



Trent Lott

CONSERVATIVE BATTLELINE ONLINE

*The "Bold Colors" Conservative Voice
in Washington*

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Co-Opt Tea Party?

by Donald Devine

Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

Former Republican Senate majority leader Trent Lott told *The Washington Post* recently he was concerned that election of a “robust bloc of rabble-rousers” from the tea party movement – GOP candidates who had raised probing questions regarding the survivability of a government so deeply in debt – would result in “further Senate dysfunction.”

The New York Times defined these terrible “rabble rousers” as:

wealthier and more well-educated than the general public, and are no more or less afraid of falling into a lower socioeconomic class, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News poll. The 18 percent of Americans who identify themselves as Tea Party supporters tend to be Republican, white, male, married and older than 45. They hold more conservative views on a range of issues than Republicans generally. They are also more likely to describe themselves as “very conservative” and President Obama as “very liberal.”



Trent Lott

They do not sound THAT bad but Sen. Lott was not finished. “We don’t need a lot of [conservative Republican Sen.] Jim DeMint disciples,” who actually believe in conservative principles and want to tackle real reform. “As soon as they get here, we need to co-opt them” into our ways, the old Washington hand concluded.

What are those “ways”? Is not the other party in control with a president, a solid majority in the House of Representatives, and a working majority in the Senate? The fact is that to a great degree both political parties in the U.S. are in agreement. They both have adopted the New Deal welfare state model of governing, relying on government experts to manage society ignoring even the educated electorate (like the tea partiers).



Political party is not the same as belief. At the turn of the 20th Century, the Republican Party was the party with the progressive orientation. The Democrats represented the South and West traditionalists. Republican President Theodore Roosevelt considered himself a progressive and when denied the Republican nomination in 1912 ran as the candidate of the Progressive Party. In 1928, Republican presidential candidate Herbert Hoover was touted as the progressive icon by the leading intellectuals of the day.

After the phenomenal political success of Democratic Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal from 1932 to 1952, there was a great movement within the Republican Party to accept his progressive view of expansive government as a political reality if the GOP was ever to win the presidency again. In a bitter battle the progressives nominated Dwight Eisenhower and took his success as proof that only progressivism was politically feasible.

Even self-described conservative professors like Clinton Rossiter and Peter Viereck actually adopted the same solution as the one adopted by the early 20th Century founders of modern progressivism, T.H. Green, Leonard Hobhouse, Gunnar

Myrdal, Herbert Croly, and Woodrow Wilson – that the necessary reform of American limited government was to make a distinction between positive and negative freedom. As Rossiter stated it,

The conservative should give us a definition of liberty that is positive and all-embracing, not negative and narrow. In the new conservative dictionary, liberty will be defined with the help of words like opportunity, creativity, productivity and security.

The problem is no one can agree what positive freedom is. Liberal progressives say it is equality, welfare, compassion and fairness. Conservative progressives say it is security, productivity and creativity. Changing the meaning of liberty from “freedom from” to “freedom to” gives government the positive role of deciding just what “freedom to” entails. But since they cannot agree, compromise is the rule of the day and nothing coherent gets accomplished. One party gets control and makes some changes, which are quickly modified by the other and policy becomes an incoherent muddle, with politicians financially throwing funds in all directions to appease every possible interest.

Modern conservatism as we know it only started in the 1950s in reaction to the progressivism of both parties but especially as an effort to create at least one political party with a limited government orientation. The idea was to set a few, understandable general rules so that one person’s liberty did not infringe upon another’s and otherwise to allow individuals, groups and communities to pursue their own interests in their own manner. The resulting “diversity,” as the Founders called it, was the natural result of “freedom from” and, most importantly, it generally worked. The goal was to restore a sense of “freedom from” as the more fundamental liberty and to recognize that giving government a blank check how to define positive freedom would lead to poor policy, rule by experts rather than by the people, bureaucracy, and financial irresponsibility.

Today, politicians of both parties have accommodated themselves to the welfare state, refusing to face the impending worldwide economic collapse and simply hoping the other party will bear the burden of the crisis. Over the past half century, Americans have generally gone along with the idea that they must give up some of their freedom and wealth to achieve the higher goals of economic stability, welfare, fairness, prosperity and the other positive goods promised by the welfare state. With the experts promising trillions of dollars would assure unemployment would not reach 8 percent, while the actual unemployment rate remains near 10 percent, together with exploding entitlement costs that all recognize as unsustainable, the bargain more and more looks like a bad deal to most Americans.

It is becoming increasingly clear there is no such thing as “something for nothing.” There is no New Deal tooth fairy. There is no welfare state free lunch. Even if there were, it should not be worth handing one’s freedom over to a bunch of bureaucrats. As inarticulate as they may be, that is what the tea party movement is trying to tell Washington – but neither Democrats nor Republicans are listening. The bills are coming due anyway and, just maybe, Sen. Lott and his pals will not be able to co-opt those who want to reform the welfare state and solve the real problems.

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Editor**

Two Cultures in Conflict

by S.T. Karnick

Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

As the hostilities between the current government and the Tea Party movement have become increasingly rancorous, the division of American society into [two cultures](#) holding thoroughly incompatible worldviews has become obvious. In fact, the two forces are clearly on an unavoidable collision course. Although many people may understandably be most interested in knowing which side will prevail, I think an equally important and troubling question is precisely by what means the matter will be resolved. Will reason prevail and the people in power either have their agenda confirmed or step aside gracefully? Or will there be intransigence, increasing conflict, and even violence?



S. T. Karnick

I do not believe that the answer to that question is by any means obvious.

In his excellent *American Spectator* [article](#) on “America’s Ruling Class and the Perils of Revolution,” Angelo Codevilla calls these two antagonistic and irreconcilable groups the ruling class and the country party. Although I agree with Codevilla’s outline of the two groups, I prefer to characterize them as the progressive aristocracy and the productive class. In fact, I think that it’s vitally important for those in the productive class to understand that what Codevilla calls the ruling party is an aristocracy, albeit a corrupt one.

Differences in nomenclature notwithstanding, Codevilla’s article is particularly useful in its lengthy descriptions of the two parties to the conflict, for they are more than just political movements and are in fact [separate cultures](#). The culture of the progressive aristocracy is devoted to statism, whereas the productive class tends to hold classical liberal values.

Unlike their voters, who are in the country party and adhere tenaciously to their values, Republican politicians are eager to join the aristocracy, Codevilla observes:

Republican and Democratic office holders and their retinues show a similar presumption to dominate and fewer differences in tastes, habits, opinions, and sources of income among one another than between both and the rest of the country. They think, look, and act as a class. . . . Differences between Bushes, Clintons, and Obamas are of degree, not kind.

Rush Limbaugh read extensively from Codevilla’s article on his radio program recently, and he correctly noted that Republican politicians’ position on the edge of the aristocracy makes them extremely insecure and manipulable by the Democrats:

The Republicans want to be even more accepted in the ruling class. They want to be even more powerful. They want to be considered part of it. They want to be in the clique.



Angelo Codevilla

To that I would add many of those serving in conservative think tanks, foundations, advocacy groups, publications, and websites. They provide the intellectual cover for Republicans eager to flatter their way into what they fancy will be real membership in the aristocracy. Thus Limbaugh rightly observes, “Our battle is as much with those in the Republican Party who defend statism as with the radicals in the Democrat Party.”

Codevilla notes that this ruling class is nothing like the American leaders of the past, who came from truly diverse backgrounds and held

a variety of beliefs while accepting the nation's founding values. And unlike most past aristocracies, which were based on heredity, the progressive aristocracy is based on commitment to a set of ideas. Foremost among these is hostility toward Christianity: "While the unenlightened ones believe that man is created in the image and likeness of God and that we are subject to His and to His nature's laws, the enlightened ones *know* that we are products of evolution, driven by chance, the environment, and the will to primacy," Codevilla writes.

Accountability and personal responsibility — the *sine qua non* of liberty and of the American experiment — are kryptonite to the ruling class. In fact, Limbaugh notes, the aristocracy of today looks down upon real accomplishments, just as their predecessors in hereditary aristocracies often did, I would add. "The men in the country class are the fixers, and they're looked upon with disdain," Limbaugh notes.

Just as old-fashioned hereditary aristocracies in their corrupt mode enjoyed the privilege of breaking laws and social codes with impunity, so it is with ours today. Codevilla documents a vivid example in which the aristocracy kept its own from being held accountable for their misdeeds:

If, for example, you are Laurence Tribe in 1984, Harvard professor of law, leftist pillar of the establishment, you can "write" your magnum opus by using the products of your student assistant, Ron Klain.

When Tribe's assistant admitted to having plagiarized some of the material he wrote for the book published in Tribe's name, Tribe said the plagiarism was "inadvertent," Codevilla notes, and the Harvard Law School's Dean appointed a committee that whitewashed the incident. That dean, Elena Kagan, is now about to become a Justice on the Supreme Court. Thus are principles of accountability and responsibility flouted:

Not one of these people did their jobs: the professor did not write the book himself, the assistant plagiarized instead of researching, the dean and the committee did not hold the professor accountable, and all ended up rewarded. By contrast, for example, learned papers and distinguished careers in climatology at MIT (Richard Lindzen) or UVA (S. Fred Singer) are not enough for their questions about "global warming" to be taken seriously. For our ruling class, identity always trumps.

Limbaugh describes this process as the aristocracy circling the wagons:

Everybody totally lied. Not one genuine, authentic action by a whole cadre of people, but they circle the wagons. Dan Rather, the George Bush National Guard story proven to be based on fake documents. What happened? Brokaw and Peter Jennings circled the wagons, and the big members of the ruling class of journalism gave Rather a career award. And none of them did anything right. But they are in the ruling class.

Thus the ruling class is by no means a meritocracy. On the contrary, what is required is conformity, and it is enforced without pity. Campus political correctness codes can thus be understood as a way of instilling in future leaders an awareness of the detailed code of manners they will have to follow if they wish to succeed in life — and a stern warning to those who would disobey. After graduation, hate speech laws and the like continue to enforce the code.

Aristocracies commonly prevent talented individuals from earning more wealth than their social betters, and today's progressive aristocracy runs true to form. Far from being the most talented individuals, its recruits are "people whose most prominent feature is their commitment to fit in," Codevilla writes. He continues:

Once an official or professional shows that he shares the manners, the tastes, the interests of the class, gives lip service to its ideals and shibboleths, and is willing to accommodate the interests of its senior members, he can move profitably among our establishment's parts.

