rabin was very specific while negotiating Oslo in preserving the rights of Israeli citizens to build their homes in these disputed areas, by insisting that the settlements would be one of the subjects of final status negotiations between the parties.

By turning to the U.N., Mr. Abbas wants to use the international community to change the legal status of the territories. Why should Israel rely on Mr. Abbas in the future after what is plainly a material breach of this core obligation?...

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703421204576329373006279638.html>

## **Indiana's Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels rules out run for the White House**

*Associated Press, 22 May 2011*

Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels said early Sunday that he won't run for president because of family considerations, narrowing the field in the race for the GOP nomination.

"In the end, I was able to resolve every competing consideration but one," the Republican said, disclosing his decision in an e-mail to supporters. "The interests and wishes of my family, is the most important consideration of all. If I have disappointed you, I will always be sorry."...

**More:** [http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/indianas-republican-gov-mitch-daniels-rules-out-run-for-the-white-house/2011/05/22/AFB4ju8G\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/indianas-republican-gov-mitch-daniels-rules-out-run-for-the-white-house/2011/05/22/AFB4ju8G_story.html)

## **Analyzing the body language of Netanyahu, Obama meeting**

*20 May 2011*

Body Language Expert Joe Navarro explains what the body language of Netanyahu and Obama at their meeting means about how they are feeling.

**5:16** [http://video.foxbusiness.com/v/952731016001/analyzing-the-body-language-of-netanyahu-obama-meeting/?playlist\\_id=87247](http://video.foxbusiness.com/v/952731016001/analyzing-the-body-language-of-netanyahu-obama-meeting/?playlist_id=87247)

**The entire chat (15:00):** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I28xJitnP78>

## **Dinesh D'Souza on Obama's views of Israel**

*20 May 2011*

King's College President Dinesh D'Souza on Obama's views on Israel and the uncertain future of U.S.-Israeli relations.

**4:50** [http://video.foxbusiness.com/v/952722593001/dinesh-dsouza-on-obamas-views-of-israel/?playlist\\_id=87247](http://video.foxbusiness.com/v/952722593001/dinesh-dsouza-on-obamas-views-of-israel/?playlist_id=87247)

## **A candid Romney would own up to Mass. fiasco**

*by Sally C. Pipes, 21 May 2011*

Massachusetts health reform is in the news — driven by reports of long waits for care and its architect's presidential ambitions. Former Massachusetts governor and GOP presidential hopeful Mitt Romney delivered a widely panned speech the week before last on health care.

The three-part speech attempted the impossible: It defended his Massachusetts plan, lambasted President Obama's copycat plan that took it nationwide and laid out an agenda at odds with his signature achievement.

Unfortunately, he passed up the opportunity to declare the experiment a failure and detail the lessons learned.

The first is that health insurance does not equal access to health care.

The Massachusetts Medical Society just released a study that showed waiting times are, on average, 48 days to see a family doctor, and up to a year for some specialists. Getting a new doctor is tough. One in two family physicians isn't accepting new patients.

The best definition of socialism is a utopia in which everything is free and nothing is available. That's long been the case in Canada, where people wait 18.2 weeks on average from seeing a primary care doctor to getting treatment by a specialist. The lines are now extending south...

**More:** <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=572884&p=1>

## **Eye-for-an-eye filibuster stops Democrat nominee**

*by Byron York, 20 May 2011*

If there's one place where what goes around comes around, it's the United States Senate. Goodwin Liu, the Berkeley law professor nominated by President Obama to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, is the latest to learn that lesson.

Liu's nomination was blocked by a Republican filibuster Thursday—the first successful filibuster against a judicial nominee since Democrats stopped all 10 of George W. Bush's appeals court nominees from 2003 to 2005. Although no one back then could have predicted that today's fight would be about Liu, everyone knew it was going to happen sometime. Once Democrats crossed the line to filibuster those Bush nominees, you could bet Republicans would strike back. And now they have...

**Hah. Hah. Hah.** <http://washingtonexaminer.com/politics/2011/05/eye-eye-filibuster-stops-democratic-nominee>

## **Economic destiny comes down to Obama vs. Ryan**

*by Jeffrey H. Anderson, 20 May 2011*

President Obama talks a lot about "winning the future." But to a large degree, America's future will be determined by the ongoing budget debate between him and House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, with the American people deciding the outcome.

The budget debate can sometimes seem a bit complex, but there are really two key numbers to remember: 18 and 24. No matter when you start the clock — at the end of World War II, in 1970, or in 1990 — the average percentage of the gross domestic product that Americans have paid in taxes is 18%. And whether you look at the first or the last year of President Obama's 10-year budget, the percentage of GDP that he wants the government to spend is 24%.

If this model of \$3 in and \$4 out doesn't seem sustainable, it's not. And if you can't believe that our elected leaders in Washington would really let things get so out of control, consider this...

**The choices are clearly described:**

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/572731/201105191817/Economic-Destiny-Comes-Down-To-Obama-Vs-Ryan.htm>

## **How the government created a financial crisis**

*by Peter Ferrara, 19 May 2011*

...Consequently, the real cause of the financial crisis is that by 2008, President Clinton, President Bush and Republicans and Democrats in Congress had departed from every one of the four planks of Reaganomics that produced the 25-year economic boom. Bush's Fed had trashed Reagan's monetary policy. Clinton's overregulation produced the subprime mortgage fiasco. Moreover, during Bush's presidency Congress lost control of spending, with federal spending rising by one seventh as a percent of GDP, reversing the gains that had been made under the Gingrich Republican majorities in the 1990s.

Then, as the recession gained steam in 2008, instead of responding with Reagan style supply side rate cuts to restart growth, President Bush cut a deal with the Democratic Congress in February, 2008 for a thoroughly forgettable Keynesian stimulus package, which predictably failed to produce any positive effect. Worse, it provided the foundation for President Obama's far more egregious Keynesian travesties, which have also thoroughly failed yet again...

**No holds barred:** <http://blogs.forbes.com/peterferrara/2011/05/19/how-the-government-created-a-financial-crisis/>

## **A shovel-empty waste of \$787 billion**

*Investor's Business Daily editorial, 19 May 2011*

On top of the other failures of President Obama's \$787 billion stimulus plan you can now add this: It didn't even fulfill the simple promise of creating more highway jobs and improving roadways.

Shortly after getting the gargantuan program through Congress, Obama heralded the stimulus' \$28 billion in new highway money, calling it "the largest new investment in America's infrastructure since President Eisenhower built the Interstate Highway System" and promising that it would "help states create a 21st-century infrastructure."

Obama also said that the extra highway money would "create or save" 150,000 jobs by the end of 2010.

Well, the results are in. A new study by economists Timothy Conley of the University of Western Ontario and Bill

Dupor of Ohio State found that despite the influx of all that federal money, highway construction jobs actually plunged by nearly 70,000 between 2008 and 2010.

As the authors explain, many states simply took the free federal money and shifted their own highway funds to meet other needs. In fact, in some states, highway spending dropped, even with the added federal money. Examples cited in the study:..

**Read on:** <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=572596&p=1>

## **Alligators, moats and other such nonsense**

Obama doesn't take illegal immigration seriously. But voters do.

by *Victor Davis Hanson, 19 May 2011*

President Obama gave what was billed as an important speech on immigration last week near the border in El Paso, Texas. Unfortunately, it was one of the most demagogic moments in recent presidential history. Nearly everything Obama said was either factually incorrect or deliberately misleading...

**More:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/267621/alligators-moats-and-other-such-nonsense-victor-davis-hanson>

## **A campaign against the Koch Foundation**

by *James Piereson, 16 May 2011*

...The latest controversy surrounding the Kochs arises from an article published last week in the *St. Petersburg Times* titled, "Billionaire's Role in Hiring Decisions at Florida State University Raises Questions." The author insinuates that the Koch Foundation was trying to "buy off" the Economics Department at Florida State University through a \$1.5 million grant (paid over six years) to hire new faculty and to support graduate fellowships under a program in "political economy and free enterprise."

Under the grant, a three-person faculty committee was set up to review candidates for the positions, including one member designated by the Foundation. The paper suggested that by designating a member of the review committee the Foundation was undermining academic freedom by interfering in the faculty's right to appoint colleagues on the basis of professional competence...

**Leftist hypocrisy:** [http://www.mindingthecampus.com/originals/2011/05/a\\_campaign\\_against\\_the\\_koch\\_fo.html](http://www.mindingthecampus.com/originals/2011/05/a_campaign_against_the_koch_fo.html)

## **Obama's abandonment of America**

by *Caroline Glick, 20 May 2011*

...Beyond his abandonment of Bahrain and Yemen, in claiming that the US mustn't distinguish between its allies and its foes, Obama made clear that he has renounced the US's right to have and pursue national interests. If you can't favor your allies against your enemies then you cannot defend your national interests. And if you cannot defend your national interests then you renounce your right to have them.

As for Iran, in his speech, Obama effectively abandoned the pursuit of the US's core interest of preventing nuclear proliferation. All he had to say about Iran's openly genocidal nuclear program is, "Our opposition to Iran's intolerance—as well as its illicit nuclear program, and its sponsorship of terror—is well known." Well so is my opposition to all of that, and so is yours. But unlike us, Obama is supposed to do something about it. And by putting the gravest threat the US presently faces from the Middle East in the passive voice, he made clear that actually, the US isn't going to do anything about it.

In short, every American who is concerned about the security of the United States should be livid. The US President just abandoned his responsibility to defend the country and its interests in the interest of coddling the US's worst enemies...

...Then of course there are all the hostile, hateful details of the speech:

He said Israel has to concede its right to defensible borders as a precondition for negotiations; he didn't say he opposes the Palestinian demand for open immigration of millions of foreign Arabs into Israel; he again ignored Bush's 2004 letter to Sharon opposing a return to the 1949 armistice lines, supporting the large settlements, defensible borders and opposing mass Arab immigration into Israel; he said he was leaving Jerusalem out but actually brought it in by calling for an Israeli retreat to the 1949 lines; he called for Israel to be cut in two when he called for the Palestinians state to be contiguous; he called for Israel to withdraw from the Jordan Valley—without which it is powerless against invasion

—by saying that the Palestinian State will have an international border with Jordan...

**More:** <http://www.carolineglick.com/e/2011/05/obamas-abandonment-of-america.php?pf=yes>

## Black-box controversies

by James Bowman, May 2011

...I feel confident in saying that it is not really Mr. Egan's opinion that the Koch brothers are using their money "to keep average workers from getting a fair shake" or to dirty up the air and water or to make the gap between rich and poor larger. He might be an idiot, I suppose, but I doubt it. Given a truth serum or with a gun to his head, even he would have to admit he knows well enough that, however misguided the Koch brothers may be, they don't set out to do any of these things. On the contrary, we can be pretty sure they are like the rest of us in hoping and believing, doubtless mistakenly, that the results of their "efforts" will be social and economic outcomes that even Mr. Egan would approve. But demonstrating wherein they are mistaken is a lot harder work than attributing to them vicious or anti-social motives, and the *New York Times* is very far from being the only media outlet these days to prefer the drama of the latter to the dull argumentation involved in the former.

What Mr. Egan is producing—or reproducing—here is what those in the business now call "talking points" of the left. Anything that "billionaires" do is automatically suspect and all the more so if it involves an attempt on their part to influence public opinion. Moreover, these particular billionaires favor those politicians and political tendencies inclined to think that billionaires, like everybody else, should be entitled to keep more of their own money than the opposite political tendency does, so it becomes a natural political meme to accuse them of wanting to interfere with and obstruct all the good things which, by unspoken assumption, extracting more money from them in taxes could be expected to accomplish. It's not exactly that Mr. Egan and the many in the media who share his views do not believe this themselves. It's rather that, just as a lawyer may forcefully argue his client's innocence even when he privately believes him to be guilty, he sees himself as being in the business of advocacy and persuasion, not of analysis and opinion, and therefore honor-bound to make the best case he can...

**\$3 to non-subscribers:** <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Black-box-controversies-7041?>

## Obama's borders caused 60 years of war

by James Lewis, 20 May 2011

Obama has just given an eager world his fantasy answer for the last sixty years of Arab-Israel conflict. The Great One's long-awaited solution is for Israel to pull back to the cease-fire lines of the 1948 War of Independence, or what Obama, in a moment of historical amnesia, calls "the 1967 borders." People have fought and died over those borders since 1949, not 1967. Make that sixty years of regular warfare.

Take a quick glance at the Green Line on the map, and see if you can honestly answer this question: *Would I want my family and children to live on the scary side of that lengthy, convoluted and meandering border, with Hamas and Hezbollah trying to breach the fence every night with knife-wielding maniacs and Grad rocket launchers?*

If you answered that question honestly, you cannot be a liberal. You know too much.

However, if you think the answer is "Yes, I'll do anything for peace, including putting my kids' lives on the line," then you are sucker bait for the most delusional political party in American history....

**Read on:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/05/obamas\\_borders\\_caused\\_60\\_years.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/05/obamas_borders_caused_60_years.html)

## Obama's empty speech

In "balanced" terms, Obama treated Assad as a potential democrat, and proposed a non-plan for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

by Elliott Abrams, 20 May 2011

...But the president unfortunately went beyond that good question and suggested an illogical way forward. His idea was to put off Jerusalem and refugees, two impossible issues, and instead negotiate borders and security. But in fact, the border issues in the farther northern and southern areas are often simple, and most of the time the Israeli security fence is actually on or very near the 1949 armistice line, often mistakenly called "the 1967 border." The far harder matter is the Jerusalem area, and if Jerusalem is not solved, borders cannot be solved. It won't work. Nor will it work to solve security issues in isolation from others, such as whether Palestinians really accept the permanent existence of the Jewish state at

all. Hamas's prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh, said last week he had "great hope of bringing to an end the Zionist project in Palestine," and Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas said, "We will never give up the right of return," by which he means flooding Israel with millions of Palestinian "refugees."

In 2004 President Bush told Prime Minister Sharon that "an agreed, just, fair, and realistic framework for a solution to the Palestinian refugee issue as part of any final status agreement will need to be found through the establishment of a Palestinian state, and the settling of Palestinian refugees there, rather than in Israel." That Bush position, contained in a letter to Prime Minister Sharon, was then endorsed by both houses of Congress. President Obama's failure to restate it will rightly strike Israelis as a dangerous shift in position, and one can only hope that he clarifies the matter when he addresses AIPAC on Sunday.

President Obama also said the "borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps." It is worth comparing how President Bush described the agreed, negotiated borders he sought for the Israelis and Palestinians in that 2004 letter: "In light of new realities on the ground, including already existing major Israeli population centers, it is unrealistic to expect that the outcome of final status negotiations will be a full and complete return to the armistice lines of 1949, and all previous efforts to negotiate a two-state solution have reached the same conclusion. It is realistic to expect that any final status agreement will only be achieved on the basis of mutually agreed changes that reflect these realities." The Obama language is a shift away from Israel and toward the Palestinians...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/267700/obama-s-empty-speech-elliott-abrams>

## Israel calls on Obama to stick to peace terms

by *Eli Lake*, 20 May 2011

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu challenged President Obama on Thursday to reaffirm U.S. commitments to allow Israel to keep major settlements in the West Bank as part of any final peace deal with the Palestinian Authority...

... "Israel believes that for peace to endure between Israelis and Palestinians, the viability of a Palestinian state cannot come at the expense of the viability of the one and only Jewish state," Mr. Netanyahu's office said in a statement. "That is why Prime Minister Netanyahu expects to hear a reaffirmation from President Obama of U.S. commitments made to Israel in 2004, which were overwhelmingly supported by both Houses of Congress."

In his speech Thursday at the State Department, Mr. Obama said: "The borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, so that secure and recognized borders are established for both states."

