

FOSTERING CONSERVATIVE VALUES ★ COUNTERING LIBERAL BIAS

THE CONSERVATIVE teen

WINTER 2011

HOT AIR & COLD FACTS

Of Liberal
Media Bias
p.30

Why The
Unborn
Need Our
Protection
p.27


PLUS: Why
Abstinence
Works p.24

Welcome To The
**DEBT-PAYING
GENERATION**



It's tough to tell who's talking sometimes...

In the 24 years we've been exposing liberal bias in the media, we've never seen such blatant cheerleading for a president and his agenda. Luckily, America's Media Watchdog is here to expose them. And confront them. 24/7/365

MRC  **Action** *Help us fight liberal media bias! mrcaction.org*

mrc.org • newsbusters.org • cnsnews.com • mrc.tv



THE CONSERVATIVE CONTENTS teen

WINTER 2011



34

FEATURES

12 America the Exceptional

Why the U.S. is not like other countries.

18 Welcome to the Debt-Paying Generation

Washington is running up the tab—and you'll be stuck with it!

24 Why Abstinence Works and How It Can Work For You

Science shows that it's best to wait.

27 Why The Unborn Need Our Protection

Young people in the fight for the unborn.

30 The Hot Air & Cold Facts of Liberal Media Bias

The global warming issue speaks volumes about how journalists and entertainers seek to skew our perception.

34 To Improve Education, Limit Government's Role!

The smart way to reform education in America.

48 How to Draw Obama

by Daryl Cagle



30

COLUMNS

08

06 Liberal Media Bias
Glee: Songs, Sex & Sleaze
TV's biggest hit is innocent fun outside, hardcore social liberalism inside.

08 Faith & Family
Today's Culture War
Oscar epics and the battle for America.

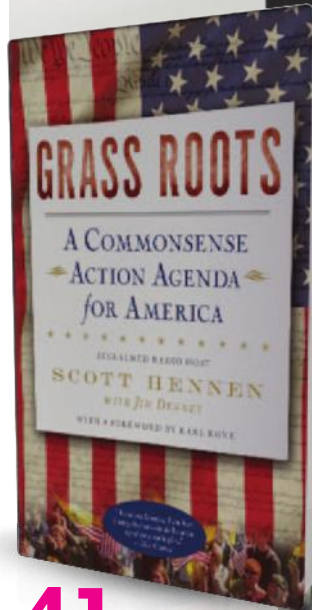
10 First Principles
A Nation Founded on Ideas
The principles that drove the American Revolution can and should guide us today.

14 U.S. History Made Easy!
The Declaration of Independence and What It Expects of You
A republic, madam, if you can keep it!

22 Libertarian View
Government Creates Poverty
by John Stossel

38 College Spotlight
Patrick Henry College
Patrick Henry College, launching leaders for Christ and for liberty.

41 Book Reports
Great Reads of 2010-11
Ask your teacher or parent if one of these great titles is okay for your next book report!



41



22



44

44 Charity Spotlight
The Fisher House
Student Supports Troops by Volunteering with Fisher House.

46 Making Sense
Ronald Reagan: Our First Black President?
by Michael Reagan

50 Final Analysis
Understanding Liberals
by Walter E. Williams



38

PATRICK HENRY COLLEGE

FOSTERING CONSERVATIVE VALUES ★ COUNTERING LIBERAL BIAS

THE CONSERVATIVE teen

William R. Smith
Publisher

CONTRIBUTORS

Matthew Spalding, Ph.D.
V. President, American Studies Director,
B. Kenneth Simon Ctr.
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION
www.heritage.org

Lindsey Burke
Policy Analyst
Domestic Policy Studies
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION
www.heritage.org

Jeanne Monahan
Director, The Center For Human Dignity
FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL
www.frc.org

Peter Sprigg
Senior Fellow For Family Policy Studies
FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL
www.frc.org

Matt Philbin
Managing Editor, Culture & Media Institute
MEDIA RESEARCH CENTER
www.mrc.org

William Beach
Director, Center for Data Analysis
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION
www.heritage.org

James Brigleb
Teacher (Retired), American History
WENATCHEE SCHOOL DIST.
www.jimbrigleb.com

OUR SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS

John Stossel
Recipient of 19 Emmy Awards,
Host of "Stossel"
THE FOX BUSINESS NETWORK
www.foxbusiness.com

Michael Reagan
Bestselling Author
Son of President Ronald Reagan
THE REAGAN REPORT
www.reagan.com

Walter E. Williams
Commentator
Professor of Economics
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
www.econfaculty.gmu.edu

Copyright © 2011 The Conservative Teen. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission from the publisher.