Limbaugh describes this group as “the conformists; the people who will sacrifice their own identity; the people who will sacrifice who they really are in order to be accepted by people they think are their betters.” Like courtiers in an especially corrupt monarchy, prospective aristocrats today must flatter their rulers and humble themselves to prove their fealty. One can hardly think of a better example of this degrading process than President Clinton’s notorious intern Monica Lewinsky.

The real motive for progressive politics is by no means any sense of altruism, as the aristocracy would have us believe. It is all of the usual selfish stuff: money, power, and ego. Limbaugh observes:

When you get down to it, folks, it’s all about money. Always follow the money. The left and the ruling class love to say that they do things out of altruism, out of compassion, big hearts, and these people are a bunch of lazy SOBs who have no business in the private sector ‘cause they can’t succeed there. The only way they can succeed is to be a bunch of brownnosers in the ruling class and try to move their way up that ladder and get whatever they can out of the public trough. The ruling class has gotten rich off of government.

As Dr. Ray Stantz (Dan Ackroyd) noted in *Ghostbusters*, “You don’t know what it’s like out there. I’ve worked in the private sector. They expect results!”

An excellent example of how the aristocracy rules the realm is the global warming issue. All the money, profit, power, and prestige are [on the side of the alarmists](#), and they wield their power ruthlessly, blatantly [throwing their weight around](#) in silencing those who try to tell the truth about the science of climate change. Al Gore is a multimillionaire who knows nothing about science, whereas S. Fred Singer is a brilliant scientist who continually endures a firestorm of slanders and harassment for trying to uphold scientific standards. These two men encapsulate the opposing forces of the aristocracy and the productive class.

The productive class consists of natural liberals who want a system in which people reap the rewards of their accomplishments and receive the just consequences of their misdeeds. Such people believe in liberty and are willing to accept the personal responsibility without which liberty cannot exist. The nation’s aristocracy, by contrast, needs a powerful, controlling state in order to maintain their perks, privileges, and prestige based on an elaborate scheme of mannerisms and shibboleths no less rigid and arbitrary than those of the court of Louis XIV.

Naturally, the forcible disconnection of actions from consequences has led to a series of catastrophes and misadventures — bumbled intrusions in Iraq and Afghanistan while failing to bring Osama bin Laden to justice, a ghastly housing bubble and crash of financial markets followed by a nagging recession, horrifyingly irresponsible expansion of government debt, a grotesque comedy of errors as the federal government and a multinational megabusiness fail to plug an oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico, children’s academic achievement at a disastrously low level, entertainment and arts given over in great part to proselytizing for the aristocracy’s pet political causes and character assassination of all who dare to question that agenda, and so on and on.

This spectacular litany of misrule has elicited a mass public distrust of the nation’s leaders. [An April 2010 study found](#) that “Americans are more dissatisfied with the country’s direction than at any time since the New York Times/CBS News poll began asking about the subject in the early 1990s.” Other polls show similar results. This is not a sustainable situation, and increasing conflict appears to be inevitable. With the productive class pressing for self-governance — which its members see as both their inherent right and as necessary to their productivity — and the progressive aristocracy threatened with the loss of everything, compromise is impossible.

It’s too late, moreover, for conservatism to provide a remedy. Codevilla writes:

In this clash, the ruling class holds most of the cards: because it has established itself as the fount of authority, its primacy is based on habits of deference. Breaking them, establishing other founts of authority, other ways of doing things, would involve far more than electoral politics.

Traditional conservatism is a woefully inadequate response to the rule of the progressive aristocracy because conserving the changes of the past few decades would be disastrous: the vast increase in the welfare state, the Sexual Revolution and its antinomian devaluation of all values, the nation's catastrophically bad education system, a culture promoting license and irresponsibility, and other such atrocities are necessary to the maintenance of a corrupt aristocracy which relies on the output of a productive class forced into peasant-like docility so that its goods can be extracted for the benefit of its self-proclaimed betters.

In fact, the baneful state of contemporary American society might seem to be no accident at all, as it keeps the productive class in line through threats from above (impoverishment, prison, and family breakups, all of which governments have shown themselves quite willing to inflict) and below (by crime and social disorder) and bought off with cheap pleasures. It's a regime that combines the worst elements of the dystopias in 1984, Brave New World, and A Clockwork Orange.

The progressive aristocracy is every bit as morally reprehensible as the worst of those of the past, for it relies on the existence of an underclass that will provide sufficient votes to keep it in power and motivate the productive class to work hard lest they fall into this unfortunate group. That helps explain why the progressive aristocracy has stood idly by while the schools in the nation's inner cities have deteriorated so badly and thus doomed a large swath of the population to poverty and dependence on the government. This inculcation of ignorance appears to be a matter of truly stupendous cynicism.

Thus what there is to conserve in the nation's institutions is largely unappealing to the productive class. The modern aristocrats are the ones who want to conserve the political, social, and cultural institutions of today, for they rely on these forces for their comfortable existence. What is needed, then, is not conserving but *reform*. The problem is that the aristocracy has so strong a grasp of the levers of power that the means of reform scarcely exist.

Nonetheless, Codevilla argues that the aristocracy can be toppled through political means. His expectation is that the Republican Party will be transformed into one that represents the interests of the productive class or will be replaced by such a party, in order to get their votes:

Because, in the long run, the country class will not support a party as conflicted as today's Republicans, those Republican politicians who really want to represent it will either reform the party in an unmistakable manner, or start a new one as Whigs like Abraham Lincoln started the Republican Party in the 1850s.

Codevilla and Limbaugh believe that such a party can indeed achieve political power and turn things around. Many others join them in that belief. If the contemporary American aristocracy can be forced out without such a terrible confrontation, it will be impressive proof of the Founders' wisdom and the success of the American experiment. If not, the nation may well be headed for a struggle that will make the tumult of the 1960s look like a mild tiff in comparison.

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by Robert Weissberg
Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

The recent dust-up between the NAACP and the Tea Partiers over charges of “racism” appears to be yet one more instance of blacks accusing whites of insensitivity, real or imagined. In reality, however, these exchanges reflect far deeper animosities that will not vanish with “clarifications” or expelling “racist” Tea Partiers.

The NAACP and its numerous allies have for decades led the charge to expand government power, including intruding into areas once considered absolutely off-limits to local government, let alone Washington. Tea Partiers are not libertarians, but they’ve had enough with government power run amok. This disagreement is, to use Thomas Sowell’s words, an unbridgeable conflict of visions: the Tea Party’s agenda, even stripped of any racial component, contravenes the NAACP’s *raison d’être*, so when the NAACP complains about insensitivities, it is just saying, “You intend to destroy us.”



Begin by recognizing that the post-1960s civil rights agenda has been the single most powerful force in expanding Washington power. Nothing comes even remotely close. During WWII, Washington set prices, rationed consumer goods, and limited business profits, but this infringement was correctly understood as temporary and was universally welcomed as vital to national survival (and it was soon ended). Neither the environmental movement nor consumer protection legislation has penetrated so deeply into the everyday life of Americans.

Documenting this expansion is endless. In education, for example, the push to integrate America’s schools has affected the lives of millions, especially those who fled cities to avoid forced busing, while judicial degrees have shaped everything from tax rates to the racial composition of school staffs. Urban demographics were radically altered by forced integration, and this remains true today. The 1964 Civil Rights Act brought federal intervention into local restaurants and movie houses and even constrained people’s ability to choose their neighbors. The 1965 Voting Rights Act and subsequent extensions now make every city and town in America vulnerable to Justice Department oversight if their election system slights minority representation. Employment-based affirmative action has exploded from a narrow presidential directive targeting federal government contractors to a bureaucratic colossus. There is scarcely a person alive, from professors to blue-collar cops and firefighters, whose life-chances have not been shaped by government race policy. There is no escape — those in rural Idaho seeking a mortgage will probably experience the repercussions of the government’s push to promote home ownership among blacks and Hispanics.

Yet, thousands of civil rights successes aside, the political appetites of groups like the NAACP seem insatiable. It is no exaggeration to say that they believe that government is sufficiently powerful, if only vigorously prodded, to level outcomes across nearly all of human existence. This faith-based relentlessness soon resembles the classic gambler’s fallacy — if one lawsuit does not bring racially proportionate equality of admission to law schools, file two, and if that comes up short, file four, and eventually, it is believed, victory will arrive. Scarcely a day passes without some civil rights group going to court to challenge an exam that allegedly hinders black job applicants or demanding that Washington forcefully intervene to protect poor blacks from allegedly discriminatory financial practices.

At some point, even those sympathetic with the civil rights agenda — and this undoubtedly included most Tea Party fans — will recognize that this relentless craving for government-imposed racial equality is deeply antithetical to limited government. In the final analysis, then, the NAACP and its

allies are on a collision path with the Tea Party movement. Put more formally, given what is already on the books and vigorously enforced, new civil rights measures serve only to expand government, with scant payoff for intended beneficiaries. The point of diminishing returns on political pressuring was reached long ago. In a nutshell, the very existence of the Tea Party is a message to the NAACP: Stop.

Make no mistake: Civil rights groups are not the only fans of big government. There are those who would radically expand defense budgets; others demand gargantuan expansion of social welfare. Further add nanny-state meddlers obsessed with our diets. But what makes the civil rights agenda so contrary to the principles of limited government, over and above its ceaseless character, is its penchant for invading what was heretofore politically off-limits. It is one thing to demand free universal medical care, but quite another to attempt to micromanage the workplace to root out any vestiges of alleged discrimination. To those unfamiliar with this Kafkaesque madness, consider just one of hundreds of anti-discrimination strictures from the U.S. Equal Employment Commission:

For example, a “no-beard” employment policy that applies to all workers without regard to race may still be unlawful if it is not job-related and has a negative impact on the employment of African-American men (who have a predisposition to a skin condition that causes severe shaving bumps).

There are also rules about non-job social events, so, for example, a firm that favors golf outings may be guilty of racial discrimination if its black employees prefer basketball to golf. A firm might also risk lawsuits if it refuses to promote a white person who has a black spouse or if the white employee socializes with blacks, or if the firm’s insurance policy had a race-related illness as an excluded existing precondition. The list of prohibitions and requirements is not only far-reaching and murky, but navigating them requires legal staffs trained in the equivalent of Talmudic interpretation. Who would have ever guessed that firms must now consider shaving bumps when setting grooming standards? Or must inquire about the race of an employee’s friends or spouse before announcing layoffs? No, these are not hypothetical illustrations.