Every U.S. president since Bill Clinton has supported the idea of land swaps between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. However, Mr. Obama is the first president since the start of Palestinian-Israeli peace talks in 1993 to explicitly call for borders based on 1967 lines. That border, also called the 1949 armistice line, separates the territory of the West Bank, Gaza and Golan that the Jewish state won in the 1967 war from the borders of Israel created after the 1948 war that established the state.

Since the 1967 war, Israel has built settlements throughout the West Bank, but most of them are suburbs of Jerusalem, Israel's capital. Palestinian negotiators in 2008 were prepared to allow the presence of many settlements within Israel's final borders in exchange for swaps of land with Palestinian majorities inside the 1949 armistice lines, according to a negotiating record first disclosed this year by the Al-Jazeera news organization...

... Mitt Romney, former Massachusetts governor and current Republican presidential candidate, said in a statement to the news media that "President Obama has thrown Israel under the bus. He has disrespected Israel and undermined its ability to negotiate peace."...

**More:** <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/may/19/israel-calls-on-obama-to-stick-to-peace-terms/?page=all#pagebreak>

## Honoring the compact

by *Andrew C. McCarthy*, April 2011

A review of *The Language of Law and the Foundations of American Constitutionalism* by Gary L. McDowell

In an age when judges are habituated to invent rather than apply the law, a written Constitution is a thing of irony. We've become exactly what constitutions are designed to prevent: a nation not of laws but of men—er, sorry, of people. And not of just any people: We've become a nation of lawyers, a juristocracy in which courts first impose, say, gay marriage despite its total want of constitutional mooring, then re-impose it when 37 million Californians have the

temerity to buck their robed betters in a referendum—with the law profs tut-tutting that such “fundamental” matters are beyond the competence of the rabble.

To show just how wayward the place we have landed, how removed from our trailblazing commitment to popular sovereignty, is the burden of Gary L. McDowell’s powerful new book, *The Language of Law and the Foundations of American Constitutionalism*. Professor McDowell, a prolific author and an instructor on the intersection of law and political science at the University of Richmond, was a top speechwriter at the Reagan Justice Department. Those were the days when Attorney General Edwin Meese III famously forged the case for originalism, the interpretive philosophy which construes constitutional provisions in accordance with what they were understood to mean at the time of their adoption. Thanks to a generation of scholars raised on Meese’s speeches and the jurisprudence of Robert Bork and Antonin Scalia, originalism swims strongly against the progressive tide of “organic” constitutionalism. *The Language of Law* is a vital and especially erudite contribution to that tradition...

**Continue:** <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Honoring-the-compact-7018>

CSNBC's Joe Kernen, has written (with his daughter Blake's help) a great new book titled ***Your Teacher Said WHAT?! Are progressives smarter than fifth-graders?***

by Heather Wilhelm, 19 May 2011

[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2011/05/19/are\\_progressives\\_smarter\\_than\\_fifth\\_graders\\_109890-2.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2011/05/19/are_progressives_smarter_than_fifth_graders_109890-2.html)

More lawlessness from yo Gangsta gummint.

## **The IRS Gets Political**

The taxman goes after campaign donors.

*Wall Street Journal* editorial, 18 May 2011

We're starting to see a pattern here. Since the Supreme Court restored the First Amendment rights of businesses and unions in last year's *Citizens United* ruling, Democrats have been searching for a way to claw back control over political speech. The latest bureau to get the memo is the Internal Revenue Service, which may retroactively tax top donors to political advocacy groups...

**Continue:** [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703730804576321090737945116.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEADTop](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703730804576321090737945116.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop)

## **Gov. Mitch Daniels may be GOP's best presidential bet**

by Vincent Carroll, 18 May 2011

So will a viable anti-Romney figure ever emerge within the Republican field? I mean a candidate who might actually prevail in the 2012 general election, as opposed to handing President Obama an undeserved second term. So long as former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney remains the GOP front-runner, the party's prospects appear doubtful...

...He also happens to have little credibility on the biggest single issue of the Obama presidency — health care — having prodded his state into enacting a prototype of Obamacare in 2006. Romney excoriates Obamacare now, but not Romneycare, which he still defends. The same man who seemingly switched sides on social issues to run for president in 2008 can't bring himself to repudiate his major legacy as governor — although the fact that it *is* his major legacy perhaps tells us why...

...Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty may have potential but, like Romney, he's been wrong about one of the seminal issues of our time. In Pawlenty's case, he urged ever-higher energy prices through a cap-and-trade regime. As recently as 2008, he cut a commercial in which he endorsed the fiction that boosting the cost of energy by setting a price on carbon is a good way to create jobs, concluding with the slogan, "Cap greenhouse gas pollution now." Pawlenty has since seen the light — or the primaries — denouncing cap-and-trade as "ham-fisted, unhelpful" and a "damaging thing to the economy." So now he tells us...

The most attractive contenders to best Romney: New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who says he won't run, and Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, who says he might. Daniels has stirred the ire of some on the right for calling for a "truce" on social issues until federal spending is reined in and for refusing to press a fight over right-to-work legislation, **but the indictment is moronic**. Unlike Romney, Daniels is indisputably pro-life; just ask Planned Parenthood how happy it is with him. And as for unions, Daniels rolled back collective bargaining for public employees years before it became an issue in Wisconsin and Ohio. Daniels also has lowered taxes and enacted sweeping education reform...His feats with

the budget may be even more remarkable...

**More:** [http://www.denverpost.com/carroll/ci\\_18081839](http://www.denverpost.com/carroll/ci_18081839)

## **Why is the Senate stalling on the debt debate?**

*by Senator Tom Coburn, 18 May 2011*

Where is the Senate? Our country is facing the greatest threat to our freedom and future since 1941. Any honest view of our debt, deficits, size of government and demographic challenges shows we must make major changes if we are going to pass on the American way of life to our children. Each week seems to bring new warning signs: slower-than-expected growth (already as much as 25 to 33 percent every year, some estimate), higher-than-expected unemployment numbers, admonitions to get our act together from the international financial community.

If these facts are true — and very few policymakers deny them — why has the U.S. Senate become the least deliberative “greatest deliberative body” in the world? The lack of leadership and initiative in the Senate is appalling...

...As the Senate majority leader, Harry Reid bears special responsibility for failing to direct attention to the central challenges of our time. His floor strategy seems to be focused on saving Democrats more than democracy. I would relish a debate on tax earmarks, spending cuts and competing budgets (if there were competing budgets), yet the votes he seems most interested in scheduling — such as tax breaks for big oil companies — are designed for short-term political gain rather than long-term deficit reduction...

**More:** [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-is-the-senate-stalling-on-the-debt-debate/2011/05/18/AFpqEm6G\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-is-the-senate-stalling-on-the-debt-debate/2011/05/18/AFpqEm6G_story.html)

These examples of willful blindness are shocking, even by government standards.

## **Federal food police against business and science**

*by Steven Malanga, 18 May 2011*

Late last month a host of government agencies including the Federal Trade Commission and the Agriculture Department proposed what the media described as "tough" but "voluntary" new standards for food companies that advertise to children, designed to pressure the businesses into incorporating much lower amounts of fat, sodium and sugar in foods aimed at a young audience.

Barely a week later the Journal of the American Medical Association published new research which suggested that lowering sodium consumption not only doesn't benefit most people, it may actually increase risk of heart attacks for some. The research was apparently so disturbing to government regulators that some felt the need to step out and criticize the results in the media, something that they rarely do.

If you've been following the latest research on diet in the scientific journals, you would understand why the regulators appeared so defensive. Increasingly, some of the basic assumptions about nutrition that have formed the core of the government's recommendations on what Americans should eat are being questioned by studies which suggest the advice is not merely ineffective but may be counterproductive, contributing among other things to the rise in obesity which the White House decries. Rather than be humbled and made cautious by such research, however, government regulators are simply plowing ahead with a conviction that their ideas about nutrition are correct. Businesses are expected to fall into line, regardless of the implications for their products.

The sodium controversy is a good example of how distorted the arguments have become...

**Continue:** [http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2011/05/18/federal\\_food\\_police\\_against\\_business\\_and\\_science\\_99026.html](http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2011/05/18/federal_food_police_against_business_and_science_99026.html)

## **Beyond the legend of Syria's moderation**

*by Fouad Ajami, 12 May 2011*

...One more round of diplomacy, an additional range of inducements, a more supple diplomacy, and the promise of “engagement” would do the trick. The Obama diplomacy rested on that promise. So did the ardent courting of the Damascus regime by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman, John F. Kerry, who became convinced that he had found the wellsprings of Bashar al-Assad's moderation.

The harsh truth of this struggle in Syria is the solitude of the Syrian people. They fight alone. The silence of the Arab League—again the contrast with Libya is instructive, for the Arab states were willing to break with the renegade ruler in Tripoli—is a stain on the honor of that organization; so is the unwillingness of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to embrace the cause of Syria's dissidents. Russia, which winked at the international effort against Libya and

gave it cover at the United Nations Security Council, has made it abundantly clear that it will not cast the Syrians adrift...  
**More about the brutal regime:** <http://www.advancingafreesociety.org/2011/05/12/beyond-the-legend-of-syrias-moderation/>

## Plentiful Fuel

by John Stossel, 18 May 2011

I just learned I'm going to save money! My apartment building in New York will switch from heating oil to cleaner natural gas. Gas is much cheaper than oil now because energy companies found ways to get more of it out of the ground. Even more astounding is that by using this technique, America won't run out of natural gas for 100 years or more! Time to break out the Champagne?

Not so fast, say environmentalists. To get gas out of the ground, companies use pressurized chemicals to blow up rock. It's called hydraulic fracturing—fracking. An Oscar-nominated movie, *Gasland*, says that fracking contaminates our water supply with chemicals. In the movie, some homeowners set their tap water on fire.

That got my attention. I've seen Michael Moore's movies and environmental documentaries, which I thought were nonsense. But *Gasland* is more convincing. Unfortunately, *Gasland* producer Josh Fox turned down my interview requests, as did representatives of the big national environmental groups that oppose fracking. I think I know why. The movie and the left's arguments against fracking are deceitful...

**The details:** <http://patriotpost.us/opinion/john-stossel/2011/05/18/plentiful-fuel/>

When even the historically far-left *New York Review of Books* admits that Muslims are committing atrocities against Christians, you know it must be really bad.

## Egypt: Why are the churches burning?

by Yasmine El Rashidi, 17 May 2011

...In one of Mubarak's final speeches, he warned that in his absence, there would be "chaos." Since his resignation, the military council, led by former Mubarak insider Tantawi, has at times appeared to be pushing things precisely in that direction. The police remain largely passive, and soldiers often just stand by, watching crimes unfold. Meanwhile, the military has released long-held Islamist prisoners and lifted restrictions on approximately 3,000 wanted radical Islamists who had been in exile and blacklisted from entering the country. Among those recently released is Abboud El Zomor, a member of the Al-Gamaa Al-Islamiya who was involved in the assassination of Sadat and is calling for an Islamic State. He said—live on Egyptian State TV—that he had no regrets about his involvement in the killing of Sadat. "If he were alive I would do it again."...

...In the end, there does not seem to be any single explanation for the church attack and the other recent incidents of violence. What is clear is that a confluence of forces—an army seeking the opportunity to consolidate power, remnants of a regime stirring havoc, a cabinet with little authority of its own, radical Islamists aspiring to an Islamic State, and deep-rooted currents of social intolerance that Egypt has long failed to confront—have created a situation in which the Copts, among other groups, have become particularly vulnerable...

**Islamic intolerance:** <http://www.nybooks.com/blogs/nyrblog/2011/may/17/egypt-why-are-churches-burning/>

If you believe in freedom, you won't ever buy a General Motors vehicle again.

## GM sponsors and celebrates soon to be released Chi-Com propaganda film

by Kerry Pickett, 17 May 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/blog/watercooler/2011/may/17/gm-sponsors-and-celebrates-soon-be-released-chi-co/>

## President Obama's wrongheaded Middle East counselors

by Martin Peretz, 18 May 2011

Wow, zow, Obama is doing his own thinking on the Middle East and here's the even worse news: He's taking advice from Tom Friedman and Fareed Zakaria...

...What's strange about his putative advice is that Obama didn't need it. He and Zakaria are in fundamental agreement. America is weak. America is poor. America is politically sundered. The only real difference between them is

that the president believes that America is historically and morally compromised. But rising upper class minority Muslim from Bombay, rising American from Yale and Harvard (and now a member of the Yale Corporation, from which perch he counseled the president of the university and the university press not to permit images of the Prophet to appear in a book it was publishing, *The Cartoons That Shook the World* by Danish scholar Jytte Klausen), Zakaria was once a supporter of the great imperium. So I don't know whether he thinks it is a matter of ethics. It's more a matter of "can do" or "cannot do." He thinks it cannot.

The president's disposition is similar in that, from the campaign on to this very morning in the Middle East, his message has been restraint. Yes, I know there was also, "Yes, we can." But, if you remember, there was no "what" attached to the can do. It was all in the abstract. It was to "accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative," according to the great Johnny Mercer song made famous by Bing Crosby and more recently by Bette Midler. It's exactly the opposite now. According to Obama, we are forced into restraint and we choose restraint. Restrained hopes and restrained actions. The Mickey Finn in all this is that American restraint is applied to and felt most by the damned of the earth, in whom Obama, despite the expectations of his young campaign enthusiasts, has little interest...

...Anyway, Tom's lens for seeing contemporary America is through contemporary China. He wishes America were China, almost the way some native fascists like Charles Lindbergh wanted America to be like Germany and the way ignorant but "idealistic" oodles of American intellectuals and radical Jewish immigrants wanted the country to be like Soviet Russia...

...I wonder what Obama can really learn from Zakaria and Friedman, neither of whom know Arabic, neither of whom know the sources (arcane or simply erudite), both of whom jump from one fashionable topic to another...

**Brilliant:** <http://www.tnr.com/article/tel-aviv-journal/88563/obama-middle-east-zakaria-friedman-israel>

Mo from yo Gangsta gummint.

## **White House shuts out Herald scribe**

*by Hillary Chabot, 18 May 2011*

The White House Press Office has refused to give the *Boston Herald* full access to President Obama's Boston fund-raiser today, in e-mails objecting to the newspaper's front page placement of a Mitt Romney op-ed, saying pool reporters are chosen based on whether they cover the news "fairly."...

...The administration has a history of controversial clashes with the press. The White House was seen to be at war with Fox News early in the administration, with its communications director calling Fox an "arm" of the Republican Party, while the president avoided Fox interviews until his health reform proposal ran into trouble. Since losing control of Congress, Obama has sat down with conservative Fox commentator Bill O'Reilly.

In April 2010, Bloomberg's Ed Chen, president of the White House Correspondent's Association, met with then-Press Secretary Robert Gibbs to hash out complaints about limitations on the press, saying, "In my 10-plus years at the White House, rarely have I sensed such a level of anger ... over White House practices and attitudes toward the press."

Last month, a San Francisco Chronicle editor reported the White House threatened to bar Hearst reporters from pool duty after a Chronicle reporter shot video of protestors mocking Obama at a fund-raiser.

Glenn Reynolds, a University of Tennessee law professor who has followed White House-press relations at right-leaning Instapundit.com, said a pattern appears to be developing. "It's all about control," Reynolds said. "At some point this will blow back on them. Most presidents behave in a more refined fashion. Experience has shown that acting presidential is good politics and to their advantage."

**More:** <http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view.bg?articleid=1338789&position=1>

## **Obama the Desperate**

*by Frank Donatelli, 17 May 2011*

From one perspective, things look great for President Barack Obama's reelection. He is unchallenged for his party's nomination, and his liberal base overwhelmingly approves of his job performance. Why wouldn't it?