IT'S GOOD TO BE AWARE!

CONTACT US
The Conservative Teen
3460 Marron Road
Suite 103-132
Oceanside, CA 92056
Tel: 800-258-3694

www.theconservativeteen.com
support@theconservativeteen.com



\$19.95/yr

For Four Quarterly Print Issues

Delivered Within The United States!

Subscribe Via
www.theconservativeteen.com

THE CONSERVATIVE TEEN
3460 Marron Road
Suite 103-132
Oceanside, CA 92056
Tel: 800-258-3694



GLEE: Songs, Sex & Sleaze

TV's biggest hit is innocent fun outside, hardcore social liberalism inside. **by Matt Philbin**

Last season, then-“CBS Evening News” anchor Katie Couric appeared on an episode of “Glee,” in what must be the most fitting cameo of all time (*cameo: a small role in a movie/play/television show that is performed by a well-known actor*).

For years before moving to CBS to become a serious news anchor (stop laughing), Couric was America's best girlfriend on NBC's “Today” show, doing chatty segments on holiday baking, pets, spring fashion and other fluff. She could purse her lips and look concerned when appropriate, but otherwise she sported a perky-sweet manner ideal for the show.

But underneath all that cute, Couric was a garden-variety partisan liberal with all the unlovely positions that come with the territory. Among the photos of iconic women that hung on her office walls at CBS was one of Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood and a fan of eugenics (*eugenics: a science that tries to improve the human race by controlling which people*

become parents) – they don't come much more unlovely than Sanger.

And that's why Couric's appearance on “Glee” was so appropriate. “Glee” is Katie in a show: soft and perky outside, hard-core liberal inside. The critics who celebrate “Glee” call it “joyous,” “delightful” and a “quirky, sweet, humorous, nonpartisan funfest.”

Maybe it is all that, to liberal eyes. But conservatives have to wonder what's “quirky and sweet” about a show in which half the teenagers are sexually confused and the other half are sleeping around, or how ridiculing conservative principles and figures equals a “nonpartisan funfest.”

Most of Hollywood pushes a liberal agenda – the writer Ben Shapiro has proved it in gory detail in his new book, “Primitime Propaganda” – and the creator of “Glee” is no different. Ryan Murphy, who also created the raunchy FX show “Nip/Tuck,” “has declared that it is his goal in life to remove every barrier to the depiction of explicit sex on TV,” according Charisse Van Horn of the Tampa Television Examiner.

It's good to have a purpose in life, and

Murphy hasn't exactly compromised his when he moved on to a primetime show marketed to teens. In between the songs and the jokes, “Glee's” audience is treated to homosexuality, underage drinking, hook-ups and teen pregnancy. The production numbers themselves are often smutty (*smutty: obscene, indecent*), as when the character of “Rachel” wore a belly-showing, bra-baring shirt and an extremely short skirt, channeling Britney Spears' infamous Catholic school-girl outfit when she performed the hit “Baby One More Time” in a Spears tribute episode.

In case there's any doubt about what the show is selling, an October 2010 photo spread in GQ magazine featured the “Glee” actors Lea Michele, Cory Monteith and Dianna Agron in character, in a high school setting, in seductive positions. Michele was pictured in a full frontal shot on a pine, locker room bench seductively holding a red lollipop.

The photos were absolutely “in your face,” and “Glee” is itself not much more subtle.

One of the things Shapiro found in

Conservatives have to wonder what's "quirky and sweet" about a show in which half the teenagers are sexually confused and the other half are sleeping around, or how ridiculing conservative principles and figures equals a "nonpartisan funfest."

writing "Primetime Propaganda" was Hollywood's aggressive personal dislike of conservatives. "Golden Girls" creator Susan Harris called right-wingers "idiots" with "medieval minds."