The NAACP/Tea Party conflict would vanish if the NAACP and its allies suddenly abandoned their infatuation with federal coercion and instead embraced a strategy more in tune with the non-political approach of Booker T. Washington or Father Divine — working one’s way up the economic ladder via self-help. So, instead of piling on yet more made-in-Washington rules and regulations to exorcise the demons racism and discrimination in education, civil rights groups would, for example, create after-school cram academies to help struggling students earn a legitimate high school diploma. And I’d guess that they would have no problem recruiting Tea Party sympathizers to help teach these courses.

The NAACP/Tea Party conflict over limited government cannot be resolved, though it is all too easy to paper it over. Tea Party fans are not anti-black or anti-civil rights; they certainly do not favor repealing civil rights legislation or enfeebling the Justice Department. They just prefer limited government to pursuing an aim — racial equality — that appears unreachable. It is one thing to expand government during wartime, when national survival is at stake, or to achieve a worthy and reachable goal; but to empower Big Brother and accomplish nothing other than bigger government is hardly an acceptable sacrifice.

When confronted with the inevitable charge of racism, Tea Party folk should resist the urge to fight the battle on these acrimonious grounds. Battling a civil rights group over “racism” is an unwinnable, pointless battle. Blacks will always claim the high ground of moral authority to define “racism.” The debate should be about sustaining a bedrock principle of our Republic — limited government — versus some egalitarian dream. This is a classic clash of principles and transcends who said what when. It is, moreover, about time that the virtues of limited government enter the public debate next time the NAACP or its sympathizers demand yet more government intrusion into private life.

Of the utmost importance, African-Americans should be reminded that, after all, they are a minority, and the purpose of limited government is to prevent tyranny, especially the tyranny of the majority

over the minority. In the long run, African-Americans — like all Americans — should dread an out-of-control government no matter how seductive that government's mission. The NAACP has, sad to say, forgotten perhaps one of the most basic lessons of American governance. Doubters should just observe what happens elsewhere in today's world when government power is unchecked. There is an oft-repeated Jefferson quote that captures this dilemma exactly: "A government big enough to give you everything you want is strong enough to take everything you have."

The dust-up is about power and tyranny, not insults.

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Anti-Christ and Pro-Stoning?
by Brent Bozell
Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

It isn't easy to shock the jaded audiences at the Cannes Film Festival, but Danish director Lars von Trier achieved that with his new movie "Antichrist." It wasn't really the title. It wasn't the weird scenes with a talking fox. It was the graphically portrayed sexual mutilation.

Let's dispense with the plot. A couple is mourning the loss of a child. They go to an isolated cabin, the mother loses her mind and goes postal on her husband, and herself. Pressed by journalists about his film, von Trier claimed his movies choose him, not the other way around. "I never have a choice," he said. "It's the hand of God, I'm afraid." He added, "I am the best film director in the world."



Brent Bozell

Journalists don't agree. "I thought I had my head down a lavatory, frankly," said Baz Bamigboye of London's Daily Mail, one writer who demanded that von Trier attempt to justify his sick movie. The Hollywood Reporter called it "torture porn."

Brian Johnson, a critic for the Canadian news magazine Macleans, gave his readers a bitter taste: "This is the first film in which I've seen an erect penis ejaculate blood after its owner is genitally assaulted while having sex. And that's just the start. This is not your daddy's chain-saw massacre movie. In this case, the weapon of choice is a carpentry hand-drill. That's right, the old-fashioned kind that kind of works like a butter churn. In a moment of inspiration, [the wife] employs this device to bore a hole in her husband's leg, then uses a wrench to bolt a grindstone to it. And while we're racking up precedents, it's probably safe to say that until now we've never seen a woman perform a clitorrectomy on herself with a pair of scissors."

Says the "art" film director: "I work for myself and I do this little film that I am now kind of fond of. I haven't done it for you or an audience, so I don't think I owe anybody an explanation."

The audience be damned? That sounds a lot like a snooty European auteur. But it's a sign of the times that he quickly found an American distributor for "Antichrist," IFC Films. It's part of the Rainbow Media empire, which includes cable channels like AMC, IFC, We TV, and the Sundance Channel.

IFC chief Jonathan Sehring poured praise all over this nightmare: "It is a towering work of cinema by one its greatest directors. We are incredibly excited to bring this film to America and expect it to have a major impact on audiences not only in America but worldwide."

A major impact? No von Trier film has ever grossed more than \$6 million in the United States.

Not all violent art films at Cannes receive the same enthusiastic embrace. The Los Angeles Times reports that Steve McEveety, one of the producers of "The Passion of the Christ," took a new film to France. "The Stoning of Soraya M." is adapted from the 1994 nonfiction book of the same name by a French-Iranian journalist, Freidoune Sahebjam. He traveled to a small Iranian village in the mid-1980s and found the story of an innocent woman stoned to death over concocted charges of infidelity. Soraya's husband fell in love with another woman, accused his wife of adultery, and Soraya was left without support in the town. Her two eldest sons sat on the male tribunal that declared her guilty, and she was stoned by a mob that included her father.

But Times writer John Horn suggested this film could strike the same chords of controversy with Muslims that "The Passion" did with Jewish critics.

Horn relayed that director and co-writer Cyrus Nowrasteh spares little in depicting the execution, in which Soraya is buried to her chest with her arms bound, and pelted with heavy rocks from close range until she bleeds to death.

McEveety disagrees. "We had to keep toning it down so that people could bear it...It was far worse originally. But there were people who wanted us to tone it down even more than we did." Nevertheless, McEveety felt it was important to depict Soraya's killing graphically, so audiences would leave the theater outraged.

"Stoning" is clearly another violent, bloody, and disturbing film. But Hollywood doesn't want this one. So just as Gibson distributed his own film, McEveety will go it alone with "The Stoning of Soraya M.," using the distribution company Roadside Attractions to book theaters, help market the film and collect theater receipts, but with his privately financed Mpower company footing the entire bill.

You could call it A Tale of Two Violent Movies. Hollywood's business decisions show where their religious and political sensibilities overrule their business sense – and any sense of right and wrong.

L. Brent Bozell III is president of the Media Research Center

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Breitbart Blowback

by Jim Lakely

Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

I've been too busy with paying work to read [everything](#) on this kerfuffle. But I see now that the story line has shifted to even [people on the right](#) giving [Andrew Breitbart blowback](#) for [supposedly](#) taking Shirley Sherrod's comments — as the saying goes — “out of context.” According to a transcript of Sherrod's comments [James Taranto dropped](#) in his “Best of the Web” column at *The Wall Street Journal Online* the other day, the former Ag official said this:

The first time I was faced with having to help a white farmer save his farm, he took a long time talking, but he was trying to show me he was superior to me. I know what he was doing. But he had come to me for help. What he didn't know while he was taking all that time trying to show me he was superior to me, was I was trying to decide just how much help I was going to give him.



I was struggling with the fact that so many black people had lost their farmland, and here I was faced with having to help a white person save their land. So, I didn't give him the full force of what I could do. I did enough so that when he—I assumed the Department of Agriculture had sent him to me, either that or the Georgia Department of Agriculture. And he needed to go back and report that I did try to help him.

So I took him to a white lawyer that had attended some of the training that we had provided, because Chapter 12 bankruptcy had just been enacted for the family farmer. So I figured if I take him to one of them that his own kind would take care of him.

That's when it was revealed to me that it's about the poor versus those who have, and not so much about white — it is about white and black, but it's not — you know, it opened my eyes, because I took him to one of his own.

Now, Taranto thinks Sherrod got a raw deal. Fair enough. However, what's got me scratching my head about the flak Breitbart's getting from [some on the right](#) is the simple fact that an official in a Republican administration would have been vaporized for saying what Sherrod did. That it was “taken out of context” would not matter.

Imagine for a minute that an official in the Bush administration at a CPAC convention said:

The first time I was faced with having to help a black farmer save his farm back in 1986, he took a long time talking, but he was trying to show me he was entitled. ... What he didn't know while he was talking all that time trying to show me he was entitled to my help, was I was trying to decide just how much help I was going to give him.

I was struggling with the fact that so many white people had lost their farmland, too. And here I was faced with having to help a black person save his land — when my tax dollars were already ensuring the Department of Agriculture was going the extra mile to help him. ...

So I sent him to an NAACP lawyer ... I figured if I take him to one of them that his own kind would take care of him.

That's when it was revealed to me that it's about the poor versus those who have, and not so much about white — it is about white and black, but it's not — you know? It opened my eyes, because I took him to one of his own.

I'm with Taranto when he says, "her description of her attitude toward the white farmer is indeed appalling." And my imaginary speech by a Bush official at a CPAC convention is also appalling. But I have a hard time believing my imaginary narrative would be spun by the MSM as a story of "racial redemption" by the Bush official. I have an easy time imagining the "context" not mattering a whit, and the Bush official being pilloried as having untrustworthy instincts for a government position (at best), and a closet racist (at worst, and most likely).

That's why I think the "context" of Sherrod's speech is not really exculpatory. And her insane shouts of "Fox News is lousy with racists!" expose her as a typical hard-left ideologue in this administration, and hardly worth the slack she's getting — and flak Breitbart is getting — from people on the right.

And, speaking of "context," no one cared about that when Trent Lott said something off the cuff (clumsily and stupidly) to make a 100-year-old Strom Thurmond smile at a birthday party. Nope. It was spun that Lott was wishing Thurmond was elected president in 1948 — when Lott was 7 years old — so that blacks would still be drinking from separate water fountains.

This is an absurd double standard, especially in light of the glowing tributes Thurmond's fellow segregationist Robert C. Byrd received upon his death just weeks ago — most clumsily by Bill Clinton, who excused Byrd's membership in the KKK thusly:

He was a country boy from the hills and hollers of West Virginia, he was trying to get elected. And maybe he did something he shouldn't have done, and he spent the rest of his life making it up. And that's what a good person does. There are no perfect people. There are certainly no perfect politicians.

Has Sherrod been spending the "rest of her life making it up" when it comes to soothing the racial scars in America? Hardly. She's milking her firing — which was Obama's cynical doing — for all she can get, portraying herself as a martyr. And she's adding to the scars by sliming everyone she can on the right as racists while she basks in her 15 minutes.

Perhaps this incident is actually proof that we've come a long way in race relations, as many on the right are saying now. I have my doubts, as does Victor Davis Hanson

Jim Lakely blogs at The American Culture (<http://stkarnick.com/culture>), where this first appeared

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Editor**

Journalist" Scandal

by Ben Domenech

Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

The blockbuster series of [Daily Caller](#) reports on the [Journalist](#)—culled from the archives of the secretive email list which paired liberal academics, bloggers, and think tank members with the mainstream media—has not included many surprises for those who realize that any claim of a semblance of fairness or unbiased observation on the part of the U.S. mainstream media is an absurd myth. The revelations, however, have further undermined any pretense of real journalistic standards, much less objectivity, on the part of the nation's obsolescent mainstream news media.