He is already raising large amounts of money, and his handlers confidently predict his final war chest will approach \$1 billion. (Remember campaign finance reform?) As almost every poll shows, he decisively defeats all potential Republican challengers in current matchups. From this limited tactical viewpoint, he looks strong for reelection.

But look a little deeper from a strategic perspective, and you see how desperate his situation is. Consider these numbers: four, nine, 10 and three...

**Read on:** <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0511/55045.html>

## Science wars: last round?

by James Franklin, May 2011

...The first is an argument of Kuhn in support of disbelief in science:

"All past beliefs about nature have sooner or later turned out to be false. On the record, therefore, the probability that any proposed belief will fare better must be close to zero."

The first of these two sentences is spectacularly self-refuting, in that present beliefs are also past beliefs—indeed, exactly those past beliefs that have not turned out to be false. Nor is there any shortage of beliefs about nature that have survived since time immemorial (for example, “it’s in spring that the wheat comes up”) or since they were established centuries ago by science (for example, the theory of the circulation of the blood).

The second exhibit is an answer by postmodernists to the question everyone has wanted to ask them, “If you don’t believe in the reality of the scientific laws of nature, why not jump out of a tenth-story window?” Or, as Richard Dawkins put it, “Show me a relativist at 30,000 feet and I will show you a hypocrite.” Postmodernists, especially famous ones, very rarely reply to criticisms, but Brown has found a certain Sarah Franklin (no relation) who tackles this head-on in her article “Making Transparencies: Seeing Through the Science Wars.” She writes:

"But what is so self-evident about the fact that planes can fly? This feat could as easily be described as sophisticated tool use instead of as an indicator of epistemological certainty. And as certain as the fact that planes can fly is the fact that their design is constantly evolving, that experiments such as that of the Wright brothers have as much to do with desire as with established scientific principles, that some airlines show prayer films during take-off to invoke the aid of Allah."

Show me a postmodernist at any altitude and I will show you the worst example of wilful unteachability you will ever meet...

**\$3 to non-subscribers:** <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Science-wars--last-round--7043?>

## Obama's message to grads: heavy on platitudes, not policy

by Alexis Simendinger, 17 May 2011

"I am confident about your futures," President Obama assured the excited graduates of Booker T. Washington High School in Memphis on Monday.

"Treat others as you would like to be treated."

"Learn to be a better human being."

ZZZZZZzzzzzz.

Is it possible that Tony Robbins has been penning the White House commencement addresses this season?

**More:** [http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2011/05/17/obamas\\_message\\_to\\_grads\\_heavy\\_on\\_platitudes\\_not\\_policy\\_109884.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2011/05/17/obamas_message_to_grads_heavy_on_platitudes_not_policy_109884.html)

## Entitlement Sense

by Mark Steyn, 17 May 2011

...Once I'd been apprised of its political definition, I liked it even less. "Entitlements" are un-republican: They are contemptuous of the most basic principle of responsible government — that a parliament cannot bind its successor. Which is what entitlements do, to catastrophic effect. Recently, in the London *Telegraph*, Liam Halligan bemoaned the way commentators focus on America's \$14 trillion of debt — i.e., the "debt ceiling" debt — without factoring in the entitlement liabilities of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. That makes America's real debt some \$75 trillion, or five times GDP. Our own Kevin D. Williamson puts the FDR/LBJ entitlement liabilities a little north of \$100 trillion. Once you add in state and municipal debt, you need to add a zero to that reassuringly familiar \$14 trillion hole. The real hole goes ten times deeper: \$140 trillion — or about twice as much as America's total "worth."

Million, billion, trillion . . . and now we're going to need a word for the unit that comes after "trillion"? Oh, wait, how about "abyss"? I was struck by reader Dolores Proctor's observation that, until spendaholic government showed up, 140,000,000,000,000 was the kind of number one would find only in a book about astronomy, and even then it would be pretty cosmic. In other words, our spending has literally (well, numerically) burst the bounds of the planet...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.steynonline.com/content/view/3999/26/>

## Obama's newest ambush

Netanyahu doesn't have to give in. He can stick to his guns and defend the country.

by *Caroline Glick*, 13 May 2011

It is hard to believe, but it appears that in the wake of the Palestinian unity deal that brings Hamas, the genocidal, al-Qaida-aligned, local franchise of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, into a partnership with Fatah, US President Barack Obama has decided to open a new round of pressure on Israel to give away its land and national rights to the Palestinians. It is hard to believe that this is the case. But apparently it is...

**Obama really hates Jews and loves Muslims:** <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Columnists/Article.aspx?id=220307>

## Read it now: The possible/probable Main Crisis for 2012

by *Barry Rubin*, 16 May 2011

Save this note. Last year I predicted that Egypt's instability might well be the big story of 2011. Why wait until December?

The central scenario for the Middle East in 2012: Hamas attacks Israel with mortars, rockets, a few missiles, and a few attempts at cross-border attacks. Israel counterattacks into the Gaza Strip. What does Egypt do?...

**Read on:** <http://pajamasmedia.com/barryrubin/2011/05/16/read-it-now-the-possibleprobable-main-crisis-for-2012/>

## The budget debate we all deserve

by *Rep. Paul Ryan*, 16 May 2011

...In a recent speech he gave in response to the House budget, President Barack Obama outlined his approach to addressing our fiscal imbalance. It begins with trillions of dollars in higher taxes and relies on a plan to control costs in Medicare: A board of 15 unelected bureaucrats would be given more power to deeply ration Medicare spending in ways that would disrupt the lives of those in retirement, leading to waiting lists and denied care for today's seniors...

...The disagreement isn't really about the problem — it's about the solution to controlling costs. Our budget would achieve this by letting seniors act as value-conscious consumers in a transparent and competitive market. Our plan is to give seniors the power to deny business to inefficient health care providers. The Obama plan is to give government the power to deny health care to seniors...

...The president says that only the richest people in America would be affected by his plan. Class warfare may or may not be clever politics, but it is terrible economics. Redistributing wealth never creates more of it, and sowing class envy makes America weaker, not stronger. Playing one group against another only distracts us from the true sources of inequity in this country — corporate welfare that enriches the powerful and empty promises that betray the powerless...

**More:** <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/ct-oped-0516-budget-20110516,0,3799859.story>

Mr. Warren sounds as if he expects Emanuel to turn into a Republican. Not gonna happen.

## The top challenges facing Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel

by *James Warren*, 16 May 2011

...But Emanuel's greatest burden is understood by even fewer. As Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer, an Emanuel supporter and brainy, pragmatic liberal puts it: "The biggest challenge is to redefine the role of the City. There are some things that only government can do, for everything else, there is likely a better, cheaper, more community focused partner that can do it."

Government's obligation should be to provide a strong safety net; a theme President Obama has already signaled will be central to his own reelection campaign. But can his former chief of staff articulate a believable message about what government should no longer be in the business of doing—and then get people to agree that it's all part of a natural evolution, "in the same way that landlines have evolved into cell service," as Gainer puts it? It's an especially tricky message for a Democrat to deliver.

Emanuel is a pretty big thinker and, for sure, a big personality. But there's no money for him to do big things. Instead of just explaining why we have to do more with less, he'll have to tell voters that there are lots of things we shouldn't be doing because others can do them better. Decades of mission creep must end...

**Read it all:** <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2011/05/the-top-challenges-facing-chicago-mayor-rahm-emanuel/238911/>

Overall, it was a **Grand Slam weekend** for serious Republicans. Two unelectables (Trump and Huckabee) pulled out of the race, and two more (Paul and Gingrich, below) displayed insuperable ignorance on national TV.

## **Sunday's Disqualifiers**

by *Ross Kaminsky, 16 May 2011*

Within days of their officially entering the presidential fray, two Republican Oval Office aspirants may have torpedoed what little chance they might have had with disastrous answers on Sunday morning television...

**More:** <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/05/16/sundays-disqualifiers>

## **Former “alarmist” scientist says Anthropogenic Global Warming (AGW) based in false science**

by *Bruce McQuain, 15 May 2011*

<http://hotair.com/archives/2011/05/15/former-alarmist-scientist-says-anthropogenic-global-warming-agw-based-on-false-science/>

(Hat tip: Jim D.)

## **Camp of the Saints: Death on the High Seas**

by *Baron Bodissey, 10 May 2011*

Refugees continue to land on the coast of Italy, mostly at the port on the tiny island of Lampedusa. On Sunday, however, a relatively small group of culture-enrichers landed in Sicily. Based on their South Asian ethnicity, their port of origin was presumably not on the North African coast...

...Meanwhile, the North African crisis continues to generate new waves of migrants. The UN now estimates the Libyan contribution to be 750,000...

...Here's an idea of what the Italians have to do nearly every day — **rescue, feed, house, and relocate** thousands of new culture-enrichers...

**Read it all:** <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/05/camp-of-saints-death-on-high-seas.html>

How David Mamet became a conservative, with some help from Mordecai Finley (his rabbi) and Shelby Steele.

## **Converting Mamet**

A playwright's progress.

by *Andrew Ferguson, 15 May 2011 (May 23 issue)*

[http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/converting-mamet\\_561048.html](http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/converting-mamet_561048.html)

## **An ill season**

The Arab spring unleashes Islamists on Egyptian Christians.

by *Andrew C. McCarthy, 14 May 2011*

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/267211/ill-season-andrew-c-mccarthy>

## **The coming Postal bailout**

Congress wants taxpayers to save mail worker pensions.

*Wall Street Journal* editorial, 14 May 2011

...If this were a private business, the obvious response to these losses would be urgent cost-cutting to avoid insolvency. Instead, Postal Service management recently concluded negotiations offering the 205,000-member American Postal Workers Union a new four-and-a-half-year contract that will provide a 3.5% pay raise over three years, dole out automatic cost of living wage hikes after 2012, and expand no-layoff protections...

**More:** [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704613504576268983131039272.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_AboveLEFTTop](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704613504576268983131039272.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop)

The colossal hypocrisy of vandal "artists" and their enablers.

## **Radical Graffiti Chic**

Sponsored by L.A.'s aristocracy, the Museum of Contemporary Art's new show celebrates vandalism.

by *Heather Mac Donald, Spring 2011*

**6,600 words:** [http://www.city-journal.org/2011/21\\_2\\_vandalism.html](http://www.city-journal.org/2011/21_2_vandalism.html)

## **Gutless politicians are broken, not the immigration system**

by *Gregory Kane, 12 May 2011*

... "Today," the president continued in his speech, "there are an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants here in the United States. Some crossed the border illegally. Others avoid immigration laws by overstaying their visas. Regardless of how they came, the overwhelming majority of these folks are just trying to earn a living and provide for their families."

Yo, Barack, my man, I'm just trying to make a living and provide for my family. So are millions of other Americans, those who were actually born here and others who immigrated here legally. Since you seem so willing to cut illegal immigrants some slack when they break the law, how about cutting those of us who aren't illegal immigrants some slack when we break the law too?

It was in his very next sentence that Obama showed that he thinks people breaking the law to enter the United States—or breaking it to remain here—is really no big deal. "We have to acknowledge they've broken the *rules*. They've cut in front of the line." The italicization of the word "rules" is mine. Notice that Obama couldn't bring himself to say illegal immigrants have broken the law.

They've committed the minor infraction of breaking a rule. Cutting in line, as Obama put it, as if America is one great McDonald's restaurant where people can enter whenever they please, as long as they don't try to cut the line and get "frontsies." Nothing in Obama's speech will discourage more illegal immigrants from entering the country illegally. Quite the contrary, Obama's speech will virtually ensure that many more do precisely that...

**More:** <http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/05/gutless-politicians-are-broken-not-immigration-system>

## **A Warning to America**

*Speech by Geert Wilders, 12 May 2011.*

...The Europe which your fathers and grandfathers fought and died for is not the Europe we are living in today. I travel the world to tell people what Europe has become. I wish I could take you all on a visit to my country and show you what Europe has become. It has changed beyond recognition as a result of mass immigration. And not just any mass immigration, but mass immigration driven by the dangerous force of Islam...

...In Europe we have been experiencing al-Hijra for over 30 years now. Many of our cities have changed beyond recognition. "In each one of our cities" wrote the well-known Italian author Oriana Fallaci shortly before her death in 2006, "there is a second city, a state within the state, a government within the government. A Muslim city, a city ruled by the Koran." — end of quote.

How did the Europeans get into this situation? It is partly our own fault because we have foolishly adopted the concept of cultural relativism, which manifests itself in the ideology of multiculturalism. Cultural relativism advocates that all cultures are equal. However, cultures wither away and die if people no longer believe that its values are better than those of another culture.

Islam is spreading like wildfire wherever people lack the guts to say that their values are better than the Islamic values. Islam is spreading like wildfire because the Koran explicitly tells Muslims that they are "the best of peoples ever raised up for mankind" and that non-Muslims are "the worst of creatures." Islam is spreading like wildfire everywhere in the West where political, academic, cultural and media elites lack the guts to proudly proclaim, as I believe we all should proclaim: Our Judeo-Christian Western culture is far better and far superior to the Islamic culture. We must be proud to say so!

Multiculturalism is a disaster. Almost everyone acknowledges this today, but few dare say why. Let me tell you why: Multiculturalism made us tolerate the intolerant, and now intolerance is annihilating tolerance.

We should, in the name of tolerance, claim the right not to tolerate the intolerant. Let us no longer be afraid and politically correct, let us be brave and bold. Let us tell the truth about Islam.

Before I continue I want to make clear that I do not have a problem with people. I always make a distinction between the people and the ideology, between Muslims and Islam. Indeed, I have no problems with Muslims, but I do have a problem with the totalitarian Islamic ideology of hate and violence. The fact that there are many so-called moderate Muslims, does not imply that there exists a moderate Islam. A moderate Islam does not exist and will never exist. And because there is no such thing as a moderate Islam, the Islamization of our free Western societies is an enormous danger...

**More:** <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/05/warning-to-america-its-islam-stupid.html>

## **The big lie called Nakba Day**

*by Yonatan Silverman, 15 May 2011*

...What is the disaster Nakba Day commemorates? Nothing less than the day on which Israel Declared Independence in 1948. And to add insult to injury, the Palestinians commemorate their national disaster day every year to coincide with Israeli Independence Day, around 15 May.

Why was Israel's Declaration of Independence such a disaster for the Palestinians? This harks back to Israel's 1948 War of independence. The 1948 Palestinian exodus, also known as *Nakba*, meaning the "disaster," "catastrophe," or "cataclysm," occurred when approximately 725,000 Palestinian Arabs fled or were expelled from their homes, during this bitter war...

...The fact is in 1948 Palestinian Arab leaders strongly encouraged their constituents to leave Israel and return to their homes after the war was quickly won by the invading Arab armies. The Arab leaders told the Palestinian Arab population to get out of harm's way and let the invading Arab armies do their work without interference. This was another reason they fled.

This perverted national Palestinian Nakba Day observance therefore, has nothing to do with historical facts, but springs solely and exclusively from their national impulse to express hate and malice against the Jewish people and against Israel. If there was a disaster for the Palestinians stemming from Israel's War Of Independence they brought it down on their own heads. There is absolutely no truth to the claim that Israel is responsible for their refugee status to begin with or the perpetuation of their being refugees. It was a time of defensive war, and Israel had no alternative but to win the war no holds barred...

**More:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/05/the\\_big\\_lie\\_called\\_nakba\\_day.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/05/the_big_lie_called_nakba_day.html)

## **What if the U.S. Treasury defaults?**

*James Freeman interviews Stanley Druckenmiller, 14 May 2011*

...It's hard to think of someone with more expertise in the currency and government-debt markets, but Mr. Druckenmiller's view on the debt limit bumps up against virtually the entire Wall Street-Washington financial establishment. A recent note on behalf of giant banks on the Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee warned of a "severe and long-lasting impact" if the debt limit is not raised immediately. The letter compared the resulting chaos to the failure of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and warned of a run on money-market funds. This week more than 60 trade associations, representing virtually all of American big business, forecast "a massive spike in borrowing costs."...