You can check that box for "Glee," as well. Here's a comedic gem from last season: "You may be two of the stupidest teens I've ever encountered. And that's saying something. I once taught a cheerleading seminar to a young Sarah Palin." Palin wasn't just the butt of cheap jokes. She got an extended savaging when comedian Kathy Griffin played a Palin-like Tea Party politician in a later episode.

The show is no kinder to characters who don't share "Glee's" get-it-while-you-can attitude toward sex. In one episode, the head of the school's "chastity club" gets pregnant from a drunken hook-up, bringing an anti-abstinence lecture from "Rachel":

Our hormones are driving us too crazy to abstain. The second we start telling ourselves there's no compromise we act out. The only way to beat teen sexuality is to be prepared. That's what contraception is for.

Got that? It's not just conservative teens. Glee's producers have an awfully low opinion of teens in general. Like most liberals, they don't really believe individuals can act with responsibility and self discipline (let alone subscribe to anything like traditional sexual morality).

And that's an important thing to remember about the people who make "Glee" and other Hollywood products – their contempt (*contempt: a feeling that someone or something is not worthy of any respect*) for their audiences. Yes, you're viewers who must be entertained, but you're also subjects to be manipulated. So their programs carry messages that are relentlessly if-it-feels-good-do-it, pro-gay, pro-abortion, anti-religious and anti-conservative.

Other than that, they're "quirky, sweet, humorous, nonpartisan funfests."

>> **Matt Philbin** is managing editor of the Media Research Center's Culture & Media and Business & Media Institutes. www.mrc.org.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A WRITER?



Send your essay to us at

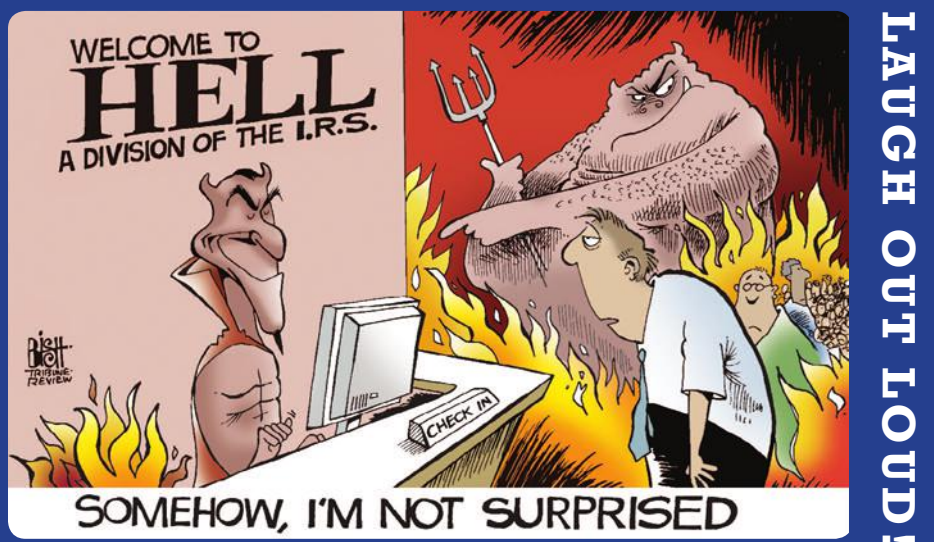
THE CONSERVATIVE teen

Essays can be related to anything cultural, social, economic, or political.

ESSAYS MUST BE:

- ★ Your original content
- ★ Less than 1500 words
- ★ Grammatically correct

Send your essay to our email at support@theconservativeteen.com



LAUGH OUT LOUD!

SOMEHOW, I'M NOT SURPRISED

An Oscar Take On the Culture War

Oscar epics and the battle for America.
by **Darin Miller**



In cinematic history, three films garnered more Oscar awards than any others: “Ben-Hur” (1959), “Titanic” (1997) and “The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King” (2003). Each picked up 11 Oscar wins for categories ranging from best actor to best make-up, and each earned the “Best Picture” Oscar for its year.