So long, and good riddance, say we—in a world where [only 29% of Americans trust the media](#), the concept was on its deathbed anyway.

Many of the Journalist conversations turned to the kind of foul-mouthed venom one typically expects from activist bloggers, not journalists for Bloomberg, *Time*, *Newsweek*, Politico, *Foreign Policy*, *The New Yorker*, National Public Radio, and other such high-minded institutions. Some of the vitriol is quite extreme—the NPR journalist caught on a thread talking about her hopes for Rush Limbaugh's death has apologized—and already, examples are emerging where conversations with the radical online left fed into [the musings of prominent "mainstream" journalists](#).

My strongest reaction, though, was disappointment in seeing that the list included entries from a reporter from my policy area—Kate Steadman of Kaiser Health News. [Writing in the aftermath of Barack Obama's 2008 victory](#), Steadman gushes with partisan enthusiasm:

KATE STEADMAN, KAISER HEALTH NEWS: i can't imagine anything like it except a world series/superbowl win, and several of my co-walkers told me it never gets the entire city so riled. i think what makes it even more amazing is the incredible diversity in this city and how we all came together for this, especially in victory.

Those who read Kaiser Health News regularly, as I do, will recognize Steadman as not an opinion columnist (the excuse of many on the list), but as a KHN staff reporter and the primary author of KHN's Blog Watch. [You can read more of her writing here.](#)

Steadman may well be a good reporter—I have had no major complaints about her coverage of the beat—but her inclusion on the Journalist now makes me wonder. How has her bias fueled what she writes? How many times during her coverage of the recent debate about Obamacare was her reporting on the policy influenced by her support for the president who espoused it? How many stories has she ignored because they didn't fit her ideological framework, or would conflict with her affection for that moment when "we all came together for this ... in victory"?

In other words, it's what we don't know about her coverage of the issue that is important.

We have no way of knowing how Steadman's intense personal biases affected her writing. And that's the problem with her and the mainstream media complex in general. Having control of the flow of information to the public enabled them to ensure that the suspicions of media bias constituted an untestable proposition to some degree.

As the Journalist revelations make clear, that's no longer possible. Vive le Web.



Essentially, we're learning that Journolist functioned as a gigantic lobbying shop, providing liberal bloggers and academics with unprecedented and near-constant access to leading media figures—pairing those who work to persuade America of their rightness with those who still possess the largest megaphones—empowering ideologues to pass along their activist take on news ([dismiss this](#), [highlight this](#), [call this fellow racist](#), [this pick sexist](#), etc.) to those who loudly and continually proclaim the fairness of their reporting.

The left's reaction has been to dismiss all of these revelations, saying that the same kind of conversations have been happening all along—but [as Fred Barnes writes in the Wall Street Journal](#), this is not just freewheeling tavern talk:

I think JournoList is—or was—fundamentally different, and not simply because one of its members proposed to make palpably false accusations. As best I can tell, those involved in JournoList considered themselves part of a team. And their goal was to make sure the team won. In 2008, this was Mr. Obama's team. More recently, the goal seems to have been to defeat the conservative team.

Until JournoList came along, liberal journalists were rarely part of a team. Neither are conservative journalists today, so far as I know. If there's a team, no one has asked me to join. As a conservative, I normally write more favorably about Republicans than Democrats and I routinely treat conservative ideas as superior to liberal ones. But I've never been part of a discussion with conservative writers about how we could most help the Republican or the conservative team.

As Barnes notes, my conservative and libertarian colleagues naturally seek to highlight conservative and libertarian ideas. We are open and honest about this fact, and we don't pretend our views are irrelevant to what we do. There's no deception here about our pro-market, pro-consumer, pro-liberty approach to the analysis of public policy—and we are just as willing to criticize bad policy on one side of the aisle as the other.

What the Journolist story illustrates is how dangerous it is when people with large audiences purposefully choose to ignore this distinction, banding together to achieve political goals and feed stories and individual prejudices to a wider audience.

The truth is that when a group of like-minded elites decides one party or one politician has a monopoly on good or bad ideas, these self-styled arbiters of fairness and unbiased reporting might as well be on the campaign payroll. In a way, they were on the politicians' payroll all along—carrying water for those whose ascension would serve to elevate their own policy views.

We just know it now.

Ben Domenech is managing editor of [Health Care News](#). [Originally published at FreedomPub](#)

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Editor**

Seniors Are Health Savvy

by John Goodman

Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

Perhaps you saw the [headline](#): “Most Seniors Misinformed...[About] Key Provisions of the Affordable Care Act.” Yet on closer inspection, it turns out that the seniors — who are about to get taken to the cleaners under ObamaCare — knew a lot more than the polltakers.

It reminds me of last summer’s townhall meetings, when members of Congress claimed their constituents were confused and misled. Turned out, the [voters often were much better informed](#) than their representatives.

On the answers to the polling questions, you be the judge.

**John Goodman****Q: “The new law will result in future cuts to your basic Medicare benefits.”**

Seniors’ answer: True

Polltakers’ “correct response”: False

Q: “The health care reform law will cut Medicare payments for doctors.”

Seniors’ answer: True

Polltakers’ “correct response”: False

Q: “Under the new health reform law, Medicare Advantage plans will cut benefits and increase premiums.”

Seniors’ answer: True

Polltakers’ “correct response”: Don’t/know

Q: “The new law is projected to increase the federal deficit over the next 10 years and beyond.”

Seniors’ answer: True

Polltakers’ “correct response”: False

Warning: The wording of each of these statements is tricky, as though intentionally prepared by a shyster lawyer trying to pull a fast one. So the seniors might be in trouble if they went to court. But to any fair-minded person the response of the seniors is far more accurate than the polltakers’ “correct response.” Interestingly, among seniors who said they are “very familiar with the law,” the percent disagreeing with the polltakers’ view was substantially higher than among seniors generally.

All of which raises the question: Who paid for this poll and what is their motivation? Answer: The National Council on Aging (NCOA) and if you go to their [Web site](#), their motivation is clear: They are conducting a national campaign to convince seniors that what is bad is good and vice versa.

Nowhere at NCOA's Web site, for example, will you discover that:

- More than half the cost of health reform will be paid for by \$523 billion in Medicare spending cuts, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).
- More than \$200 billion in spending cuts will come from Medicare Advantage plans alone.
- More than half of the seniors expected to participate in Medicare Advantage (7.4 million Americans) will lose their coverage entirely over the next 10 years, according to Medicare's chief actuary.
- An estimated one out of seven hospitals may go out of business and doctors may not take new patients because of cuts in their fees, according to Medicare's chief actuary.
- Health reform will raise additional revenue through new taxes on drugs and medical devices, items which are disproportionately used by seniors and the disabled.

On restraining the growth of Medicare spending, the law does give an independent agency more power than any previous commission to rein in Medicare payments to doctors and hospitals and other suppliers. But, as [Joe Newhouse wrote in Health Affairs](#) the other day:

- To follow its mandate, the independent agency would have to cause Medicare fees to fall further and further behind what private insurers pay.
- This means that seniors and the disabled would look increasingly less attractive to providers than higher paying private sector patients, including a lot of the newly insured.
- In the worse case, Medicare enrollees could find they are no better off than the Medicaid enrollees who have to rely on community health centers and safety net hospitals for their care.

[Newhouse envisions](#) a world in which seniors who can afford to do so will pay out-of-pocket for concierge services while those who cannot afford such fees will get care that increasingly looks like Medicaid. (Ironically, a number of studies suggest that care for Medicaid enrollees is not only inferior to the privately insured, it is even [inferior to the care received by the uninsured!](#))

John Goodman is president/CEO of national Center for Policy Analysis

Do Scientists Cheat?

by Paul Driessen

Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

Pennsylvania State University recently released a report summarizing its final “investigation” into whether one of its employees had committed scientific misconduct. The report exonerated Dr. Michael Mann of all charges, although he did receive a tap on the wrist – for sharing unpublished manuscripts with third parties without first getting the authors’ permission!

The result was hardly unexpected. Most experts who question climate disaster claims had assumed Penn State would produce a whitewash. PSU stood to lose significantly in reputation and dollars if it found that Dr. Mann had cheated on research and engaged in other conduct unbecoming of a university professor. What was surprising is the reason it gave for its “not guilty” finding.



Paul Driessen

Dr. Mann could not possibly be guilty, the report averred, because his “level of success in proposing research and obtaining funding” was possible only because he had “met or exceeded the highest standards of his profession.” Indeed, his research was consistently “judged to be outstanding by his peers.”

Mann’s innocence was further proven, said Penn State, by the awards and recognition he has received. For example, his “hockey stick” temperature graph for the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change played a significant role in the IPCC receiving the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Had his “conduct been outside the range of accepted practices, it would have been impossible for him to receive so many awards and recognitions,” the report argued.

Such a circular tautology would earn an “F” in introductory college reasoning courses.

Dr. Mann and many of his “peers” were implicated in the Climategate scandals, obstruction of legitimate FOIA requests via deletion of emails, manipulation of global warming temperature data and research, and the politicized funding system that kept them and their institutions awash in government/taxpayer dollars. They conferred awards and recognition on each other, excluded skeptical scientists from “peer reviews” of one another’s papers, and conspired to blackball editors who permitted the publication of professional papers by Sallie Baliunas, Willie Soon, Patrick Michaels, Richard Lindzen, Roy Spencer and other climate experts whose work challenged the Mann-made global warming disaster thesis.

In so doing, Mann and his colleagues promoted laws, treaties and regulatory schemes that imposed higher prices and greater government/activist control over energy use, economic growth, and virtually everything modern societies eat, drive, make, ship and do. They, their institutions, and a host of politicians, bureaucrats, bankers and corporate executives thus had a direct stake in the science, politics and “renewable energy future” supported by billions of dollars in annual research grants – and in ensuring that no investigation upset this convenient golden apple cart.

It is these “accepted practices” and “highest standards of the profession” that are being protected here. It is for this reason that the “investigation” was conducted solely by Penn State – which permitted no contradictory evidence, no adverse witnesses, and no cross-examination of Dr. Mann or anyone knowledgeable about his research, funding and alleged misconduct.

Penn State’s Tom Sawyeresque report says far more than the university could possibly have intended about the “highest standards” prevailing today in climate research arena, and the way universities circle the wagons, protect their “rainmakers” and continue [taking our money](#), while

throwing “manmade climate disaster” skeptics under the bus or shipping them off to academic Siberia.