...He contemplates the possibilities for bond investors if a drawn-out negotiation in Washington creates a short-term problem in servicing the debt but ultimately reduces spending:

"Here are your two options: piece of paper number one—let's just call it a 10-year Treasury. So I own this piece of paper. I get an income stream obviously over 10 years . . . and one of my interest payments is going to be delayed, I don't know, six days, eight days, 15 days, but I know I'm going to get it. There's not a doubt in my mind that it's ~~not~~ going to pay, but it's going to be delayed. But in exchange for that, let's suppose I know I'm going to get massive cuts in entitlements and the government is going to get their house in order so my payments seven, eight, nine, 10 years out are much more assured," he says.

Then there's "piece of paper number two," he says, under a scenario in which the debt limit is quickly raised to avoid any possible disruption in payments. "I don't have to wait six, eight, or 10 days for one of my many payments over 10 years. I get it on time. But we're going to continue to pile up trillions of dollars of debt and I may have a Greek situation on my hands in six or seven years. Now as an owner, which piece of paper do I want to own? To me it's a no-brainer. It's piece of paper number one."...

## Rapping at the White House

by Bill O'Reilly, 13 May 2011

Once again, we have an association controversy at the White House. This week, a rapper who calls himself "Common" was invited by Michelle Obama to read some of his "poetry" to a handpicked audience in the "People's House." The problem is that Common (real name Lonnie Rashid Lynn) has glorified convicted cop-killers Joanne Chesimard and Mumia Abu-Jamal.

**More:** <http://washingtosexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/05/rapping-white-house>

## The persecution of Boeing

by Rich Lowry, 13 May 2011

...The NLRB's claims are laughable on their face, although Boeing — trying to run a business in a highly competitive global market — can be forgiven for missing the joke. The board accuses Boeing of "interfering with, restraining, and coercing" its union employees in the exercise of their rights by making a thoroughly understandable business decision.

This is putting not a thumb, but a fist on the scale in favor of the unions. A writer at the liberal *The New Republic* says it "may be the most radical thing the Obama administration has done." It's an attempt to keep companies with the misfortune of operating in union-heavy states in perpetual thrall to organized labor...

...There are rules against "runaway shops" (i.e., picking up and moving a plant to evade a union) and against retaliating against workers for striking or organizing. Boeing's decision to expand its business in South Carolina is manifestly none of those things. It is leaving its Washington State facility intact. In fact, Boeing has expanded it, adding 2,000 jobs. When the Charleston facility is brought online, Boeing will build ten of its 787 Dreamliners a month — seven of them still in Washington State.

If every company were abusing its workers by continuing to employ them and adding to their ranks, the unemployment rate wouldn't be 9 percent. The NLRB can't point to any Boeing worker in Washington who has been harmed—let alone restrained or coerced—by the company's decision to hire additional workers in South Carolina...

**More:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/267134/persecution-boeing-rich-lowry>

## Obama's death panels return: Rationing is at heart of President's health plan

by Andrea Tantaros, 12 May 2011

There is a dirty secret about health care that President Obama hopes will escape the headlines. In his newly released plan to "reform" Medicare as part of overall deficit reduction, Obama has punted actual cost-cutting and instead proposed a panel—the Independent Payment Advisory Board —to recommend savings for the financially doomed program. Translation: Welcome to the world of rationing.

The board, which was an original part of Obamacare (remember the death panel debate?), consists of 15 unelected bureaucrats who will have unchecked, binding power in the interest of supposedly greater efficiency and lower costs. That means that instead of you or your doctor making decisions about your care, a group of Washington micromanagers will do it for you.

They will do this by cutting reimbursements to doctors and hospitals and restricting patients from costly end-of-life care by enforcing caps on how much a patient can spend to stay alive. Most at risk will be the disabled, who require special and often expensive care. Cancer patients will be at risk, as well, since chemotherapy and other oncological treatments are some of the priciest...

...It's baffling to me that with countless government health officials on the federal payroll, nobody has been able to definitively figure out how to save Medicare from fiscal ruin. But somehow, these 15 Independent Payment Advisory Board pencil pushers will do the trick?...

...It could also lead to a doctor shortage. If the panel cuts reimbursements to physicians, they will simply stop treating Medicare patients, thus forcing patients to purchase their own health care. Already, "Obamacare's passage has led as many as two-thirds of physicians to drop out of government-run health programs," reports the Senate Republican

Policy Committee...

**More details:** <http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/columnists/tantaros/index.html>

## **House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan on the federal budget, health care, high-speed rail, "green pork," tuition inflation, and Obama's rude speech**

*Hugh Hewitt Show, 11 May 2011*

<http://www.hughhewitt.com/transcripts.aspx?id=0b605b35-b424-4a8f-b874-c2c7fe176918>

## **Novelist Vince Flynn on his cancer battle, and how the assassination of Osama bin Laden was accomplished**

*Hugh Hewitt Show, 13 May 2011*

<http://www.hughhewitt.com/transcripts.aspx?id=26dfcbac-42c3-496d-85be-190bc338f4fc>

## **Dems blame business for own bad policies**

*Investor's Business Daily editorial, 13 May 2011*

...The president let his true feelings slip later Thursday, telling a laid-off government worker there's "nothing more important" than working for the government. He then blamed "huge layoffs" in government for our current job ills. So why do businesses have to "step up"?

There are, as a matter of record, 418,000 more government jobs today than when the recession began, as noted by the *National Review's* Jim Geraghty. And face it, government "jobs" are mostly a waste, far below the private sector in productivity.

Even so, Democrats have in recent weeks implied repeatedly that companies are somehow unpatriotic for refusing to invest the \$2 trillion in cash on their books.

But what sane company would invest at a time when it's in the government's greedy cross hairs? Or when both the White House and Congress repeatedly criticize "millionaires and billionaires," and threaten to crush small businesses — the engines of job growth — with higher taxes and new regulations?...

...For the record, oil companies' profits are up because oil prices have soared. This isn't due to "speculators," but to the White House's foolish policy of keeping hundreds of millions of barrels of offshore oil off-limits — driving up prices and boosting foreign dependence...

**More:** <http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/572090/201105121902/The-Democrats-Jobs-Confusion.htm>

## **No crony capitalism without government**

*by Christopher Chantrill, 12 May 2011*

...Look. I'm all in favor of prosecuting bad actors and crony capitalists. But to act shocked, shocked, that fraudulent mortgage origination and/or securitization is going on when you have set the system up in the first place to flood the credit markets with bad paper is nothing but play-acting.

Our liberal friends like to think of themselves as the educated ones, the tolerant ones, the supporters of science. But when it comes to the unraveling of their ideas, from the housing subsidy game to the job-training game to the whole welfare state benefits game, our liberals can go into a denial that make climate skeptics look like rank amateurs.

The simple fact is that when the government starts swinging money around it attracts bad actors like honey attracts bees...

...Of course the bad actors come out of the woodwork and game the government's system and commit fraud. Of course the worst of the bad actors probably have good connections with politicians. Of course they do. When you are a bad actor you need some friends in high places to slap down the occasional bureaucrat that doesn't know which side his bread is buttered. We won't crack the code on crony capitalism until we stop government creating subsidies and economic favorites...

**More:** <http://roadtothemiddleclass.blogspot.com/2011/05/no-crony-capitalism-without-government.html>

## Welcome to the Newt Show

by John Podhoretz, 12 May 2011

...Then, Gingrich said something unusual for a self-proclaimed educator-historian-PhD. The thinker who meant the most to him, he declared, was Alvin Toffler, author of the 1970 pop bestseller *Future Shock*. Not Aristotle; not Plato; not Edward Gibbon, the greatest historian in the English language; not Shakespeare or Tolstoy or John Locke. Alvin Toffler.

Newt Gingrich has a restless and outsized intelligence that is tragically unleavened by any kind of critical sensibility...

..But like a born actor who only really wants to direct, Gingrich has always been unsatisfied with what he's brilliant at. He can't still his hunger to deliver grand pronouncements on life, liberalism, conservatism, religion and whatever else swims into his consciousness. And while he may understand the kinds of hot-button issues that get to people, what he does not understand is how he, Newt Gingrich, comes across to people. The answer: not well.

His career as a public figure has been marked by the kinds of tin-eared pronouncements, mostly about the personal misconduct of others, that can only be likened to a brilliant professional golfer who consistently knocks the ball into the same wa-ter hazard again and again...

**Read it all:** [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/welcome\\_to\\_the\\_newt\\_show\\_e0wlaLnGNaN3cyLLC8loVN](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/welcome_to_the_newt_show_e0wlaLnGNaN3cyLLC8loVN)

## America's Slowdown

May 2011: James Piereson reviews Tyler Cowen's *The Great Stagnation: How America Ate All the Low-Hanging Fruit of Modern History, Got Sick, and Will (Eventually) Feel Better* (Dutton/Penguin, Kindle Edition, \$3.99)

With *The Great Stagnation*, Tyler Cowen has given us a provocative and highly controversial assessment of the U.S. economy. Cowen, a professor of economics at George Mason University, the co-proprietor of the popular blog *Marginal Revolution*, and the author of a monthly business column for the *New York Times*, argues that the U.S. economy has been stagnating for more than a generation due to a slowdown in technological invention and progress. The slowdown in invention is behind several current adverse trends, among them rising inequality, stagnating wages and income for the middle class, rising government debt, protests against government spending, and, even, the recent financial crisis. His case is worth pondering even if in the end the reader may not be convinced that he is right...

...On one critical point, however, Cowen is right on the money. We are not as wealthy as we think we are. As we eat our seed corn without replenishing it, we are bound to see our living standards deteriorate and our political conflicts escalate. *The Great Stagnation* is an important and impressive book, and a book of the best kind—one that makes us think about current ills even when we may not agree with its diagnosis.

**Fascinating:** <http://spectator.org/archives/2011/05/09/americas-slowdown>

## The Wages of Centralism

by Christopher Chantrill, 11 May 2011

...Given how well centralism worked in education the educated elite decided that the same principle should apply to a variety of other social activities from the economy to health care. In the 1940s liberal economist John Kenneth Galbraith developed the idea of "countervailing power" in which the Big Units of business, labor unions, and government would negotiate outcomes in the national economy by the weight of power. It seemed to work well for a few years, but in fact ended up pledging the wealth of the nation for unaffordable benefits. Thus the Big Unit corporations pledged future profits that turned out to be insufficient to pay for worker pensions. Big Unit unions looted profitable corporations and reduced the steel industry and then the automobile industry to contemptible shells. Big Unit government created entitlements to pensions and health care that have resulted in an unfunded liability of \$100 trillion.

The problem is that Big Unit politics hollows out the mediating institutions that provide the real strength and resilience of society. Big Unit administrative centralism reduces everything to a conceit of elite competence, an assumption that you can design an effective, adaptable education system for all children. It reduces business corporations to crony capitalists, cringing for political favors. It reduces the luxuriant web of self-help social welfare organizations to a bare government safety net. It tempts people to wither their family and social connections and obligations and rely in the first place upon government benefits...

**More:** <http://americanmanifestobook.blogspot.com/2011/05/wages-of-centralism.html>

## Demagoguery 101

by Charles Krauthammer, 12 May 2011

...The El Paso speech is notable not for breaking any new ground on immigration but for perfectly illustrating Obama's political style: the professorial, almost therapeutic, invitation to civil discourse, wrapped around the basest of rhetorical devices — charges of malice compounded with accusations of bad faith. "They'll never be satisfied," said Obama about border control. "And I understand that. That's politics."

How understanding. The other side plays "politics," Obama acts in the public interest. *Their* eyes are on poll numbers, political power, the next election; Obama's rest fixedly on the little children.

This impugning of motives is an Obama constant. "They" play politics with deficit reduction, with government shutdowns, with health care. And now immigration. It is ironic that such a charge should be made in a speech that is nothing *but* politics. There is zero chance of any immigration legislation passing Congress in the next two years. El Paso was simply an attempt to gin up the Hispanic vote as part of an openly political two-city, three-event campaign swing in preparation for 2012.

Accordingly, the El Paso speech featured two other staples: the breathtaking invention and the statistical sleight of hand. "The [border] fence is now basically complete," asserted the president. Complete? There are now 350 miles of pedestrian fencing along the Mexican border. The border is 1,954 miles long. That's 18 percent. And only one-tenth of that 18 percent is the double and triple fencing that has proved so remarkably effective in, for example, the Yuma sector. Another 299 miles — 15 percent — are vehicle barriers that pedestrians can walk right through...

**More:** [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/demagoguery-101/2011/05/12/AFu6CV1G\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/demagoguery-101/2011/05/12/AFu6CV1G_story.html)

## Why don't we hear about Soros' ties to over 30 major news organizations?

by Dan Gainor, 11 May 2011

When liberal investor George Soros gave \$1.8 million to National Public Radio, it became part of the firestorm of controversy that jeopardized NPR's federal funding. But that gift only hints at the widespread influence the controversial billionaire has on the mainstream media. Soros, who spent \$27 million trying to defeat President Bush in 2004, has ties to more than 30 mainstream news outlets — including The New York Times, Washington Post, the Associated Press, NBC and ABC.

Prominent journalists like ABC's Christiane Amanpour and former Washington Post editor and now Vice President Len Downie serve on boards of operations that take Soros cash. This despite the Society of Professional Journalists' ethical code stating: "avoid all conflicts real or perceived."

This information is part of an upcoming report by the Media Research Centers Business & Media Institute which has been looking into George Soros and his influence on the media...

**More:** <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2011/05/11/dont-hear-george-soros-ties-30-major-news-organizations/#ixzz1M8trgdMt>

## Reaganomics vs. Obamanomics: fallacies offered by the Left

by Peter Ferrara, 12 May 2011

...As the troublesome facts demonstrating the failures of Obamanomics accumulate, we find that almost religiously minded supporters of President Barack Obama can't deal with those facts, and exhibit analogous logical fallacies...

...Critics have the most fevered difficulties in dealing with the facts regarding the effects of these Bush tax cuts. They quickly ended the 2001 recession, despite the contractionary economic impacts of 9/11, and the economy continued to grow for another 73 months. After the rate cuts were all fully implemented in 2003, the economy created 7.8 million new jobs and the unemployment rate fell from over 6% to 4.4%. Real economic growth over the next 3 years doubled from the average for the prior 3 years, to 3.5%.

In response to the rate cuts, business investment spending, which had declined for 9 straight quarters, reversed and increased 6.7% per quarter. That is where the jobs came from. Manufacturing output soared to its highest level in 20 years. The stock market revived, creating almost \$7 trillion in new shareholder wealth. From 2003 to 2007, the S&P 500 almost doubled. Capital gains tax revenues *had doubled* by 2005, *despite the 25% rate cut!* That should not have been a surprise. Capital gains revenues rose sharply after the Gingrich capital gains cuts in 1997...

... When President Reagan came to Washington in 1981, the top 1% of income earners paid 17.6% of all income taxes. By 2007, after a quarter century of tax rate cuts under Reaganomics, the top 1% paid 40.4% of all income taxes, close to twice their share of income.

In part, that was because at the lower tax rates the higher income earners took so much more of their incomes in more flexible taxable income rather than in tax exempt forms. That has been erroneously disparaged as the rich getting richer under Reaganomics, when it was just the same income in different forms. At the lower rates, upper income earners did invest and otherwise work to earn more, which of course is exactly the desired effect of the rate cuts, and so paid higher taxes on the resulting incomes. This is why Jack Kemp always used to say if you want to soak the rich, cut their tax rates.

Indeed, by 2007 that 40.4% of income taxes paid by the top 1% of income earners was more than the income taxes paid by the bottom 95% combined. That is because Reagan and his Republicans cut taxes sharply for those lower income earners as well...