When reflecting on them chronologically, these three films nicely capture America as it was and as it is – and what you as a young conservative can do about it.

“Ben-Hur,” the story of one man’s revenge and redemption in the days of Jesus in Palestine, is a film from simpler times, when Elvis Presley’s hips were the most scandalous thing appearing on TV. It is a straightforward presentation of the healing power of Christ, and how He can transform hardened hearts.

In the decades that followed the release of “Ben-Hur,” cinema – and indeed,

America as a whole – changed significantly. A decade later, “Midnight Cowboy,” a film about a male prostitute and the first film to receive an X rating, won the “Best Picture” Oscar in a complete about-face from “Ben-Hur.” America marched steadily to the left as the Hippie counter-culture and Supreme Court decisions transformed America. Prayer was banned in public schools. In *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court declared abortion on demand to be a “constitutional right.” Excessive violence and sex on TV and in movies became the norm, while Christian and conservative characters were reduced to the brunt of jokes.

Meanwhile, the family began to fall apart. No-fault divorce led to skyrocketing divorce rates. Single-parent households led to increased dependence on government welfare. As the government expanded to help hurting households, it took control of more and more of our society. Out of control borrowing and spending now weighs heavily on the U.S. economy as our

national debt soars in the trillions.

Kind of sounds like that second Oscar heavyweight: “Titanic.” America is literally on the verge of fiscal bankruptcy. The origins of this bankruptcy can be traced back to a deficit of character and morality.

The strength of the family is directly tied to the strength of our economy. Broken families drain the economy through welfare services. Strong families help each other in times of need, and keep the government from having to step in and pick up the slack. Our Family Research Council’s Dr. Pat Fagan once did a study where he took children who were living in single-parent households and “married” their moms or dads to each other through a computer program. He found that the simple act of marriage – thus combining household incomes and giving children two parents to support them – raised 80 percent of those children and their families out of poverty. Think of how this would help the economy and remove the strain on the government.

While this might sound like common sense, it's not to everyone. Many politicians, reporters, experts, pundits and Hollywood types cry out for more government to fix the problems that only stronger families can fix. Too many of our libertarian, limited government friends side with these elites, thinking an "anything goes" mentality will have little affect on our society. And on the budget side, far too many politicians are unwilling to address major spending issues that are bankrupting our nation.

If we have stronger families, we won't need big government to take care of us. Churches also have a role to play. The church has a biblical responsibility to help the poor. Ensuring that the church is free to serve God without government restrictions on what it can say and do and without forcing political correctness on its operations is essential to a strong nation. Good social policy – lower taxes, child tax credits, protections for the unborn, incentives for couples to marry and stay married in the tax code and generally keeping the government out of church, the classroom and home life – can steer the

nation back to a fiscally and morally sound foundation that promotes prosperity, hard work and helping others, not a welfare society.

Admittedly, sometimes as a conservative I feel like I'm outnumbered. Sometimes it feels like the conservative side is facing the wrath of Sauron and Saruman, the villains of "Lord of the Rings," of a giant force bent on destroying the America we love. And all we have is a small army of culture warriors, without the resources of our opponents.

There are a couple of lessons we can glean from J. R. R. Tolkien's Fellowship who banded together for a quest to save Middle Earth. First, while the Fellowship was small, they were not alone. And while you might feel alone sometimes, in a school filled with kids who will mock you for avoiding under-age drinking and premarital sex and an "anything goes" lifestyle, you're not. The

Sometimes it feels like the conservative side is facing the wrath of Sauron and Saruman, the villains of "Lord of the Ring," of a giant force bent on destroying the America we love. And all we have is a small army of culture warriors, without the resources of our opponents.

conservative movement is much bigger than polling shows, as the rise of the Tea Party clearly illustrates. We're not always as outspoken as those on the other side. But we have numbers aplenty.

Secondly, the good wizard Gandalf reminds us in the first "Lord of the Rings" film that what happened before we came along can't be helped. Yes, the problems with America today stem from social and fiscal policy established during or even before our parents' time. But we can't change the past. "All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us," Gandalf tells the hobbit Frodo. That's an encouraging thought, because it gives us our direction. Forward.