One could accurately (and sadly) say there is nothing new under the sun.

A 1988 [NOVA program](#) on PBS investigated the causes and extent of cheating in academia. “Do Scientists Cheat?” interviewed several scientists who discussed how easy and tempting it was to lie and falsify research. Indeed, observed JAMA senior Editor Bruce Dan, while peer review “is a wonderful process for throwing out garbage, I can’t see that [it] can detect fraud, except in a few lucky chances.”

The show focused on two high-profile cases – John Darsee and Robert A. Slutsky, convicted perpetrators of scientific misconduct. Both researchers were well-funded, had numerous publications, won prestigious awards, and were on the fast-track to academic stardom. Both were brought down when other scientists suspected fraud in their work. Investigators concluded that most of their papers were either questionable or demonstrably fraudulent. Many of their co-authors were implicated and their reputations tarnished.

Ironically, one of the NOVA interviewees was Professor Rustum Roy, head of the Materials Research Lab at – Penn State University. He said cheating often occurs because researchers are under intense pressure to publish, win awards, and raise more money each year just to keep their labs going, employ research assistants and provide their academic institutions with 40-50% of each grant for “overhead.” Hard cheating, Roy explained, occurred when a scientist concludes he can get away with compromising or cutting corners a little bit, so why not take it a step further?

Thus, those who have big research fiefdoms, are prolific publishers and win many awards have the most to gain by misconduct. They are also most likely to get away with it, partly because of their reputation –and partly because academia has too many incentives to look the other way and avoid taking actions that could bring disrepute on the university and cut off the financial gravy train.

This translates into a high degree of moral apathy toward scientific misconduct, the PBS program argued. Academics are much less outraged than one might expect, even when confronted by obvious fraud. This, of course, undermines the integrity of science, and the ethics of its practitioners.

Perhaps more importantly, the program demonstrated that whistleblowers who exposed fraud were more likely to be the target of investigations than the alleged perpetrators. This sends a chilling message to anyone who might raise academic misconduct questions, and further insulates guilty parties.

The NOVA program also included excerpts from a House Committee on Oversight and Investigations hearing on academic misconduct. “Unfortunately, few universities, when confronted with the task of investigating misconduct, have conducted as thorough or candid a self-appraisal” as they should have, Rep. John D. Dingell (D-MI) noted.

In fact, universities that conduct investigations of their own scientists were like the “fox actively investigating the chicken coop. The university gets first crack at the data and witnesses, and gets to frame the issues.... There is a natural tendency to limit the damage.”

The program ends with the question: “Does the scientific community really want to expose misconduct?”

Unfortunately, the answer seems to be, No. Worse, over the last 20 years, the problem has only gotten worse, while the stakes have become infinitely higher.

Vastly larger sums of money are involved: \$9 billion in 2009 for climate change and renewable energy research alone. Phony studies of melting Himalayan glaciers, disappearing Amazon rainforests, [etc etc etc](#) continue to garner attention and praise in IPCC reports, news stories and congressional statements.

And you thought Mark Twain, Lewis Carroll and Jonathon Swift had good material to work with!?!

Paul Driessen is senior policy advisor for the Committee For A Constructive Tomorrow (www.cfact.org) and author of Eco-Imperialism: Green power – Black death.

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Editor**

No Climate Change Here

by Dennis Avery

Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

California's southern Sierra snowfall has not changed over the past century, according to John Christy, a native Californian and atmospheric researcher who's now in charge of the global temperature-measuring satellites. Christy reconstructed snowfall records at Huntington Lake, CA, from 1916–2009. The station's data since 1972 had been missing, but Christy found two nearby stations had very high correlations with Huntington Lake. That allowed him to assess southern Sierra snowfall over nearly the past century.

The station's annual snowfall averaged 624 centimeters per year, with a non-significant trend of +0.5 cm per decade. He found similar positive-but-insignificant trends for spring snowfall, annual stream flow, and precipitation. Nor did he find any trend in the published regional temperatures.



Dennis Avery

Where's the evidence of man-made global warming?

James Goodridge, then California State Climatologist, published way back in 1992 that California's big-population counties had a strong warming trend, medium-sized counties had a much slower increase, and rural stations almost no temperature rise at all. Meanwhile, the number of reporting stations has fallen from 6000 in 1970 to 2000 today, with mostly the rural stations dropped.

Concrete, car exhausts, and air conditioners have all increased over the last 40 years. Thermometers are increasingly at sewage treatment plants that generate their own heat. The problem isn't so much Los Angeles, which has been a big city for more than 100 years, but the smaller urban regions that have expanded rapidly. How big is the Urban Heat Bias now? Prominent warming skeptic Fred Singer asks whether the earth is warming only at airports.

NASA recently made a critical adjustment in mean temperature record, after famed whistle-blower Steve McIntyre discovered an error. The adjustment lowered temperatures since 2000 by 0.15 degree C per year. NASA told the media that the change was "not significant." But by that standard, the U.S. warming over the past 77 years hasn't been "significant" either.

The earth is simply not getting the radical warming forecast 20 years ago by modelers such as NASA's James Hansen. The earth has had no warming since 1998, and temperatures began actually falling in 2007. The longest sunspot minimum in a century is now forecasting colder weather, and the Pacific—our largest heat sink—has shifted into a 30-year cold phase.

Recently, global temperature-taking has been obfuscated by a strong El Nino that warmed the past 12 months. Now we're apparently entering a La Nina, which will drop Pacific temperatures below their long-term mean until next year. It may be several years before we can be sure whether a longer-term Pacific cooling phase has resumed.

In the meantime, President Obama is demanding that we immediately take out "climate insurance," by blocking new power plants and paying fabulous costs for poor-mileage corn ethanol. Harvard says it may take \$7-per-gallon gas to meet the president's goal of cutting transport greenhouse emissions by 14 percent. Britain's new government has just blocked the new third runway at Heathrow Airport, to stop "binge flying."

We've known for centuries about the Roman Warming, the cold Dark Ages, the Medieval Warming and the Little Ice Age. Are we now getting man-made warming—or just recovering from the Little

Ice Age? John Christy says our climate is still dominated by natural factors. He says clouds are the key factor. He says the evidence shows the planet responding to heat impulses by producing more clouds, which allow more solar heat to warm it up. And vice versa.

Have our "mainstream" scientists blundered toward the government grant money?

DENNIS T. AVERY, a senior fellow for the Hudson Institute in Washington, DC, is an environmental economist. He was formerly a senior analyst for the Department of State. He is co-author, with S. Fred Singer, of Unstoppable Global Warming Every 1500 Hundred Years, Readers may write him at PO Box 202, Churchville, VA 24421

Source: J. Christy and J. Hnilo; "Changes in the Snowfall of the Southern Sierra Nevada of California since 1916." Energy and Environment, Vol. 21; 2010.

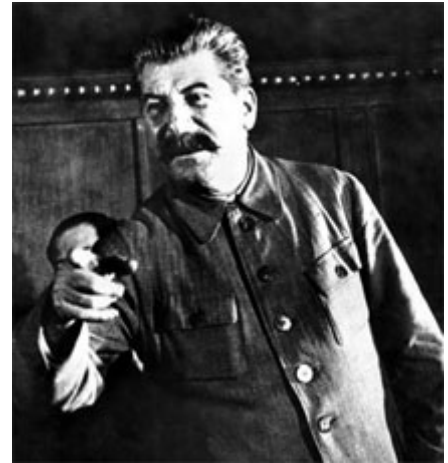
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Stalin Education

by Dr. Paul Kengor

Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

Call it another Twilight Zone moment; another ignominious contribution to the “you-can’t-make-this-up” category. First, Mao Tse-tung was honored by oblivious New Yorkers, with their Empire State Building aglow in red and yellow last October to [commemorate the birth of Red China](#). Mao’s nearest rival for trophy of top mass murderer in history was Joseph Stalin. Perhaps other clueless Americans could find a way to honor Stalin, too—maybe closer to Washington, DC, the nation’s capital? Hey, don’t laugh. The National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia has done just that, erecting a statue of Stalin. No, I’m not kidding.



Predictably, the mainstream press is not talking about this. The press is dominated by the same people who dominate our educational system; they are largely uninterested in the horrors of communism. It is Joe McCarthy, not Joe Stalin, who consumes their Cold War outrage.

The only reason I know about this travesty is the vigilant work of Lee Edwards’ [Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation](#), which has the heroic goal of trying—desperately—to educate Americans about the forgotten holocaust committed by communists in the 20th century, which exceeded 100 million deaths, double the combined death total of the two world wars. Likewise worthy endeavors, such as the National Holocaust Memorial, do crucial work reminding us of Hitler’s genocide. But aside from Edwards’ organization, no other has formally assumed the task of reminding the world of the unparalleled carnage caused by communist governments—where, incidentally, Joseph Stalin led the pack.

As for the Stalin statue, Edwards’ group has a website (www.StalinStatue.com) to call attention to this moral-historical slander. The site features a petition to remove the statue, with over 3,000 signatures from every state and over 40 countries, including some really upset folks from the former Soviet empire. Addressed to the National D-Day Memorial Foundation and President Obama’s secretary of the interior, Ken Salazar, the petition demands that the “true history of World War II must be protected from distortion and misinformation which threaten to erase or alter well-established and documented facts.”

Among those facts is a rather vital one, noted in the petition’s next line: “neither Joseph Stalin nor Soviet forces played any part in the D-Day landing at Normandy.”

Indeed, ironically, such disinformation was once the crass domain of Kremlin propagandists, cooked up to dupe gullible Westerners. Stalin himself had his in-house stooges retroactively invent him a gallant wartime role. Imagine that his arch-rival from the Cold War—the United States of America—would earnestly pick up that charge, under no threat of execution or imprisonment by the long-dead tyrant. Stalin is surely howling from his tomb.

Even then, the statue represents far graver distortion. Consider: Stalin was morally complicit in the indescribable deaths of all those boys (non-Russian) who stormed the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944. Five years earlier, during the dark of night August 23-24, 1939, Stalin’s USSR and Hitler’s Germany signed a secret pact. One week later, in keeping with that pact, Hitler invaded Poland from the west. Two and a half weeks later, the Red Army, likewise in keeping with that pact, invaded Poland from the east. World War II was on. The catalyst for Europe’s ultimate liberation would come June 6, 1944, D-Day—no thanks whatsoever to Stalin.