**More:** <http://blogs.forbes.com/peterferrara/2011/05/12/reaganomics-vs-obamanomics-fallacies-offered-by-the-left/>

Lately many conservatives (especially Rush Limbaugh) have been bashing Mitch Daniels as some kind of RINO because he called for Republicans to soft-pedal social issues in the coming 2012 campaign. Had they taken just a moment to reflect, these critics could have figured out that there's actually a good reason for this. So many independent voters are so appalled by the Obama regime's utter fecklessness that *in the current battle*, there's no percentage in emphasizing the social issues. They might not scare away great hordes of independents, but the number would definitely be more than they might attract. Daniels' remarkable achievements as governor of Indiana prove his social conservatism beyond any doubt.

## Planned Parenthood down and out in Indiana

Elimination of public funding stands.

by John Hayward, 11 May 2011

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels recently signed a bill that eliminated public funding for Planned Parenthood. It also banned abortions after 20 weeks, required women considering abortions to receive written information about the procedure and its alternatives, and required doctors to provide ready access to emergency care for women injured during abortion procedures. The bill makes Indiana the first state to prevent Medicaid funds from going to Planned Parenthood...

**More:** <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=43458>

## The other Rosenberg Case

George Russell's May 2011 review of Susan Rosenberg's book *An American Radical*.

...In fact, *Radical* is more of a marketing tool in an ongoing effort to rehabilitate and give moral stature to some of the most hard-bitten American political gangsters of the 1970s and 80s by wrapping them in the garb of political dissidents, whose punishment is allegedly part of an ongoing American government conspiracy to deny justice and human rights to its adversaries...

...In one of the most spectacular sections of the memoir, Rosenberg claims that immediately after being jailed by a heavily armed phalanx of local and federal police, an FBI agent strolled into her detention cell and declared to his minions: "This bitch is a kike. Get the fugitive posters and find the kikes." When a match was made, he exulted: "I can always tell a kike. At least now we know it's the kikes, the ones with the niggers."

The breathtaking implausibility of those statements ought to convince most common-sense readers that a freshly arrested facilitator of terrorist bombing attacks who was also a gun-toting fugitive-at-large on cop-killing and robbery charges, and who refused to cooperate in any way with law-enforcement authorities, might also be a spectacularly crude and blatant liar.

But *An American Radical* was not written for common-sense readers. It was written for awesomely credulous people—left-liberal academics come to mind—who would believe that the next two images that arose in Rosenberg's consciousness after those unbelievable racist slurs from the FBI were memories of the concentration-camp tattoo on a friend's mother's arm and of a black boy's lynching on the cover of the Billie Holliday recording *Strange Fruit*, both of which she suddenly recalled she had seen when she was eight years old: "White people and black people, Nazis and Jews, in my eight-year-old mind it was a simple equation."

And if you, dear reader, have an eight-year-old mind, it will be a simple equation for you, too...

Read it all: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/article/the-other-rosenberg-case/>

## Train cash: same old, same old

by Patrick McIlheran, 11 May 2011

Of course it's payback that Wisconsin got snubbed when the Obama administration divvied up \$2 billion in train booty. Wisconsin said no to the administration's grander, gauzier rail dreams, embarrassing the president, so of course Wisconsin gets nothing now. This is how things work. It should surprise no one...

...Running more trains from Milwaukee to Chicago, which is what Walker wanted, is about improving transportation. It would make life easier—but not very different.

The train to Madison, on the other hand, was explicitly about changing how people get to and fro; it was meant to turn us into a train-taking state and to make Madison, well, sophisticated. The eventual extension to Minneapolis was not simply adding the option of taking a train—Amtrak already runs that route—but was meant in large measure to replace cars and airplanes, changing travel patterns on a large scale.

Do not forget, this is an administration with an energy secretary **who envies** European gas prices, a transportation secretary who **embraces policy** to "coerce people out of their cars" and a president whose answer to high gas prices is to suggest a **\$48,000 electric auto** with a 28-mile range.

Transformational indeed. Obama promised change, but it is you who will undergo it. In 2008, you were electing a whole new you. You were hoping instead that Washington would change? Not quite. The deficit's rising, Gitmo's open and a trillion dollars in stimulus was all about preserving the public sector, which now consumes a much larger share of the nation's output. Unemployment, meanwhile, remains at 9%.

Or was it politics that would be different? Obama **now wants** any company doing business with the government to reveal what it or its **key employees** personally give to any group weighing in on political issues. Contractors will want to bear in mind LaHood's phrase, "reliable people."...

**More:** <http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/121667893.html>

A very good overview of what it is, how it works, and why the enviro-left has changed its tune.

## Environmentalists were for fracking before they were against it

Shale gas is still the bridge fuel to a low-carbon energy future.

by Ronald Bailey, 10 May 2011

<http://reason.com/archives/2011/05/10/environmentalists-were-for-fr>

## Boeing is pro-growth, not anti-union

Washington's actions have assaulted the capitalist principles that have sustained America's competitiveness since it became the world's largest economy nearly 140 years ago.

by Jim McNerney, 11 May 2011

...Contrary to the NLRB's claim, our decision to expand in South Carolina resulted from an objective analysis of the same factors we use in every site selection...

...Important to our case is the basic fact that no existing work is being transferred to South Carolina, and not a single union member in Washington has been adversely affected by this decision. In fact, we've since added more than 2,000 union jobs there, and the hiring continues...

...We have a sizable presence in 34 states; half are unionized and half are right-to-work. We make decisions on work placement based on business principles—not out of emotion or spite. For example, last year we added new manufacturing facilities in Illinois and Montana. One work force is union-represented, the other is not. Both decisions made business sense.

The world the NLRB wants to create with its complaint would effectively prevent all companies from placing new plants in right-to-work states if they have existing plants in unionized states. But as an unintended consequence, forward-thinking CEOs also would be reluctant to place new plants in unionized states—lest they be forever restricted from placing future plants elsewhere across the country.

U.S. tax and regulatory policies already make it more attractive for many companies to build new manufacturing capacity overseas. That's something the administration has said it wants to change and is taking steps to address. It

appears that message hasn't made it to the front offices of the NLRB.

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703730804576315141682547796.html>

## The self-destructiveness of the purity test

by Peter Wehner 11 May 2011

...Tom Marr didn't simply disagree with Daniels; he was dripping with contempt for him. At one point Marr asked "Did Ronald Reagan ever ask for a 'truce' on social issues, Governor Daniels?" (I'm citing his words from memory rather than from a transcript.)

Let's see if we can sort through some of this, starting with the comparison to Reagan, the greatest political conservative we have ever known.

As it happens, as governor Reagan signed into law (a) permissive abortion legislation (which he later regretted) and (b) the first no-fault divorce law in the nation. Daniels, on the other hand, signed into law a measure imposing some of the nation's tightest restrictions on abortions and made Indiana the first state to cut off funding to Planned Parenthood. He has a strong pro-life record. And Daniels's education reform package is perhaps the most conservative and comprehensive any governor has ever put forward.

My point here isn't that Daniels is the obvious person conservatives should support for president, in the event he decides to run. He may not be. At this stage it's impossible to know which candidates will acquit themselves well and which will not. That's what primaries are for.

The observations I want to make are separate and apart from the merits of a Daniels candidacy, and it starts with this one. The very purity test that Marr wants to impose on Daniels would have disqualified Reagan. That fact alone should give a moment's pause to Marr and others who think like him...

**More:** <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2011/05/11/self-destructiveness-of-purity-test/>

## Forbes's Foresight

New York Sun editorial, 11 May 2011

...What is newsworthy is that Mr. Forbes is the only major Republican to mark this point in plain language and in a way that is informed by history. He predicts that a restoration of a gold standard would — again in the language of *Human Events*' paraphrasing — "help to stabilize the value of the dollar, restore confidence among foreign investors in U.S. government bonds, and discourage reckless federal spending." He pointed out in the interview that America "used gold as the basis for valuing the U.S. dollar successfully for roughly 180 years before President Richard Nixon embarked upon an experiment to end the practice in the 1970s that has contributed to a number of woes that the country is suffering from now."

Mr. Forbes put into sharp relief the fact that fiat money is a digression from what has been the American system. Its advocates seek to give the impression that fiat money is the default position, standard operating procedure for America. On the contrary, fiat money is a bizarre experiment, like the Soviet communism, that deserves to be abandoned. It may have seemed logical to some when it was first toyed with during the Civil War, and we could make a case that war trumps all, particularly a war on which the very existence of our constitutional compact depended. But it is becoming clearer by the day that the 40-year experiment in fiat money on which we've been embarked since the presidency of Richard Nixon has been a failure.

The gold standard, in other words, is not a flakey idea. On the contrary, it is fiat money that is the flakey idea...

**More:** <http://www.nysun.com/editorials/forbes-foresight/87341/>

## Weak Dollars, Strong Oil

by John Hayward, 9 May 2011

...Those "weak dollars" driving up oil prices are a result of deliberate U.S. government policy—the now-infamous "Quantitative Easing" strategy, which was supposed to entice foreign customers to buy more American goods by weakening the dollar. It didn't do much good for anyone, and the rising cost of food and gas are but two of the ways in which it is harming *everyone*.

America's struggle with rising gas prices provides a lesson in the nature of *currency*. In theory, the value of currency should be relatively stable. One of the functions of government is providing a reliable medium of

exchange, to elevate commerce beyond the barter system. Much of the strength of an advanced economy comes from the faith consumers and producers place in the value of money, which is obviously far more efficient than lugging gems, precious metals, and livestock to the mall when you want to go shopping.

These days, and despite all of its fluctuations, oil serves as a more stable "currency" than the dollar. In fact, a lot of the dollar's remaining strength comes from its usefulness to the oil market...

**More:** <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=43406>

## Chomsky's follies

*by Christopher Hitchens, 9 May 2011*

...Chomsky still enjoys some reputation both as a scholar and a public intellectual. And in the face of bombardments of official propaganda, he prides himself in a signature phrase on his stern insistence on "turning to the facts." So is one to assume that he has pored through the completed findings of the 9/11 Commission? Viewed any of the videos in which the 9/11 hijackers are seen in the company of Bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri? Read the transcripts of the trial of Zacarias Moussaoui, the so-called "20th hijacker"? Followed the journalistic investigations of **Lawrence Wright**, **Peter Bergen**, or **John Burns**, to name only some of the more salient? Acquainted himself with the proceedings of associated and ancillary investigations into the bombing of the USS *Cole* or indeed the first attempt to bring down the Twin Towers in the 1990s?

With the paranoid anti-war "left," you never quite know where the emphasis is going to fall next. At the Telluride Film Festival in 2002, I found myself debating Michael Moore, who, a whole year after the attacks, maintained that Bin Laden was "innocent until proved guilty" (and hadn't been proven guilty). Except that he *had*, at least according to Moore one day after the attacks, when he wrote that: "WE created the monster known as Osama bin Laden! Where did he go to terrorist school? At the CIA!" So, innocent unless tainted by association with Langley, Va., which did seem to have some heartland flying schools under surveillance before 2001 but which seemed sluggish on the uptake regarding them. For quite some time, in fact, the whole anti-Bush "narrative" involved something rather like collusion with the evil Bin Laden crime family, possibly based on mutual interests in the oil industry. So guilty was Bin Laden, in fact, that he was allowed to prepare for a new Pearl Harbor on American soil by a spineless Republican administration that had ignored daily briefings on the mounting threat. Gore Vidal was able to utter **many croaking and suggestive lines to this effect**, hinting at a high-level betrayal of the republic...

**Read the rest:** <http://www.slate.com/id/2293541/>

## Boehner's Debt-Limit Marker

The bond market would love a deal that reduced future U.S. borrowing.

*Wall Street Journal editorial, 10 May 2011*

..."It's true that allowing America to default would be irresponsible," Mr. Boehner told the New York Economic Club. "But it would be more irresponsible to raise the debt ceiling without simultaneously taking dramatic steps to reduce spending and reform the budget process."

The Speaker then got to the news, which was laying out what House Republicans want in return for raising the debt limit this year: "Without significant spending cuts and reforms to reduce our debt, there will be no debt limit increase. And the cuts should be greater than the accompanying increase in debt authority the President is given."

In other words, if President Obama wants a \$2 trillion increase in the statutory debt limit from today's \$14.294 trillion, he will have to accept \$2 trillion in spending cuts. Mr. Boehner didn't spell this out, but his advisers tell us that those cuts would have to be scored as real by the Congressional Budget Office over a five-year budget window. "We should be talking about cuts of trillions, not just billions," the House leader said. "They should be actual cuts and program reforms, not broad deficit or debt targets that punt the tough questions to the future."

This is political progress. Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner started out this year asking for a "clean" increase in the debt limit without conditions. Treasury officials, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and their allies on Wall Street and in the media have all been predicting economic Armageddon if the debt limit isn't raised promptly.

But this is financial melodrama. The reality is that no one in any position of responsibility wants the U.S. to default on its debt. A default isn't going to happen, and the bond markets know it, notwithstanding the Administration's scare tactics. The real question isn't whether the U.S. will meet its debt obligations but what the government will do to control its spending habits...

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703864204576313302806557610.html>

## **The Dark Night of Islam**

The revolutionary events shaking the Islamic world will not change an intolerant and obscurantist culture  
*by Michael Knox Beran, 10 May 2011*

...Islam, to have flourished as it has, must put down deep roots in the soul. But in the present darkness even the spiritual virtues of Islam are blighted. Whatever is divine and true in its orthodoxy has been obscured by a vengeful and intolerant fanaticism. A wise soul might prefer a high, pure spiritual culture to what Emerson called the “vulgar aims,” the “erudition of sensation,” the “civility of trifles, of money and expense,” characteristic of a wholly materialist culture, as the West’s is perhaps coming to be; but the spiritual culture of Islam, in its most visible forms, seems no longer to be pure. On the contrary, it appears gloomy and bigoted — a machinery of intolerance and obscurantism manipulated by mob-masters and demagogues who, though they masquerade as holy men, derive power and profit from the malignant passions they excite.

Because the Islamic mind, in its present benightedness, is so largely a closed one, the Islamic state can only be barren and corrupt. A constructive renovation of the Islamic regimes, if it is to take place at all, can take place only after more light has been let into the intellectual part of the Islamic mind. But what prospect is there of this? What Islamic leader today is preaching sweetness and light? From India to China, non-Islamic Asians, many of whom grew up under the most oppressive authority, are opening their eyes. But the Islamic peoples, for the most part, vegetate in darkness...

**More:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/266778/dark-night-islam-michael-knox-beran>

## **The waterboarding trail to bin Laden**

*by Michael Mukasey, 6 May 2011*

Osama bin Laden was killed by Americans, based on intelligence developed by Americans. That should bring great satisfaction to our citizens and elicit praise for our intelligence community. Seized along with bin Laden's corpse was a trove of documents and electronic devices that should yield intelligence that could help us capture or kill other terrorists and further degrade the capabilities of those who remain at large.

But policies put in place by the very administration that presided over this splendid success promise fewer such successes in the future. Those policies make it unlikely that we'll be able to get information from those whose identities are disclosed by the material seized from bin Laden. The administration also hounds our intelligence gatherers in ways that can only demoralize them...

**More:** [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703859304576305023876506348.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEADTop](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703859304576305023876506348.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop)

## **The audacity of irresponsibility**

Confronting the fallout of a failing economy.

*by Reince Priebus, 9 May 2011*

...Americans of all political persuasions are coming to the inescapable conclusion that we simply cannot go on like this. What seems so fundamental in the minds of voters continues to elude many in Washington, namely: money runs out; debts become due; negative credit has negative consequences.