If you're reading this magazine, you've already taken the first step forward – to get educated. As this column continues, I'll look at specific issues and why the conservative way is the best way. It's my hope that it will help you as you discuss and debate with friends and teachers.

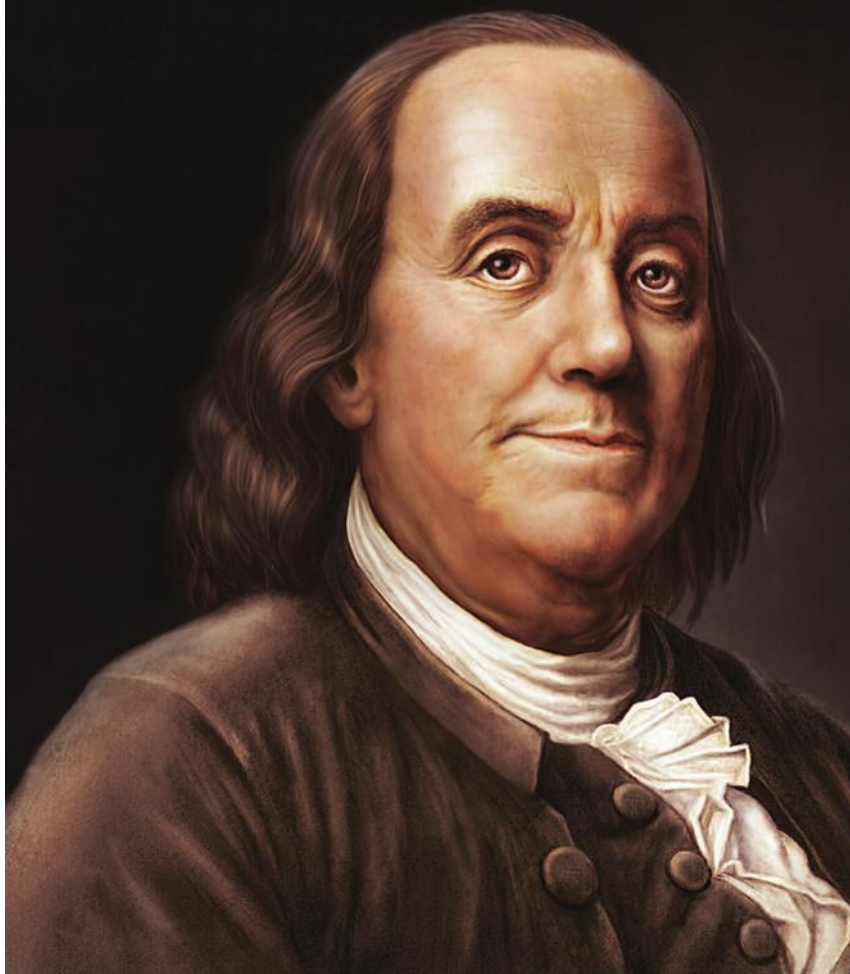
And maybe in 20 years another great Oscar winner will come along and nicely illustrate where our country is then headed. Hopefully it will be an optimistic film, looking at a world with a bright future. But where our country goes starts with each of us, today. That's where we come in. The future is what we make it. I hope you will embrace it with Christian faith, hope and love.

>> *Darin Miller is a writer and media coordinator at the Family Research Council.*



A Nation Founded On Ideas

The principles that drove the American Revolution can and should guide us today. **by Matthew Spalding**



America is an exceptional nation, but not because of what it has achieved or accomplished. America is exceptional because, unlike any other nation, it is dedicated to the principles of human liberty, grounded on the truths that all men are created equal and endowed with equal rights. These permanent truths are “applicable to all men and all times,” as Abraham Lincoln once said.

America’s principles have created a prosperous and just nation unlike any other nation in history. They explain why Americans strongly defend their country, look fondly to their nation’s origins, vigilantly assert their political rights and civic responsibilities, and remain convinced of the special meaning of their country and its role of the world. It is *because* of its principles, not despite them, that America has achieved greatness.

Can a nation so conceived and dedicated endure? From the beginning this has been the key question.