Importantly, Russian soldiers (not Stalin) deserve commendation for Hitler's defeat. In June 1941, Hitler betrayed Stalin, invading the USSR. It was a bloody rout. No country suffered as many dead as the USSR—40 times the combined death toll of America and Britain. A major reason for Russia's staggering losses was Stalin's Great Purge, where the tyrant murdered the nation's high command, leaving novices in charge of opposing Hitler's blitzkrieg. This was so irresponsibly, wickedly disastrous that Stalin's successor, Nikita Khrushchev, rightly blamed Stalin for the millions of Russian boys killed by the Nazis.

If this history is new to you, then you, too, are a victim. You're a casualty of America's educational system, from public schools to our woefully biased, scandalously over-priced universities. That likewise applies to those responsible for honoring Stalin at the National D-Day Memorial, who are probably oblivious. Really, their monument to Stalin is a monument to American education.

Dr. Paul Kengor is professor of political science and executive director of [The Center for Vision & Values](#) at Grove City College. His books include ["The Crusader: Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism"](#) and the forthcoming ["Dupes: How America's Adversaries Have Manipulated Progressives for a Century"](#)

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Editor**

Fired For Catholicism

by Daniel Crandall

Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

Here's yet another case of reality intruding where only the satirical newspaper, The Onion, once trod. An [adjunct professor at the University of Illinois was fired for explaining Catholic beliefs concerning Natural Law to students enrolled in a class about Catholicism](#).

[Professor Ken] Howell, who taught Introduction to Catholicism and Modern Catholic Thought, says he was fired at the end of the spring semester after sending an e-mail explaining some Catholic beliefs to his students preparing for an exam.

What bit of pedagogy was so verboten that the University of Illinois could no longer abide Prof. Howell's presence on campus? That would be nothing less than the Church's teaching concerning homosexual behavior:

"Natural Moral Law says that Morality must be a response to REALITY.... In other words, sexual acts are only appropriate for people who are complementary, not the same."



Kenneth Howell

This bit of Catholic doctrine so offended *one* student that it resulted in an *anonymous* message being sent to religion department head Robert McKim complaining of, you guessed it, "hate speech." The complaining student, however, isn't even in Prof. Howell's class:

An unidentified . . . student claimed to be a friend of the offended student. The writer said in the e-mail that his friend wanted to remain anonymous.

An anonymous student complains on behalf of an anonymous student that the latter was offended by Catholic doctrine being taught in a class about Catholic doctrine. That's astonishingly weak evidence on which to base a firing, to say the least.

This chain of anonymous messages sent the secular black robes at the University of Illinois into politically correct, fundamentalist outrage. An associate dean of U of I's College of Liberal Arts suggested the firing, writing the following:

The e-mails sent by Dr. Howell violate university standards of inclusivity, which would then entitle us to have him discontinue his teaching arrangement with us.

Prof . Howell also lost his director position with the St. John's Catholic Newman Center's Institute of Catholic Thought, located at U of I. This was a position paid for by the Catholic Diocese of Peoria. Apparently, at the University of Illinois and in the Diocese of Peoria one can be Catholic, just not *too* Catholic.

If you're thinking of taking advantage of the job vacancy at this rather scenic seat of secular sobriety, you've been warned: [Nancy Pelosi-type Catholics](#) *only* need apply.

Editor's note: The University of Illinois finally came to its senses and reinstated Professor Howell but that does not change the fact that they had previously acted abominably.

Daniel Crandall blogs at The American Culture <http://stkarnick.com/culture>, where this first appeared.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Immigration Morality

by Jonathan Moore

Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

Most of those involved in the immigration debate agree that immigration policy needs to be reformed. How to reform the system exactly is a matter of considerably greater disagreement.

Immigration is a complex issue affected by numerous factors like welfare policy and public education. Thus, clear solutions to the conundrum are difficult to arrive at. What we can get at, however, is a broad set of principles (which some Christian conservatives have a difficult time grasping) that policy makers should consider in any reform effort to construct a rational, God-honoring immigration law.

1) God created man in his own image, and as such, human beings need to be treated in a compassionate, loving manner.



As God's image bearers, humanity has intrinsic, literally God-like value, and should be cherished.

The Bible has much to say about how to treat God's image bearers, even when they are foreigners. For instance, in Leviticus 19:33-34, the children of Israel are taught to love the alien in their midst as they would one of their own: "When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself."

In short, a moral and just immigration policy should reflect God's attitude towards immigrants. To paraphrase Kepler, man is at his best when he "thinks God's thoughts after him."

One of the most loving ways to decrease global poverty is to create new opportunities for people to work themselves out of poverty and provide for their families.

Few foreigners have opportunities to care for their families in their home country like they would in the United States. Allowing them to come to here to better their lives is a Christ-like option.

2) The more people, the better.

Conservatives hold this to be true in matters such as abortion, eugenics, and forced sterilization. More people produce more goods and services for society. Even those deemed a "drain" on society should be valued.

Yet on immigration, many conservatives find themselves on the same side of the issue as people who have values diametrically opposed to their own; population-control advocates.

In a puzzling twist, conservatives have recently found themselves using the same rhetoric as zero-population-growth advocates, arguing that allowing more people to enter this country is a net loss for society due to increased unemployment, increased consumption of social services, etc. They would never accept the same arguments as justification for ending the lives of (or deporting) disabled children, the elderly, or other individuals who consume more societal resources than they contribute.

3) Government regulation and control of any commodity through quotas or price control is always bad.

This is something most conservatives will agree on. They understand that government intervention in markets creates distortions, as seen by their stringent opposition to the stimulus package.

The American immigration system is a quagmire of quotas and controls that does nothing to reflect supply and demand. Not surprisingly, a thriving black market of illegal immigrants, who do not have the time or money to navigate America's prohibitively complex immigration system, has arisen to satisfy American employers' and consumers' need for inexpensive labor.

Most illegal immigrants are not breaking the law because they enjoy breaking the law. Most come here because they want to give themselves and their families a better life, free from oppressive government regulation.

4) Enforcing existing immigration laws is both futile and destructive.

In 2009, the Department of Homeland Security estimated that there were 10.8 million illegal immigrants in America. Deporting all or most of the illegal population is, frankly, impossible. It would be tantamount to rounding up the state of Michigan and deporting every one of its citizens.

Further, the Cato Institute estimated that if border enforcement were increased enough to stop the flow of immigrants, American economic output would be reduced by \$80 billion annually for ten years. Coupled with the deportation of illegal immigrants already here, that number could double.

The Center for American Progress estimates that the administrative expenses of all these deportations would be roughly \$200 billion over five years.

Laws should be enforced, but destructive laws should be repealed and replaced with new laws. In this case, it seems that having an immigration system based on arbitrary quotas is a bad idea both morally and economically.

So, what should we do? It is clear that neither amnesty alone nor increased enforcement are wise options to solve the immigration problem. Allowing illegal immigrants to stay without creating a path to entrance for new immigrants will only result in the same problems we face now. And stepped-up enforcement of bad laws could damage American prosperity.

A middle way between these two must be found. By following the principles and understanding the facts above, America can have a sensible, God-honoring, and prosperity-promoting immigration policy.

Jonathan Moore is a research associate at the Competitive Enterprise Institute and a former student fellow with [The Center for Vision & Values](#) at Grove City College. The views expressed in this editorial are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Competitive Enterprise Institute nor The Center for Vision & Values, where this first appeared.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Obama Credibility

by David Keene

Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

During the healthcare debate, President Obama and his operatives assured congressional Democrats and the media that once Obama-Care passed, all would be well. The president himself said the GOP focus on process would be forgotten quickly by a public far more interested in “policy than process.”

However, the public has made it clear it likes neither the product (about which more is being learned by the day) nor the process that led to passage. Many of the deals needed to piece together majorities in the House and Senate received enough publicity at the time to outrage many, but as time goes on revelations about additional concessions made to woo votes are justifying what were dismissed as simple partisan attacks during the debate.

Moreover, the possible consequences of the bill are making many wake up and take note.

When critics of the legislation alleged during the debate that the enforcement of its many provisions would vastly increase the power of the IRS and empower tax collectors to go where they had never gone before, administration spokesmen reacted in outrage. The president’s critics, they charged, were not just wrong, but lying to scare people.

It turns out that the critics were dead right and that if there was any lying going on, they weren’t the guilty ones. In the days since passage, we have learned that the IRS will have to hire literally thousands of new agents, auditors and analysts to make sure everyone required to buy into the program does so and to catch those who violate its many provisions as well as to collect the data that will be required of small businesses to help the government collect new taxes to pay for the scheme.

The result is that small-business owners who were promised they would benefit from the new law are up in arms as they discover that they will in fact be targets of an IRS planning to impose even more regulations on the way they operate. The absolute ludicrousness of the new requirements is that business owners will apparently now be required to file forms reporting on aggregate annual payments of as little as \$600 to “vendors” like Staples or the office coffee supplier.

Meanwhile, it turns out that while some members of Congress were being promised one thing in return for their votes, others were being assured that such promises would never be kept. Thus, while members concerned about whether benefits would be extended to illegal immigrants were assured that this would not be the case, members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in the House were being told that they shouldn’t worry about any restrictions in the healthcare bill because they would be removed later ... in the administration’s promised immigration reform bill.

Recent news reports that Democratic leaders promised Hispanic Caucus members that provisions inserted in the healthcare to win the votes of others would be removed later suggest that South Carolina Rep. Joe Wilson’s (R) charge that President Obama’s denial that the healthcare bill would cover illegal aliens was a lie was dead on.

The healthcare bill as passed and signed into law prohibits illegals from buying into the so-called healthcare exchanges that will be established under the law and denies even temporary legal immigrants access to Medicaid unless they’ve been here for five years. Hispanic Caucus leaders are



David Keene

now charging that the administration specifically promised to eliminate these and other restrictions and are vowing to hold the president and congressional Democratic leaders to that promise.

Under the Obama plan, of course, Medicaid has been expanded and something like half of all illegals in the country would qualify if the restrictions written into the law are removed, increasing the costs of a program that is already expected to exceed the estimates publicized by the administration before its passage by tens of billions of dollars.

The monetary cost of delivering on this promise would be enormous, but the political cost could be even higher. President Obama gives pretty good speeches, but fewer and fewer Americans are paying much attention to what he says. Some are beginning to ignore him for lack of follow-through or because he's overexposed, but increasing numbers of those who were initially shocked by Wilson's outburst are becoming convinced that he was right.

A president's credibility is key to his success. When those he deals with in Washington or those on whose votes he relies for reelection conclude that his word isn't worth much, his ability to lead vanishes.