Indeed, they understand — out of necessity — something this president seemingly does not: you cannot spend today and budget tomorrow. Americans all across this country have been having “adult conversations” in recent months; difficult adult conversations. They sit around the dinner table and wonder: how can we afford gas at \$4.00 a gallon? How can we sell our house when we owe more than it is worth? How can we survive and save for the future while living from one unemployment check to the next? These are the realities confronting real Americans. And if they fail to address them, there are consequences.

We’ve learned the hard way that the same applies in Washington. There are consequences to the culture of economic complacency that has pervaded throughout the federal government for far too long. This president in particular remains intent on running up the national credit card and spending money that, quite simply, we don’t have. The facts are this simple:

Every day, Washington borrows roughly \$4.5 billion just to pay its bills. Forty-three cents of every dollar we spend is borrowed. Medicare will be bankrupt in nine years. In 2040, our national debt will be TWICE the size of our

economy. These are not Republican facts. These are not Democratic facts. These are just facts...

**Read the rest:** <http://dailycaller.com/2011/05/08/the-audacity-of-irresponsibility-confronting-the-fallout-of-a-failing-economy/print/>

## Geert Wilders' problem with Islam

by Jonathan Kay, 8 May 2011

...His insistence on the proper distinction between faith and ideology is an idea that deserves to be taken seriously. For it invites the question: If we permit the excoriation of totalitarian cults created by modern dictators, why do we stigmatize (and even criminalize) the excoriation of arguably similar notions when they happen to be attributed to a 7th-century prophet?

It's a good question. And as far as I know, Geert Wilders is the only Western politician taking it seriously.

**More:** <http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2011/05/08/jonathan-kay-no-distinction-between-islam-and-islamism-for-geert-wilders/>

## Islam needs reformists, not 'moderates'

Bin Laden's followers represent a real interpretation of Islam. Why don't more Muslims challenge it?

by Irshad Manji, 7 May 2011

...He had issued a statement about the London terror strikes, assuring journalists that according to the Quran, "Whoever kills a human being...it is as if he has killed all humankind."

"Not quite," I explained with regret. "The full verse reads, 'Whoever kills a human being, except as punishment for murder or other villainy in the land, shall be regarded as having killed all humankind' (my emphasis). For the British jihadis, I went on, "villainy in the land" describes the boot prints of U.S. soldiers in Iraqi soil. This otherwise humane Quranic passage gives aspiring holy warriors a loophole to exploit..."

...When it is "moderates," not extremists, who treat you as a traitor for advocating liberal democratic values, something has corrupted the moderates themselves. That something is identity politics...

...It is time for those who love liberal democracy to join hands with Islam's reformists. Here is a clue to who's who: Moderate Muslims denounce violence committed in the name of Islam but insist that religion has nothing to do with it; reformist Muslims, by contrast, not only deplore Islamist violence but admit that our religion is used to incite it...

**Read the rest:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703992704576305412360432744.html>

## Understanding the English Defence League

by Guramit Singh, 7 May 2011

...The English Defence League is a non-racist street movement that welcomes people from all backgrounds, any race or religion; our motto is "Black And White Unite." This is the very cornerstone our organisation is built on.

Unfortunately, as we have seen in the past and up to this current day, certain far left movements such as the UAF (Unite Against Freedom) and Turban Campaign can't stand people standing up to real issues and real concerns. These groups like to play the racist card because they can't debate us on any platform relating to the imposition of sharia and its clear links with Radical Islam and the hatred and intolerance towards "Kuffar"...

...The Turban Campaign also called us Anti-Semites. If you look at many of our videos you will see that the Star Of David is a flag that the English Defence League fly loudly and proudly. We believe in Israel's right to exist, and Israel's right to defend itself. One of my closest international allies is **Rabbi Shiffren**. He has come along to two of our demos and **given speeches**...

...I understand in the past I have made harsh comments about Islam but the truth of the matter is Islam *is* harsh. I've studied the Quran, Hadith, Sira and Sunnah. My conclusions are simply drawn from reading Islamic scripture. I have made comments that some would call racist but that is because I'm not particularly politically correct.

I am of brown skin. I understand what racism is and I'd never inflict that heartache onto somebody else. I know it's hard to believe, but everything that's written in Google is not Gospel...

**More:** <http://www.libertiesalliance.org/2011/05/07/understanding-the-english-defence-league/>

## The wonders of being 70

by George F. Will, 6 May 2011

**Delightful:** [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-wonders-of-being-70/2011/05/06/AFWx47BG\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-wonders-of-being-70/2011/05/06/AFWx47BG_story.html)

## SEIU drops mask, goes full commie

by Zombie, 6 May 2011

A May Day rally in Los Angeles, co-sponsored by the SEIU and various communist groups, as well as other unions, reflected yet another step in the normalization of self-identified communist and socialist ideologies in the Obama era. Not only did the SEIU help to organize the rally in conjunction with communists, they marched side-by-side with communists, while union members carried communist flags, communists carried union signs, and altogether there was no real way to tell the two apart.

Southern California citizen journalist and photographer “**Ringo**” was on hand to record the day’s events, and posted a [full-length photo essay on his site Ringo’s Pictures](#). To bring this important photo essay to a wider audience, I present here a small selection of Ringo’s May Day pictures; [visit his site](#) to see dozens more photos from the rally...

**More:** <http://pajamasmedia.com/zombie/2011/05/06/seiu-drops-mask-goes-full-commie/>

(Hat tip: Jim D.)

## The silent revolution

by Christian Skaug, 30 April 2011

...What does a doctor, nurse or midwife do, observing how Norwegians are fewer and fewer year by year? I refuse to believe that there is information that does not make an impression. What do expectant parents who see that their children are a minority in their age group think about this? And whatever they think: Why have they not they shared their thoughts with enough people that it is an indisputable and well-known public truth that Oslo in a few years will be a Norwegian city only in patches?

The explanation can hardly be any other than that it’s taboo to say that Norwegians prefer to live among other Norwegians. It is a taboo so strong and so deep seated that one must believe the reason people keep quiet can’t be based on sense. The taboo must to such a degree have become a part of one’s mind, that the reaction comes almost from the bowels: Stress hormones come trickling out, and it hurts physically to challenge the silence.

Europeans have a link between conscience and political correctness that makes them go around with constant feelings of guilt: We owe it to share and make room for the others, to the extent where we declare our own culture out of date. This is a strange psychological phenomenon. It has occurred during a relatively short time, and people do not speak out even when they are forced to move out of their neighborhoods. When will they be willing to speak up? What will it take?

There is something odd about a culture that claims to be against everything Hitler was for, but dares not or cannot defend their own culture...

**More:** <http://tundratabloids.com/2011/05/a-norwegian-laments-the-ethnic-cleansing-of-his-state.html>

## The SEAL Sensibility

An inside look at the brutal training and secret work of the commandos who got Osama bin Laden..

by Lt. Cmdr. Eric Greitens, 7 May 2011

...What kind of man makes it through Hell Week? That’s hard to say. But I do know—generally—who won’t make it. There are a dozen types that fail: the weight-lifting meatheads who think that the size of their biceps is an indication of their strength, the kids covered in tattoos announcing to the world how tough they are, the preening leaders who don’t want to get dirty, and the look-at-me former athletes who have always been told they are stars but have never have been pushed beyond the envelope of their talent to the core of their character. In short, those who fail are the ones who focus on show. The vicious beauty of Hell Week is that you either survive or fail, you endure or you quit, you do—or you do not.

Some men who seemed impossibly weak at the beginning of SEAL training—men who puked on runs and had trouble with pull-ups—made it. Some men who were skinny and short and whose teeth chattered just looking at the ocean also made it. Some men who were visibly afraid, sometimes to the point of shaking, made it too.

Almost all the men who survived possessed one common quality. Even in great pain, faced with the test of their

lives, they had the ability to step outside of their own pain, put aside their own fear and ask: How can I help the guy next to me? They had more than the "fist" of courage and physical strength. They also had a heart large enough to think about others, to dedicate themselves to a higher purpose...

**More:** [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703992704576307021339210488.html?mod=WSJ\\_hp\\_LEFTTopStories](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703992704576307021339210488.html?mod=WSJ_hp_LEFTTopStories)

## War Dog

There's a reason they brought one to get Osama bin Laden.

*by Rebecca Frankel, 4 May 2011*

Dogs have been fighting alongside U.S. soldiers for more than 100 years, seeing combat in the **Civil War** and World War I. But their service was informal; only in 1942 were canines officially inducted into the U.S. Army. Today, they're a central part of U.S. efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan—as of early 2010 the U.S. Army had 2,800 active-duty dogs deployed (the largest canine contingent in the world). And these numbers will continue to grow as these dogs become an ever-more-vital military asset.

So it should come as no surprise that among the 79 commandos involved in Operation Neptune Spear that resulted in Osama bin Laden's killing, there was one dog—the elite of the four-legged variety. And though the dog in question remains an enigma—another mysterious detail of the still-unfolding narrative of that historic mission—there should be little reason to speculate about *why* there was a dog involved: Man's best friend is a pretty fearsome warrior...

**More, including 10 photos:** [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/05/04/war\\_dog?page=full](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/05/04/war_dog?page=full)

## Mustards around the world mourn OBL

*bankorandotcom, 6 May 2011*

**Watch:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnJxiP0KIm4&feature=player\\_embedded#at=13](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnJxiP0KIm4&feature=player_embedded#at=13)

## Srdja Trifkovic on Osama bin Laden

"accurate geopolitical analysis islamic terror cold war"

*bankorandotcom, 5 May 2011*

**Watch:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prSOEW6ZzZI&feature=player\\_embedded#at=177](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prSOEW6ZzZI&feature=player_embedded#at=177)

## Professors Gone Wild

The federal government, led by the largest contingent of academics ever to inhabit the Beltway, is failing:

*by Stuart Schwartz, 2 May 2011*

...Professors have done for the institutional mainstays of American society what the "Girls Gone Wild" video pornography franchise has done for women: degrade and deform all that come in contact with them. The pornography franchise succeeded by inducing drunken young women to perform sex in front of cameras. Although its founder put the nobility of his enterprise right up there with the activities of anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela, the results tell a different story: a trail of exploited women and shattered lives.

In the same way, behind just about every institutional dysfunction—from media to government to education—is an academic. In healthcare, Harvard's Donald Berwick is in Washington presiding over the slashing of medical treatment for seniors; over at the federal energy department, Berkeley's Steven Chu is assisting the administration with the destruction of the private energy sector; and Harvard's Kevin Jennings is in the White House promoting same-sex education for inner-city schools. Children may not know how to read or write but, gosh darn it, they'll know how to "fist"...

**More:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/05/professors\\_gone\\_wild.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/05/professors_gone_wild.html)

## The First-Person Presidency

President Obama takes credit for operations that would have been impossible had Senator Obama's views prevailed.

*by Victor Davis Hanson, 6 May 2011*

...In sum, Senator Obama opposed tribunals, renditions, Guantanamo, preventive detention, Predator-drone attacks, the Iraq War, wiretaps, and intercepts — before President Obama either continued or expanded nearly all of them, in addition to embracing targeted assassinations, new body scanning and patdowns at airports, and a third preemptive war against an oil-exporting Arab Muslim nation — this one including NATO efforts to kill the Qaddafi family. The only thing more surreal than Barack Obama's radical transformation is the sudden approval of it by the once hysterical Left. In *Animal Farm* and *1984* fashion, the world we knew in 2006 has simply been airbrushed away...

**Epic hypocrisy:** <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/266580/first-person-presidency-victor-davis-hanson>  
(Hat tip: Jim D.)

## Herman Cain Is BIG WINNER at South Carolina GOP Debate

*Jackohoft, 5 May 2011*

**Video of Frank Luntz focus group afterward:**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Lt\\_28Sf-dk&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Lt_28Sf-dk&feature=player_embedded)

## Top Green admits: "We are lost!"

*by Walter Russell Mead 3 May 2011*

...This is an awesome admission of categorical intellectual, political and moral failure. For two decades greens have arrogated to themselves the authority of science and wrapped themselves in the arrogant certainty of self-righteous contempt for those who oppose them. They have equated skepticism about their incoherent and contradictory policy proposals with hatred of science and attacked their critics as the soulless hired skills of the oil companies, happy to ruin humanity for the sake of some corporate largesse.

Monbiot has worked his way through to a cogent description of the dead end the global green movement has reached, but he has not yet diagnosed the cause. In particular, he remains a staunch Malthusian. In his view, humanity is good at creating new ways to destroy itself, but not at finding solutions to the problems we create. Our ingenuity is magically good at finding new fossil fuels, but we have no skill whatsoever at managing the consequences of our discoveries. The unknown technologies of the future will create horrible new disasters, but they will offer no new ways to contain or manage the disruption they cause.

Economic growth is a cancer, in this view. Its bad effects are permanent and cumulative, its blessings are evanescent and ultimately trivial.

Malthusianism is a religious conviction that desperately needs to think of itself as a science. From **Thomas Malthus** and his mathematical certainties to **Paul Ehrlich** with his famine timetables and the **Club of Rome** with its 'scientific' predictions of resource exhaustion, Malthusians have made confident predictions about the future and claimed scientific authority for statements that turned out to be contemptibly silly. That is the brutal fate that often awaits people who can't keep the boundaries between science and religion straight...

**More:** <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2011/05/03/top-green-admits-we-are-lost/>

## Reaganomics vs. Obamanomics: facts & figures

*by Peter Ferrara, 5 May 2011*

...They wrote: "We call this period, 1982-2007, the twenty-five year boom—the greatest period of wealth creation in the history of the planet. In 1980, the net worth—assets minus liabilities—of all U.S. households and business ... was \$25 trillion in today's dollars. By 2007, ... net worth was just shy of \$57 trillion. Adjusting for inflation, more wealth was created in America in the twenty-five year boom than in the previous two hundred years."

What is so striking about Obamanomics is how it so doggedly pursues the opposite of every one of these planks of Reaganomics...

As a result, while the Reagan recovery averaged 7.1% economic growth over the first seven quarters, the Obama recovery has produced less than half that at 2.8%, with the last quarter at a dismal 1.8%. After seven quarters of the Reagan recovery, unemployment had fallen 3.3 percentage points from its peak to 7.5%, with only 18% unemployed long-term for 27 weeks or more. After seven quarters of the Obama recovery, unemployment has fallen only 1.3 percentage points from its peak, with a postwar record 45% long-term unemployed.

...Moreover, the Reagan recovery was achieved while taming a historic inflation, for a period that continued for

more than 25 years. By contrast, the less-than-half-hearted Obama recovery seems to be recreating inflation, with the latest Producer Price Index data showing double-digit inflation again, and the latest CPI growing already half as much. These are the reasons why economist John Lott has rightly said, "For the last couple of years, President Obama keeps claiming that the recession was the worst economy since the Great Depression. But this is not correct. This is the worst "recovery" since the Great Depression."...

**More:** <http://blogs.forbes.com/peterferrara/2011/05/05/reaganomics-vs-obamanomics-facts-and-figures/>

## Obama's gangster politics

*by Kimberley Strassel, 6 May 2011*

...Under the order, all companies (and their officers) would be required to list their political donations as a condition to bidding for government contracts. Companies can bid and lose out for the sin of donating to Republicans. Or they can protect their livelihoods by halting donations to the GOP altogether—which is the White House's real aim. Think of it as "not-pay to play."

Whatever you call it, the order amounts to the White House brazenly directing the power of government against its political opponents—and at a time when the president claims to want cooperation on the budget and other issues. Senate Republicans from Mitch McConnell to Susan Collins are fuming, warning this is one political sucker punch too far, an unabashedly partisan move that will damage Senate work...

...More astounding, the order requires the list to include donations made to third-party political groups—disclosure that is not currently required by law, and that is, as a result, surely unconstitutional.