David Keene is chairman of the American Conservative Union

**E-mail the
Editor**

Political Non-Jobs

by Jeffrey Folks

Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

The President likes to use that word “green,” even when it kills jobs. He just can’t seem to understand that America needs jobs now. No more talk of green jobs, of jobs created or saved, or of focusing on job creation like a laser. All of this talk has led to nothing or, actually, to less than nothing. More than 4 million jobs have been lost since Obama started talking about creating them. If he had simply done nothing, vastly more jobs would have been created.



Economists have [now confirmed](#) that the \$862 billion stimulus bill of 2009 has had a negative “multiplier” effect. Instead of creating wealth, the stimulus has drained wealth, and with it jobs, from the economy. If the President had not insisted on passing nearly \$1 trillion in wasteful spending, those funds would have remained in the private sector where they would be circulating, creating jobs. Even now, if the President would just get out of the way and allow the free market to operate unimpeded, the economy would begin to expand instead of contract, as is generally predicted for 2011.

Spending on alternative energy boondoggles such as subsidies for electric vehicles—none of which have made a profit—is one example of the negative multiplier effect. To great fanfare, Michigan’s Governor Jennifer Granholm announced in May 2009 that a new battery plant was to be built outside of Detroit, and that this plant would create several hundred jobs. Yet this heavily subsidized operation, funded with \$300 million in tax subsidies, is costing the taxpayer one million dollars per job. Anyone can create a job if handed a million dollars, even an inept politician like Ms Granholm, but if the business in question is not profitable, that job will only last as long as the subsidies are renewed.

Obama has spent the first 18 months of his presidency railing against the “greed” of corporations, Wall Street, insurance companies, Big Oil, and anyone else who stands in the way of government taking over the entire economy. The President attacks anyone who questions his socialist economic model as an “obstructionist,” but the fact is that it is the President who is obstructing economic growth.

Obama does not understand the first thing about the free market, and, as demonstrated by his rants against the “evil profits” of businesses, he would not be sympathetic to it if he did. He believes that jobs will magically appear, even as companies are saddled with government regulation and increased taxation. He simply does not understand the basic principle that companies do not survive in the absence of profit. And businesses that fail to produce something the public wants—like the little green golf carts he wants us to drive that have to be recharged every 80 miles—aren’t going to make a profit or create jobs.

GM officials have actually [admitted](#) that the company expects to lose money for some time on the Chevy Volt, of which it expects to sell only 8,000 in the first year. GM is continuing with the project because of the publicity factor, and not incidentally, because government owns 60% percent of GM.

A disdain for the private sector runs throughout this administration. As [reported](#) in the *Wall Street Journal*, the US Export-Import Bank initially denied guarantees that would have made possible sales of \$600 million of mining equipment to India. The reason for this ruling, according to one of the bank’s three directors, was President Obama’s commitment to green energy. The mining equipment in question would have been used to provide coal for an Indian power plant. That plant would have generated cheap electricity for India’s people, lifting thousands out of poverty in that country.

Here in the U.S., the equipment, produced in Milwaukee, would create 984 jobs. These are not temporary census jobs or make-work jobs. These are long-lasting, high-paying jobs: just the kind of jobs that are needed by Americans displaced by factory closings and downsizings. And yet the Export-Import Bank, on the vote of its two Democratic members, has managed to place the deal in limbo. According to reports, India's Reliance Power, Ltd. announced its decision not to purchase equipment from the Milwaukee firm because of the Export-Import Bank decision.

So much for 984 jobs. It is astounding that the President can be so cavalier in denying a livelihood to millions of American workers simply to secure the political support of the environmental lobby. Clearly, job creation is not job number one for the Obama administration. Job number one is pandering to unions, tort lawyers, and environmentalists, all of whom share the same anti-growth, anti-jobs agenda.

And so it is with the offshore drilling ban. Immediately after the ruling of US district judge Martin Feldman striking down Obama's six-month ban on offshore drilling, the Interior Department announced its intention to appeal. Even before losing the appeal, Interior announced a second ban little different from the first, but requiring another judicial review. The administration is resorting to this kind of extralegal delay tactic despite the opposition of governors of Gulf Coast states who recognize how many jobs are at risk. As drilling platforms leave the Gulf for sites in Brazil, Egypt, and Africa, thousands of high-paying jobs will leave with them. Hundreds of thousands of related jobs on shore are also disappearing, not to return.

The President's offshore drilling ban is nothing less than a frontal assault on the Gulf Coast economy. The negative economic effect of the ban will be far greater and more long-lasting than that of Hurricane Katrina. Because of long lead times in drilling operations and because of the possibility of even further extension of the ban, the effects of the ban threaten to stretch for years into the future. Permanently, in fact, if the environmental lobby gets its way.

It is now apparent that Obama is willing to throw job creation under the bus in order to please his core constituencies. Ordinary Americans are paying the price for this anti-business policy. Maybe the public will wake up when the unemployment rate rises above 10%, as it is [projected](#) to do later this summer. That will be just in time for the fall elections, not that the Democrats care. They are planning to go down with the ship—even planning to use the lame-duck session of Congress to pass cap and trade and further job-killing legislation.

For the American people, all of this is bad news. Even when Obama's first, and last, term ends in January 2013, America will be saddled with the jobs mess he has created. It will take years before America regains its place as the world's most business-friendly nation, a rank it held for half a decade under President Bush.

Sadly, millions of workers will suffer, and many will never recover their dignity and self-respect. For these workers, Obama's legacy will be permanently broken lives. But at least they can take some satisfaction in the fact that their government has poured trillion dollars down the drain in order to appear "environmentally correct." We can hold our heads high and boast that ours is a green economy. Even if there's very little of it.

Dr. Jeffrey Folks taught for thirty years in universities in Europe, America, and Japan. He has published many books and articles on American culture and politics.

**E-mail the
Editor**

bama Kingship
by Michael Connelly
Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

Almost a year ago when the health care bill debate was just heating up I pointed out that the bill would set up health care rationing, particularly for seniors. I also stated that instead of doctors, patients, and family members it would be federal bureaucrats that would be making life and death decisions for people. Of course, I was not alone in this, but those of us that saw these things in the bill were attacked by the White House, the liberals in Congress, and most of the mainstream news media. We were called liars and fear mongers and the American people were assured by Obama himself that there would be no health care rationing.



That was then. The bill has passed and the assurances of the President have now been shown to be meaningless. He has used the power of recess appointment to bypass the Senate and appoint a radical socialist physician, Donald Berwick to be the head of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This is the government agency that will be in charge of administering these programs nationwide and overseeing the massive cuts the health care bill makes in Medicare.

The reason that Obama essentially made this appointment under the cover of darkness is because he could not risk having open Senate hearings about Donald Berwick's background and ideology. The American people would have been appalled at what came out in these hearings and even some Democrats might have been forced to vote against his confirmation.

Berwick has long been an outspoken supporter to the British health care system that is based on heavy rationing of health care. People may wait months to even see a doctor and even longer periods to get life saving tests or surgery done. Berwick thinks that is just wonderful and he has made the following statement about health care in this country: "The decision is not whether or not we will ration care. The decision is whether we will ration with our eyes open."

This controversial physician has also said: "Any health care funding plan that is just equitable civilized and humane must, must redistribute wealth from the richer among us to the poorer and the less fortunate. Excellent health care is by definition redistributive."

So there you have it. The person that will be making the decisions on who gets health care in the United States and what type of health care is delivered believes in everything that we were assured would not be in the final law.

As the dawn of each new day of the Obama presidency comes about it is beginning to look like we have a man in the White House who not only doesn't represent the wishes of the American people, but holds us in utter contempt and will go to war with Americans in order to shove his own personal agenda down our throats.

For example, the American people overwhelmingly support the efforts of the people of Arizona to stem the tide of illegal immigrants coming into their state by enforcing Federal law. Obama's response has been to have his Department of Justice file suit against the people of Arizona and in support of those who have openly broken our country's laws.

The people in this country have also been overwhelmingly opposed to blanket amnesty for those who have entered this country illegally and even most members of Congress are afraid to even try to pass an amnesty bill during this election year. So The President is seriously considering granting amnesty by Executive Order despite the fact that he has no power under the Constitution to make such an order.

And finally, one of the most sacred rights that Americans hold dear is the right to vote without fear of being intimidated at the polls. During the November 2008 election such intimidation was done openly at a polling place in Philadelphia, PA. Members of the New Black Panther Party were filmed in front of the voting place carrying weapons and wearing paramilitary uniforms. They were yelling at white voters using racial slurs and telling these people that they were about to find out what is like to be ruled by a black man.

These men were arrested and civil charges were filed against them by the Department of Justice. Even though the case had already been won and it was just a matter of determining a penalty, the Obama DOJ under Eric Holder ordered the case dropped. According to J. Christian Adams, a DOJ attorney who had worked on the case and recently resigned as a result of what happened, the word was given to the attorneys that no cases would be brought against blacks for voter intimidation of whites.

Never in our nation's history has a President of the United States shown such utter disregard for the will of the people and their rights under the Constitution. It is not only a violation of his oath of office, but it is something that more and more Americans are becoming outraged over. Perhaps it is time for the President to be reminded that he works for us and we are not his subjects. We had a King once that tried to enforce his will upon a ragtag group of American Colonials that he considered his inferiors. Things didn't work out too well for that King.

Michael Connelly blogs at <http://michaelconnelly.viviti.com> where this first appeared.

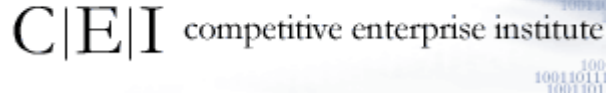
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Editor**

Environmentalism History

by Robert J. Smith

Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

The 1960s was an era of political turmoil and upheaval in America. Among other prominent political movements, the decade sparked the uprising of the modern environmentalist movement.



Today, longtime conservationist and environmental policy expert Robert J. Smith, Director of CEI's Center for Private Conservation, explains in a short video how the modern environmentalist movement began in America. A celebrated author and environmental historian, Smith shows how the anti-war movement during the 1960s evolved into an *anti-capitalism* movement that pushed for public – i.e. government – stewardship of the environment.

View the CEI Studios video, [History of Environmentalism](#)

Quotes from [History of Environmentalism](#):

"It was commonly believed that the only way to protect the environment was to have the government step in and make up for the mistakes of the marketplace, what was considered market failure."

"The solution to [negative externalities] may well lie in the Soviet countries because it was assumed that in the Soviet countries that industry is run for the good of all the people... and you would look into the Soviet countries and you would see very little pollution."

"In the 1970s, people began to look behind the iron curtain, and they were horrified... there were far worse problems than what we found in the United States or in Western Europe."