Ever audacious, the White House is spinning this as "reform," claiming taxpayers deserve to know how federal dollars being paid to contractors are being spent in campaigns. This might hold (a drop of) water if the executive order also required all the (liberal) entities that get billions in taxpayer dollars via federal grants and funding—unions, environmental groups, Planned Parenthood—to disclose also...

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703992704576305414137806694.html>

## Pulling the plug On Obamacare

*by J. Matt Barber, 6 May 2011*

...While Republican rooks maneuver to checkmate King Obama via legislative repeal, others have gone the judicial route. On Tuesday, in fact, Mathew D. Staver, founder of the Liberty Counsel and dean of Liberty University School of Law, will be the first to challenge the constitutionality of Obamacare at the federal court of appeals level. He will argue the case of Liberty University v. Geithner before the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Va.

The Liberty Counsel officially represents both Liberty University and two private individuals in the lawsuit. Unofficially, it represents the majority of Americans.

Later that day, the Court of Appeals will also hear the case of Commonwealth of Virginia v. Sebelius, filed by Virginia Attorney General Kenneth T. Cuccinelli II. The cases will be argued seriatim (in succession) by each counsel, respectively.

The Obama-Pelosi-Reid triumvirate ambitiously maintains—against considerable evidence to the contrary—that Democrats' particular brand of health care reform is so important, so unique that the U.S. government is justified—for the first time in history—in forcing every American citizen to purchase his own untenable, unsustainable and demonstratively defective product under penalty of law. Obamacare categorically lays the groundwork for universal health care. They didn't just sell us a lemon, they squeezed it in our eyes and said, "pay up or else."

This is a case of first impression. That is to say, no Supreme Court case has ever allowed the federal government to force people into the stream of commerce. Neither has the high court ever permitted the federal government to compel its citizens to buy a government-defined product. If government has the authority to force unwilling citizens to purchase health insurance, then there is simply no limit to the power this mushrooming centralized mammoth can wield...

**More:** <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/may/5/pulling-the-plug-on-obamacare/print/>

This is delicious.

## White House takes victory lap in clown car

*by Jim Treacher, 4 May 2011*

## Repeal Title IX

Federal intervention in college sports remains a disastrous mistake.

by *Richard A. Epstein*, 4 May 2011

...Surely anyone but the sourest egalitarian would prefer a system in which 1000 men and 600 women participate in intercollegiate sports to one that carries only 700 men and 550 women. Narrowing the gap in the relative rates of participation for men and women athletes has the deplorable consequence of leaving both groups worse off. It should be clear that the major vice of even the ideal version of Title IX is that it assumes that government regulators have a better understanding of the complex internal dynamics of undergraduate colleges than the administrators who run the schools. It is, however, sheer fantasy to think that a Big Ten university and a small liberal arts college should address participation in intercollegiate sports in the same way, or that the federal government, staffed with ideologues and political appointees, can rid these institutions of their supposed biases...

**Read it all:** <http://www.hoover.org/publications/defining-ideas/article/77231>

"International law is that law which the wicked do not obey and the righteous do not enforce."

—Abba Eban (1915-2002)

## The Rules of the Game

by *Don John*, 5 May 2011

If a Republican president had ordered a secret mission into a neutral country—without receiving permission or even informing that country's government—and then proceeded to kill a man without giving him a trial, the Democrats and the mainstream media would be beside themselves with rage and righteous indignation. And when they learned that information gleaned from torture had been employed to help lead U.S. forces to the target, they would be calling loudly for the president's impeachment.

But when a Democrat president does all those things, the Dems and the media say we're all supposed to rejoice. How can they say that? Because they are nakedly partisan. In their world, there's an excuse for everything they do, and none for the GOP. They never want a Republican to succeed at anything.

When President Bush invaded Iraq—with Congressional approval and a coalition of 39 countries in support of 17 United Nations resolutions—it was called "an illegal war," and "going it alone," and "cowboy diplomacy."

In December 2006, Senator Obama called President Bush's planned surge in Iraq an "escalation." By that standard, I guess D-Day was an escalation, too.

In April 2007, Senator Reid famously proclaimed "This war is lost." In September 2007, Senator Clinton called General Petraeus a liar, saying she had to suspend her disbelief at his testimony about remarkable progress in Iraq. Around that same time, MoveOn called him "General Betrayus."

And then there's the late, unlamented Congressman John Murtha, a Marine veteran of the Vietnam War who constantly pushed bogus stories about our Marines in Iraq. This led to courts martial for eight Marines who supposedly killed innocent civilians in the town of Haditha. All eight men were found innocent, but neither Murtha nor the media ever apologized.

This partisanship isn't limited to war. It happens every day on the domestic front, too. [Here's](#) a short but illuminating example.

If Republicans played by the same sleazy, partisan rules as the Democrats, they would decry the killing of Osama Bin Laden, they'd cheer for Qaddafi to hang on in Libya, and they'd hope that all those deposed non-Islamist Middle Eastern dictators get replaced by Muslim Brotherhood fascists.

Ugly? Unpatriotic? Unfair? That's how Democrats act all the time.

## Why Eagleton Is Wrong

*Kevin D. Williamson* reviews *Terry Eagleton's Why Marx Was Right* (Yale University Press, 272 pages) May 2011

<https://www.commentarymagazine.com/article/why-eagleton-is-wrong/>  
This article costs \$4.95 if you're not a subscriber. But it is excellent.

## **Bradley Manning is at the center of the WikiLeaks controversy. But who is he?**

by *Ellen Nakashima*, 1 May 2011

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/magazine/who-is-wikileaks-suspect-bradley-manning/2011/04/16/AFMwBmrF\\_print.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/magazine/who-is-wikileaks-suspect-bradley-manning/2011/04/16/AFMwBmrF_print.html)

## **Obama's reality principle, or lack of it**

by *Peter Wehner*, 4 May 2011, 4:59pm

...In his [21 May 2009] speech at the National Archives, President Obama said about his predecessor: "Our government made decisions based upon fear rather than foresight and all too often trimmed facts and evidence to fit ideological predispositions."

A man of uncommon ideological rigidity, Obama must now know—at least on some level—that what President Bush did was based on foresight rather than fear. Obama is now reaping the rewards of the intelligence architecture put in place by his predecessor, and which Obama himself opposed. This appears to be a sore point within the administration. Obama seems to want all the credit for himself, even if it is undeserved.

How totally out of character for him...

**More:** <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2011/05/04/obamas-reality-principle-or-lack-of-it/>

## **RE: *Spiking the Football, Mr. President?***

by *Abe Greenwald*, 4 May 2011, 3:59pm

...UPDATE: **According to** today's *Telegraph* (take that as you will), "President Barack Obama is to release up to 2,000 photographs of alleged abuse at American prisons in Iraq and Afghanistan in a move which will reignite the scandal surrounding Abu Ghraib prison in 2004." *If* this is accurate (and no one yet is confirming it), its concurrence with Obama's refusal to release the bin Laden photos it is an example of spectacular and offensive White House discombobulation beyond imagining.

**More:** <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2011/05/04/re-spiking-the-football-mr-president/>

## **Obama owes thanks, and an apology, to CIA interrogators**

by *Marc Thiessen*, 3 May 2011

...Already, critics are desperately trying to play down the CIA interrogation program's role in the bin Laden operation. Many are pointing to an **Associated Press report** that KSM "did not discuss al-Kuwaiti while being subjected to the simulated drowning technique known as waterboarding, former officials said. He acknowledged knowing him many months later under standard interrogation, they said, leaving it once again up for debate as to whether the harsh technique was a valuable tool or an unnecessarily violent tactic."

This statement demonstrates ignorance of how CIA interrogations worked. Interrogators would never have asked about the names of couriers during waterboarding. As I explain in my book, "**Courting Disaster**," enhanced techniques were not used to gain intelligence; they were used to elicit cooperation. According to former CIA director Mike Hayden, as enhanced techniques were applied, CIA interrogators would ask detainees questions to which the interrogators already know the answers — allowing them to judge whether the detainees had reached a level of compliance. "They are designed to create a state of cooperation, not to get specific truthful answers to a specific question," Hayden said...

...Thanks to President Obama, this program, which helped lead us to bin Laden, is no longer part of America's counterterrorism arsenal. Indeed, outside of the war zones of Afghanistan and Iraq, there have been **no reported U.S. detentions of high-value terrorists** since Obama took office. Earlier this year, **Umar Patek**, the highest-ranking terrorist captured alive at this point in the Obama administration, was taken into custody by Pakistani authorities. Patek had traveled from Southeast Asia to Abbottabad — the same place where bin Laden was hiding. Coincidence? What was

Patek doing in Abbottabad? With whom did he meet and what did they discuss? He should be in CIA custody answering such questions...

**More:** [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/obama-owes-thanks-and-an-apology-to-cia-interrogators/2011/05/03/AFka7tF\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/obama-owes-thanks-and-an-apology-to-cia-interrogators/2011/05/03/AFka7tF_story.html)

## **Osama bin Laden killed: CIA admits waterboarding yielded vital information**

*by Toby Harnden, 5 May 2011*

...American officials have said that one of the crucial clues that led to bin Laden was a piece of information about an al-Qaeda courier that came from September 11th mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or from the so-called 20th hijacker, Mohammad al-Qahtani. It is acknowledged that both Khalid Sheikh Mohammad and Mohammad al-Qahtani had been subjected to enhanced interrogation, a policy authorised by Mr Bush...

**More:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/al-qaeda/8491509/Osama-bin-Laden-killed-CIA-admits-waterboarding-yielded-vital-information.html>

## **From Guantanamo to Abbottabad**

The bin Laden mission benefited greatly from Bush administration interrogation policies, but President Obama still prefers to kill, rather than capture, terrorists. This costs valuable intelligence.

*by John Yoo, 4 May 2011*

**More:** [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703834804576301032595527372.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEADTop](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703834804576301032595527372.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop)

## **The Caine Mutiny (part 2)**

*by William H. Gross, 1 May 2011*

...He in his Fruit of the Looms and 2:00am exhaustion was incapacitated, temporarily incompetent, and anything but a Naval captain. "What the hell was that?!" he screamed as it passed astern after nearly disemboweling our 300-foot destroyer. I was speechless and subject to a potential court martial, so I meekly replied, "A tanker, sir." "The Grim Reaper" would have been a better description. It is with that as a reminder that there are no white robes under the Christmas tree for yours truly. I wear a t-shirt and jockey shorts if only to remind me of a sleeping pot-bellied captain and that old Navy adage—constant bearing, decreasing range—constant bearing, decreasing range.

Forty years later, I find myself in a similar position, this time, however, displaying the four-striped epaulets myself as a co-captain of the SS PIMCO, a \$1.2 trillion carrier designed to travel the world and the seven seas in a quest for principal protection and alpha generation. And I thought the mid-watch was a hassle! Whatever it is, Mohamed and I either alternately or in unison maintain 24-hour surveillance for tankers on a collision course with your investment portfolios and savings. There should be no "what the hell was that!" moments at PIMCO, even on Lehman Day 2008. Indeed, there was not. While the global financial tanker was on automatic pilot, we had changed course well in advance and it has been relatively smooth sailing since.

The metaphor begs the question however as to what tanker is *now* on a constant bearing decreasing range, and indeed there would seem to be many such blips on the radar screen...

**A charming and instructive tale:** <http://www.pimco.com/EN/insights/pages/the-caine-mutiny-part-2.aspx>

Conservatives win big; Liberals and Quebec separatists lose.

## **Welcome to the new Canada**

*by Tasha Kheiriddin, 3 May 2011*

Canada's forty-first election was supposed to be about nothing. Unnecessary, unwanted, unimportant: a \$300 million exercise in futility destined to produce another minority Parliament with a configuration similar to the last.

Instead, this election has profoundly changed both the composition of the House of Commons and the politics of our country. For the next four to five years Canadians will be governed by a Conservative majority government...

**Read on:** <http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2011/05/03/tasha-kheiriddin-welcome-to-the-new-canada/>

## What you need to know about E. J. Dionne

by Peter Wehner, 3 May 2011

...Do you recall the column by Dionne excoriating Obama and other Democrats for voting against raising the debt ceiling during the Bush presidency? That's funny; neither do I...

**Devastating—and a hoot, to boot:** <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2011/05/02/what-you-need-to-know-about-dionne/>

## Fed up with the Fed?

by Thomas Sowell, 3 May 2011

...The policies of this administration make it risky to lend money, with Washington politicians coming up with one reason after another why borrowers shouldn't have to pay it back when it is due, or perhaps not pay it all back at all. That's called "loan modification" or various other fancy names for welching on debts. Is it surprising that lenders have become reluctant to lend?

Private businesses have amassed record amounts of cash, which they could use to hire more people—if this administration were not generating vast amounts of uncertainty about what the costs are going to be for ObamaCare, among other unpredictable employer costs, from a government heedless or hostile toward business.

As a result, it is often cheaper or less risky for employers to work the existing employees overtime, or to hire temporary workers, who are not eligible for employee benefits. But lack of money is not the problem...

...All this constant experimentation by the government makes it more risky for investors to invest or employers to employ, when neither of them knows when the government's rules of the game are going to change again. Whatever the merits or demerits of particular government policies, the uncertainty that such ever-changing policies generate can paralyze an economy today, just as it did back in the days of FDR.

The idea that the federal government has to step in whenever there is a downturn in the economy is an economic dogma that ignores much of the history of the United States.

During the first hundred years of the United States, there was no Federal Reserve. During the first one hundred and fifty years, the federal government did not engage in massive intervention when the economy turned down. No economic downturn in all those years ever lasted as long as the Great Depression of the 1930s, when both the Federal Reserve and the administrations of Hoover and of FDR intervened...

**More:** [http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/sowell050311.php3?printer\\_friendly](http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/sowell050311.php3?printer_friendly)

## Obama's illegal lottery

by William A. Levinson, 2 May 2011

...It is legally impossible to conduct a nationwide raffle, whether the funds are being used for political purposes or not. This, of course, is of great importance, because running an interstate gambling operation that does not comply with the laws in each state in which it is being conducted subjects you to both criminal and civil penalties under the Federal RICO statute. The trick that keeps you out jail is to offer an 'alternative method of entry' that does not require payment of consideration.

The Obama campaign added "the trick that keeps you out of jail" only after a law enforcement agency said very explicitly that the promotion in question was illegal. The fact that the Minnesota Department of Safety let the Obama campaign off with a warning does not, however, oblige Congress to do the same. A strong argument could be made that a president who has personally violated the law even as a candidate cannot credibly supervise the Justice Department, appoint judges and Supreme Court justices, or otherwise carry out his responsibilities effectively. In addition, the campaign ran three similar promotions in 2007 that did not provide the "alternative method of entry" described above.

Mr. Obama also forgot a basic corollary of the Eleventh Commandment. "Thou Shalt Not Get Caught" encompasses "Do it but don't tell me about it." In other words, if your organization is going to do something unethical or illegal, make sure nobody can prove that you know about it. Mr. Obama instead signed his name to at least one of the lottery promotions in question, and he also appeared in the two videos described above. This proves not only that he knew that his campaign was running an allegedly illegal gambling operation, but also that he participated personally...

**More:** [http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/05/obamas\\_illegal\\_lottery.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/05/obamas_illegal_lottery.html)

**Rep. Peter King: “Through waterboarding...we got vital information that directly**

## **led us to Bin Laden” (video 2:58)**

*by Jim Hoft, 2 May 2011*

Rep. Peter King: “You mentioned the fact that we obtained information several years ago, vital information about the courier for Osama. We obtained that information through waterboarding. And, fo for those who say that waterboarding doesn’t work, that it should be stopped. We got vital information that directly led us to Bin Laden.”