"The war in Vietnam ended. But it was interesting that all these young kids – who had sort of been radicalized, were sort of anti-free market, anti-capitalism, anti-profit system, anti-private property rights — kept on marching. Except what they did, they switched their Bible. Instead of holding up Chairman Mao's *Little Red Book* they were holding up Rachel Carson's little green book."

"[Carson and Mao] had much the same philosophy: the belief was that capitalism did not care about the planet. And lots of these kids, it was a simple flip for them, from marching for Chairman Mao to marching for the greens. That's the origin of the environmental movement."

**E-mail the
Editor**

Climate Talk v Climate Action
by Margarita Alperovich
Issue 161 – August 11, 2010

Actions speak louder than words.

The climate change hysteria ignited by Al Gore and his followers is rather motivated by their political and personal gains.

Gore has been predicting imminent world cataclysms if we do not change environmental policies. In his book 'An Inconvenient Truth' released in 2006, Al Gore calls the climate crisis dangerous and 'a true planetary emergency'. He compared the alleged current loss of living species to the dinosaurs' extinction 65 million years ago. Only, as Gore noted, this time it is us, the people, who are killing species on the Earth. Gore's documentary 'An Inconvenient Truth' premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2006. And yet, in the same year, in August 2006, Al Gore's two-building property in Nashville, Tennessee used twice as much electricity during just ONE MONTH, as an average U.S. household uses in the entire YEAR!



Well, if Al Gore had been calling for responsible treatment of the Earth, one would expect that he would match his words with his actions. Unfortunately, Gore is a typical Washington politician who does not actually do what he persuades others to.

The Climate Change Theory in general has been based on the adulterated and manipulated scientific data.

Gore made the claim that the entire polar ice cap will disappear within the next 5-7 years, referencing Dr. Wieslaw Maslowski, a Department of Oceanography professor with the U.S. Naval Post-Graduate School. Unfortunately for Gore, Dr. Maslowski denied making this prediction. Gore had no choice but to admit that he made his conclusion about polar ice caps melting based on the conversation he had with Maslowski several years ago.

The claim about Himalayan glaciers meltdown was not backed by any scientific data either, but was based on a news story printed in the New Scientist journal. The New Scientist journal based this claim on a short phone interview with Syed Hasnain, a little-known Indian scientist from Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi. Hasnain has since admitted that his statement was not supported by any formal research.

The emails from the University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit exposed shameful deceiving tactics employed by Professor Philip Jones, the CRU's director, and by his supporters. These e-mails included discussions how to avoid releasing their data under freedom of information laws, and how to conceal and manipulate the data on which they based their Global Warming statements. They used brutal tactics to discredit scientists who dared questioning their findings and to silence journals which criticized their work.

Nevertheless, Liberals keep pushing the Cap and Trade legislation which would dramatically increase the cost of energy for American consumers, along with imposing tremendous control over many aspects of our lives. Liberals are very well aware that developing countries will still continue releasing carbon without any restrictions. However, they advocate the idea of stopping the climate change through more regulations imposed on US population and businesses, to disguise their liberal dream of having the intrusive big government.

Republicans, being in the minority, have been making attempts to push back on the global warming agenda. Senator Lisa Murkowski's (R-Alaska) resolution to disapprove the EPA's (U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency) climate change "endangerment finding" under the Clean Air Act was rejected by the U.S Senate (47-53) on June 10th, 2010. Murkowski unsuccessfully argued on the Senate floor: "It would amount to an unprecedented power grab, ceding Congress' responsibilities to unelected bureaucrats and move a very, very important debate, a critical debate, from our open halls to behind an agency's closed doors." If the Republicans take back the Senate this November, they might be able to pass this resolution.

Environmentalists are selective in their mission to save the Earth. For example, in Arizona, Environmental officials are fighting against allowing border patrol access to federal lands in the heavy human trafficking areas. They are worried that border patrol officers will harm the environment. And yet, environmental groups do not express any concerns about piles of trash, clothing and human waste dumped by illegals in Arizona desert!

For years, they have been blocking installation of communication towers in the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. The reason – environmentalists are worried that expanding border control in the refuge would cause extinction of Sonoran Pronghorn (desert subspecies of the antelope family). At the same time, environmentalists are turning a blind eye on the fact that illegals are damaging and destroying water resources and National Forests.

The best way to inspire people to fight for clean air is to demonstrate your commitment to the cause, and not just by words but most importantly, by actions. According to the EPA, Carbon dioxide (CO₂) released by vehicles is a greenhouse gas that contributes to Global Warming. Back in November 2007, New York City Council passed legislation requiring the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions throughout the five boroughs. The City Council Speaker Christine Quinn said then: "The Climate Protection Act is a clear, forward-thinking plan for reducing New York City's greenhouse gas emissions, helping to make sure our city stays on the right track toward responsible and sustainable environmental policy."

Almost three years later, on June 26th, 2010, people got stuck for about 4 hours on the New Jersey approach plaza to the George Washington Bridge. This was Saturday night, and many people were driving to New York, 'the City that never sleeps', as well as many were traveling to other states. However, the NYC Bridge and Tunnel Authority made a decision to open just two Cash Only booths! Opening the third Cash Only booth later did not help either. The Cash paying drivers were blocking all lanes, including lanes leading to E-ZPass booths. The air was thick, filled with the automotive emissions from hundreds cars moving to the toll booths in an extremely slow pace.

As per the US EPA site, "A gallon of gasoline is assumed to produce 8.8 kilograms (or 19.4 pounds) of CO₂. This number is calculated from values in the Code of Federal Regulations at 40 CFR 600.113-78, which EPA uses to calculate the fuel economy of vehicles, and relies on assumptions consistent with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines."

The significant amount of CO₂ released by hundreds cars stuck on the toll approach plaza in the 4-hour gridlock could be reduced by just opening all Cash Lanes, or at least as many as needed to avoid such delays. If they were really concerned about improving the air in New York City, they would never create such mayhem but would make sure that there are enough Cash booths open to pay an \$8.00 toll for crossing the bridge.

Most of us truly care about the condition of the Earth we are leaving to our children and grandchildren. And it is very disturbing to eyewitness such an obvious disconnect between words and actions displayed by some politicians and activist groups. If you are on a mission of saving the world, you should not pick and choose but direct your efforts and resources based on the need versus political agenda. You should not twist scientific data to customize it in order to satisfy your personal and ideological ambitions. You should live up to your word and fight for the cause not only on paper but with your deeds.

Margarita Alperovich lives in Fairfield CT

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Editor**

Reader Comments

Issue 161 -August 11, 2010

**CONSERVATIVE
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ONLINE**

Editor: Thanks for your articles. I am part of a prayer team and we are praying for America. Your ConservativeBattleline On Line articles are superb. I print many of them out and they become a base for prayer. I also send many of them to friends. Thank you so much for this vehicle for educating the people and prayer. God bless you and may God continue to bless America. Cheryl Caruso, San Diego, CA

Editor: "Republicans' Fault?" is a great article! Just a warm word of appreciation for a tremendously well-written and argued article. The Democrats are living in their own utopian universe which, thankfully, will come crashing down in less than 100 days!! God bless the ballot box!! Warmest regards, Scott Minnich

Editor: Regarding "Republicans' Fault?" the problem with any person who would be an absolute ruler is not being willing to brook any dissent. It's considered a form of lese-majeste and disruptive to the harmonious functioning of society. Unfortunately for the boy in the White House, we don't vote to install an aristocracy in DC; they're citizen-rulers with fixed terms and fixed limits on their powers. That the current regime has chosen to ignore those limits and thus to be criticized is not the fault of any group but the fault of itself. The first hint that it's on the wrong track should be defections within its own ranks. Perhaps it's also an indication that the opposition's message has found fertile ground with those defectors. Although Democrats are feeble minded (else they wouldn't be Democrats), not all are dyed in the wool socialists and Marxists and some still have a little respect for the Constitution. Not all want to fall on their swords for His Youthful Majesty. Since it's doubtful conservatives will win a veto-proof majority, the best we can hope for is to stymie this would-be monarch after the New Year until he can be trotted out of office two years hence when his entire agenda can be reversed. Until January, he will remain a dangerous threat to the Republic. Jim McAlister

Editor: "Republicans' Fault?" is a GREAT Article. Thank you for bringing to light what is really happening in America today. I have sent this article to several of my liberal co-workers and they cannot believe that it could be true. But, it has given them something to think about. Again, thank you for enlightening all of us. Thelma Sease-Brewer

Editor: I read your "Republicans' Fault?" It makes a good point! But one has to have some open space in their mind for it though. J. Grace

Editor: Regarding "Republicans' Fault?" when you have a bunch of corrupt self-centered power hungry politicians running things America is a done deal. It is the Roman Empire all over again. Only God can help if he so chooses. J. Kruse

Editor: I have just read your article "Conservatives Lose" regarding the importance and implications of the Republican nomination process in 2008. You did a good job on Ron Paul and were fair and even-handed. You are certainly correct that Ron Paul is the only candidate attracting youthful enthusiasts, as did Barry Goldwater when he began the modern political revival of the limited government movement in 1964. You are also correct to zero-in on how small donations have propelled Ron Paul's campaign as they did Barry's. I also agree with you that Fred Thompson probably had the best all around message that year but still could not end up as even one of the finalists. This all bodes ill for the Republican Party. Best wishes, Jerry O'Driscoll

Editor: Dennis Avery's "Now It's Biodiversity Panic," is a great article that I wish would get more viewings by a much larger audience than is likely on this blog. This ought to be required reading for everyone attending the Cold Spring Harbor [Long Island NY] genetic school on crops! Gerard J. Barry

Editor: Thank you for Brent Bozell's "Liberal Meltdown." It is a good article. I hope he is right about the November tsunami. Lance Patterson

Editor: Regarding Brent Bozell's article "Liberal Meltdown," it's evident that leftists are so confused by their own demagoguery, they're unable to make lucid distinctions any more. For example, they now like to be called 'Progressives' rather than 'Liberals.' Neither term applies unless 'Progressive' means progressively worse, and we know that leftists aren't 'Liberal,' being the most narrow- and close-minded people. They continue to insist they're victims, even when they're controlling both houses of Congress, the White House, and getting quite a bit of support from the Judicial Branch. It's no wonder the leftist media has dropped so many listeners, viewers, and readers. They're as delusional as the national leaders they champion and crazy enough to believe that we'd all embrace their world view if they were just a little better understood. Hence the four dozen (and counting) speeches by the boy in the White House about what a panacea socialist medicine is while public opposition rises. November 2 should call them back to reality but it's doubtful. These people are devoid of reason. Jim McAlister

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Editor**