Of course, we all know that **Barack Obama was against waterboarding.**

**Link:** <http://gatewaypundit.rightnetwork.com/2011/05/rep-peter-king-osamas-death-came-from-waterboarding-video/>

## **Hersh, Olbermann called Bin Laden SEAL team "assassination ring" in 2009**

*by Stephen Schwartz, 2 May 2011*

...In 2009, Seymour Hersh claimed the special operations group that took down Osama bin Laden on May 1 was Cheney's "secret assassination ring."...

**Includes 2:34 video of uberlefties Keith Olbermann and Seymour Hersh:**

[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2011/05/02/hersh\\_olbermann\\_called\\_bin\\_laden\\_seal\\_team\\_assassination\\_ring\\_in\\_2009.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2011/05/02/hersh_olbermann_called_bin_laden_seal_team_assassination_ring_in_2009.html)

## **Working up a tax storm in Illinois**

*by George F. Will, 29 Apr 2011*

...Illinois, comprehensively misgoverned and ravenous for revenue, has enacted what has come to be called an “Amazon tax.” It requires Amazon and other online retailers to collect the state’s sales tax. Amazon and many other retailers responded by severing their connections with their Illinois affiliates.

Storm responded by relocating to Beloit. No one knows how many other Illinois affiliates of the thousands of online retailers — transactions with Amazon are less than 1 percent of FatWallet’s business — will lose revenue, pay less in taxes, cut jobs or leave the state. When Texas sent Amazon a bill for \$269 million because of the “nexus” of its Dallas warehouse, Amazon decided to close the warehouse...

...Besides, Main Street stores pay sales taxes to support local police, fire and rescue, sewage, schools and other services. If Amazon’s Seattle headquarters catches fire, will Champaign, Ill., firefighters extinguish it? And as Boston Globe columnist **Jeff Jacoby notes**, “A Pennsylvania tobacco shop doesn’t collect Ohio sales taxes whenever it sells a humidor to a visitor from Ohio.”

Federalism — which serves the ability of businesses to move to greener pastures — puts state and local politicians under pressure, but that is where they should be, lest they treat businesses as hostages that can be abused. According to the **Tax Foundation**, Illinois has not only the fourth-highest combined national-local corporate income tax in the nation but also in the industrialized world. In Peoria, Doug Oberhelman, chief executive of Caterpillar, has told Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn that he is being “wined and dined” by other governors and their representatives encouraging Caterpillar to invest in their states...

**More:** [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/working-up-a-tax-storm-in-illinois/2011/04/28/AFAUZzGF\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/working-up-a-tax-storm-in-illinois/2011/04/28/AFAUZzGF_story.html)

## **Taking the public for a ride**

*by Steve Chapman, 28 Apr 2011*

...Ray LaHood is to information what kryptonite is to Superman: In his presence, it becomes powerless...

...You can't balance the cost against the benefit if you ignore the cost. LaHood, however, has no use for tedious number-crunching.

Nowhere is his indifference to data more obvious than on high-speed rail. "This is what the American people want," he declared. "If you build it, they will come." The question, though, is not whether anyone would ride high-speed trains, but at what price. If Americans want a high-speed rail system so badly, will they be willing to pay fares that would cover the expense of operating trains? "I think it will cover operating costs," said LaHood. "During better economic times, operating costs were covered by the Chicago Transit Authority."

No, they weren't. The CTA never comes close to breaking even on operations. In 2006, the last full year before the recession hit, its revenues from fares, advertising, concessions and the like covered only 55 percent of those costs.

No mass transit system in the country charges riders enough to offset the expenses of running trains—much less the cost of capital. Amtrak loses hundreds of millions a year, and it makes an operating profit only on its somewhat high-

speed Acela Express between Boston and Washington.

That's why Republican governors like Scott Walker of Wisconsin and Rick Scott of Florida have turned down mountains of federal cash for high-speed rail. They fear being saddled with a big bill to build and operate expensive systems that will never live up to ridership projections...

**More:** <http://www.creators.com/opinion/steve-chapman/taking-taxpayers-for-a-ride.html>

## Our kind of class warfare

Let's have a tax on political power.

by P.J. O'Rourke, 2 May 2011 (May 9 issue)

...We Americans are virtuous people and we're broke. Therefore, logically, people who aren't broke aren't virtuous. How did wicked people get all the money? President Obama thinks he knows. He has a lot of money himself. The Obama family income was \$1.7 million in 2010. The president spent last year trying to wreck the American economy, so it only follows that other millionaires and billionaires made their money the same way.

There are, of course, millionaires and billionaires who are leeches on society, who bleed our GDP and contribute nothing to the commonweal. There was, for instance, a bright young man who worked all the scholarship angles so that wealthy donors (with their tax-dodging charitable contributions) paid his way through fancy schools. He embarked on an urban scam called "community organizing." Then he obtained a large sum for writing a book about his life and accomplishments at age 34 when he didn't have any accomplishments and hadn't led much life. He wormed his way into politics with all its perks and benefits. And now his big house, his stretch limousine, and his luxury jet are paid for out of the public treasury.

But a fellow like that is an exception. Most rich people provide some value to mankind—goods, services, or, at worst, fishy investments to make us temporarily feel like we're rich too. And when even the richest of the rich loses \$1,645,000,000,000 he has to give the big house, limo, and jet back to the bank. That's real money.

President Obama has contempt for real money. And why not, since his government has the power to print all the fiat money he wants? Power is the politician's paycheck. Power gets politicians all the good things money can buy and plenty of other things as well. Businessmen work for money because money gives them mastery over their own lives. Politicians work for power because power gives them mastery over the lives of others...

**Nails it:** [http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/our-kind-class-warfare\\_558503.html](http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/our-kind-class-warfare_558503.html)

## 10 thoughts on Osama bin Laden's death

by Toby Harnden, 2 May 2011

...**1.** In practical terms, it might not mean all that much. Bin Laden has been on the run for years and only stayed alive so long by relinquishing operational control of his acolytes...**3.** The compound in which bin Laden was killed was apparently purpose-built in 2005 to house him. So who among senior Pakistani officials were aware that al-Qaeda's leader was living in their midst? **4.** The decision to carry out a helicopter assault was incredibly risky, but the US Navy SEALs and the CIA pulled it off. The huge advantage is that it means that bin Laden's body was recovered—any speculation that he remains alive is likely to be shortlived.

**5.** There is likely to be a lot of "Obama got Osama" crowing from Democrats but the intelligence that led to the raid originated in 2007, during the Bush administration. Listening to the account of the long and patient process that followed, this seems like an example of the US military and intelligence community working seamlessly from one administration to the next. **6.** I was struck by the way Obama used his address to highlight again and again his personal role. Fair enough—Obama, by any analysis, deserves immense credit—but this perhaps presages a campaign theme. There's little doubt that Obama will receive a political boost from this, though ultimately the 2012 election will be decided by the economy...

**The other five:** <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/tobyharnden/100085815/10-thoughts-on-osama-bin-ladens-death/>

## Obama's silence on Boeing is unacceptable

by Gov. Nikki Haley, 29 Apr 2011

...This a win-win for South Carolina, for Boeing, and for the global clients who will see Dreamliners rolling off the North Charleston line at the rate of 10 a month, starting with the first one next year. But, as is often the case, a win for

people and businesses is a loss for the labor unions, which rely on coercion, bullying and undue political influence to stay afloat...

...The actions by the NLRB are nothing less than a direct assault on the 22 right-to-work states across America. They are also an unprecedented attack on an iconic American company that is being told by the federal government—which seems to regard its authority as endless—where and how to build airplanes.

The president has been silent since his hand-selected NLRB General Counsel Lafe Solomon, who has not yet been confirmed by the United States Senate as required by law, chose to engage in economic warfare on behalf of the unions last week. While silence in this case can be assumed to mean consent, President Obama's silence is not acceptable—not to me, and certainly not to the millions of South Carolinians who are rightly aghast at the thought of the greatest economic development success our state has seen in decades being ripped away by federal bureaucrats who appear to be little more than union puppets.

This is not just a South Carolina issue, and President Obama owes the people of our country a response. If they get away with this government-dictated economic larceny, the unions won't stop in our state.

The nation deserves an explanation as to why the president's appointees are doing the machinist union's dirty work on the backs of the businesses and workers of South Carolina...

**More:** <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703778104576287290266016016.html>

## Snapshots from inside Washington's job-killing machine

by Hugh Hewitt, 2 May 2011

...This week the "Interagency Working Group on Food Marketed to Children," a sort of Borg of nanny-state agencies, including the Federal Trade Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Agriculture, published sweeping draft "guidelines" on how all food products intended for youths aged 2 to 17 ought to be packaged and marketed.

"Guidance" also flowed out of the Environmental Protection Agency this week, a vast set of paragraphs on the new proposed standards for determining what wet patches of ground the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ought to be regulating going forward.

The EPA candidly admitted it was growing its reach via the new rules, and even the arrival of a letter from 170 congressmen led by three with key oversight roles—Rep. Bob Gibbs, R-Ohio, Rep. Tim Holden, R-Pa., and Rep. John Mica, R-Fla.—didn't deter the bureaucrats in search of more power.

And down in Texas, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service presides over the dunes sagebrush lizard's crawl toward protected status under the Endangered Species Act, which will quickly affect oil and gas exploration across west Texas. The FWS was taking "input" last week and will continue to do so for a few more before acting to sequester tens of thousands of acres of resource-rich land from use...

...The lizard is just the latest in a long line of not-remotely-endangered species that get catapulted onto the "endangered species list" by radical environmentalist groups, with devastating consequences to land owners and those they employ in the building of residential or commercial projects or natural resource exploration...

**More:** <http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/05/snapshots-inside-washingtons-job-killing-machine>

## Osama Bin Laden was killed in Abbottabad—home of Pakistan military academy ... Update: His home was across street from police station & government college

by Jim Hoft, 1 May 2011, 11:11 PM

**Includes map and aerial photo:**

<http://gatewaypundit.rightnetwork.com/2011/05/osama-bin-laden-was-killed-in-pakistani-military-town/>

## More operational details

by Daniel Foster, 2 May 2011, 12:18am

<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/266147/more-operational-details-daniel-foster>

## Osama Bin Laden's death doubly disappointing

1. He deserved to be sodomized to death over a period of 6 to 8 hours.
2. The preening, self-satisfied *poseur* Obama gets to claim it as a personal victory.

—Don John, 1 May 2011

Via [Gates of Vienna](#), which reports that Heidi is being hailed as "the Ann Barnhardt of Germany":

## **PI Interview with Heidi the "courageous German"**

28 Apr 2011

It was a mobile phone video recording at the border of a Salafist rally in Frankfurt, Germany, which developed into a top clicked You-tube lip in the last days. The Video shows an upset Woman, calling passers by angrily to take action against people like Pierre Vogel. Meanwhile, even an **English subtitled version** is circulating in the world wide web and has been watched over 100.000 times. Now, she's called the "courageous German" who stands up defiantly against Pierre Vogel and his followers. Meanwhile, PI could make out the brave "fighter for the Occident." We don't want to give further details concerning her identity—guess why!—for her own safety. Heidi gave us an interview answering a few questions...

**More:** <http://www.pi-news.org/2011/04/pi-interview-with-heidi-the-courageous-german/>

## **Camp of the Saints: letting diplomacy work**

by *Baron Bodissey*, 29 Apr 2011

Italy received a week's respite — or, as AGI puts it, a "truce" — from the landing of North African refugees on the shores of Lampedusa. The "Camp of the Saints" scenario took a brief breather, but today the flood of cultural enrichment resumed...

...There's no suggestion of what caused the "truce" — whether the Tunisian government was somehow persuaded to prevent the boats from leaving, and somehow managed to succeed in doing so. But in any case, the flow has started again. During the lull, the European migration crisis moved up to the diplomatic level, as Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and French President Nicolas Sarkozy met in a summit to discuss the tensions between the two countries over the Tunisian migrants and their persistent attempts to cross from Italy into France...

...To get a feeling for the sort of "help" the Italians can expect from the EU, consider [this report](#) about an EU court ruling which forbids the Italians to imprison illegal immigrants:

### **EU: Top Court Throws Out Italian Law Making Illegal Immigration a Crime**

The Hague, 28 April (AKI) — Italy cannot punish illegal migrants with jail, the European Union's Court of Justice said on Thursday. The ruling struck down a key piece of legislation passed by the Italian government to bolster the hardline immigration policies it pledged to implement while in office...

**More:** <http://gatesofvienna.blogspot.com/2011/04/camp-of-saints-letting-diplomacy-work.html#more>

## **Intolerant left strikes again over DOMA**

by *Debra Saunders*, 1 May 2011

On April 25, gay-rights advocates—led by the Human Rights Campaign—scored a victory after the HRC applied pressure on a law firm hired to defend the Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as a union between a man and woman and denies federal benefits to same-sex partners. The firm fired its client. There are two reasons you should be outraged, no matter what your position is on DOMA.

One: Lawyers aren't supposed to dump cases—it's called abandonment—especially because of political pressure...

...UC Berkeley School of Law professor Jesse Choper finds that troubling. "If they didn't like the case, they shouldn't have taken it," Choper observed. But having taken the case, the firm had "a lawyer's obligation" to stick with it.

Two: In this country, everyone—accused murderers, terrorists, you name it—is entitled to representation in court. Unless, it now appears, you don't agree with the Human Rights Campaign...

**More:** <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/05/01/INBL1J7NLK.DTL&type=printable>

## **Reasserting federalism in defense of liberty**

by *Ken Cuccinelli*, speaking at Hillsdale College, 1 Apr 2011

...We have asked government to do more for us, and all the government asks for in return is a little bit more of our liberty. Over the decades, we kept asking. And because the courts and the politicians were all too happy to oblige,

regardless of what the Constitution said, we no longer have a federal government of limited powers. We have an overreaching central government—a government that seeks to plan and control virtually every aspect of our lives and our economy, from health care, to energy, to automobile manufacturing, to banking and insurance.

Thankfully, though, in the last several years, people have woken up and are pushing back. With this pushback, we are seeing the idea of federalism reemerge. People want to return to a government of limited, enumerated powers, and an arrangement in which states serve as a check when the federal government oversteps its constitutional bounds...

**With emphasis on ObamaCare and the EPA's dictatorship:**

<http://www.hillsdale.edu/news/imprimis/archive/issue.asp?year=2011&month=04>

## **Government regulation: Lemonade Day done wrong**

Instead of teaching a kid about running a business, she got a lesson in government regulation.

by *Nicholas S. Martin*, 1 May 2011

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-martin-regulations-20110501,0,4664641.story>

## **Doc holiday**

Behind the coming physician shortage.

by *Michael D. Tanner*, 1 May 2011

The doctor is not in.

The United States already faces a growing physician shortage. As our population ages, we require more and more intensive health care. At the same time, enrollment in medical schools has been essentially flat, meaning we are not producing new physicians at anywhere near the rate we need to. In fact, according to the American Association of Medical Colleges, we face a shortfall of more than 150,000 doctors over the next 15 years.

And it could get a whole lot worse.

The health reform bill signed into law last year is expected to significantly increase the number of Americans with health insurance or participating in the Medicaid program. Meanwhile, an aging population will increase participation in Medicare. This means a greater demand for physician services. But at the same, the bill may drive physicians out of practice...

**More:** [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/doc\\_holiday\\_Nyb5JCHkWyejLq7dTjTs2J](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/doc_holiday_Nyb5JCHkWyejLq7dTjTs2J)

## **Support Our Troops**

**They're still fighting for us.**

**Soldiers' Angels**

**Wounded Warrior Project**

**Fisher House: help military families**

**Disabled American Veterans**

**Our Military**

## **Be sure to read these superb pieces:**

**The Descent of Liberalism** by *Michael Knox Beran*

**The State Despotism** by *Mark Steyn*

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

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

**Just Make Stuff Up** by *Victor Davis Hanson*

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

**Health Care Mythology** by *Clifford Asness*

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