When Benjamin Franklin departed the Constitutional Convention, he was asked by an acquaintance if the delegates

had created a monarchy (*monarchy: total rule by one person*) or a republic (*republic: a government in which supreme power belongs to the citizens through their right to vote*). “A republic,” he replied, “if you can keep it.” Our nation’s Founders knew that the perpetuation of liberty would always depend on spirited citizens and patriotic statesmen actively engaged in the democratic task of governing themselves, holding to the truths of 1776.

Today, according to numerous studies, most high-school and college students do not know the basic facts of American history. They consistently score poorly in virtually every measure of civic knowledge. But while there is much that we have forgotten, this is not simply a case of national amnesia. This distressing state signals a larger systemic problem (*systemic: relating to an entire system*).

In many circles, especially among the learned elites of our universities and law schools—those who teach the next generation, shape our popular culture, and set the terms of our political dialogue—the self-evident truths upon which America depends have been replaced by the passionately held belief that no such truths exist.

Over the last century the federal government has lost much of its mooring (*mooring: the anchors, ropes, and cables that are used to hold a boat or ship in place*). Today it acts with little regard for the limits placed upon it by the Constitution. Indeed, many of our civic and political leaders now regard the nation’s founding principles as obsolete.

On both the Left and the Right, our political leaders are increasingly unsure of their way, speaking in inspiring generalities. Increasingly, they are mired in small-minded politics and petty debates. As a nation, we are left divided about our own meaning, unable—perhaps unwilling—to defend our ideas, our institutions, and maybe even ourselves.

Our federal government, once limited to certain core functions, now dominates virtually every area of American life. Its authority is all but unquestioned, seemingly restricted only by expediency and the occasional pinch of the budget.

Congress passes massive pieces of legislation with little serious deliberation. Often, these bills that are written in secret and generally unread before the vote. The national legislature is increasingly a supervisory body overseeing a vast array of

administrative policymakers and rulemaking agencies. Although the Constitution vests legislative powers in Congress, the majority of “laws” today are promulgated in the form of “regulations” by bureaucrats (*bureaucrat: a person of the government who does everything according to the rules of that government*) who are mostly unaccountable and invisible to the public.

Americans are wrapped in an intricate web of government policies and procedures. States, localities, and private institutions are submerged by national programs. The states, which increasingly administer policies handed down from Washington, act like beggars seeking relief from the federal government. Growing streams of money flow from the federal government to every congressional district and city. Meanwhile, businesses, organizations, and individuals subject to escalating federal regulations also clamor for aid from government.

This bureaucracy (*bureaucracy: a system of government that has many complicated rules*) has become so overwhelming, it’s not clear how modern presidents can fulfill their constitutional obligation to “take care that the laws be faithfully executed.” President Obama, like his recent predecessors, has appointed a swarm of policy “czars” — super bureaucrats operating outside the normal framework and perhaps outside the Constitution — to promote political objectives in an administration supposedly under executive control (*czar: unofficial title for a person who is in charge of a government office or department*).

From the decline of civic education to the rise in dependency on government, many of our society’s problems are rooted in a deep confusion about the meaning and status of America’s core principles. We face many challenges, from unsustainable spending and increasing debt, to a host of security threats from abroad. Yet the real crisis that tears at the American soul is not a lack of courage or solutions. It’s a loss of conviction (*conviction: the feeling of being sure that what you believe is true*). Do we still hold these truths? Do the principles that inspired the American Founding retain their relevance in the twenty-first century? We

Today, according to numerous studies, most high-school and college students do not know the basic facts of American history.

will find it difficult to know what to do and how to do it as long as we are not sure who we are and what we believe.

There is something about a nation founded on principles, something unique in its politics that often gets shoved to the background but never disappears. Most of the time, American politics is about local issues and the small handful of policy questions that top the national agenda. But once in a while, voters’ step back and take a longer view as they evaluate the present in the light of our founding principles. That is why all the great turning-point elections in U.S. history ultimately came down to a debate about the meaning and direction of America.

In our era of big government and the administrative state, the conventional wisdom has been that serious political realignment — bringing politics and government back into harmony with the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution — is no longer possible. Yet there are indications that we may be entering a period of just such realignment. Perhaps the progressive

transformation is incomplete, and the form of the modern state not yet settled — at least not by the American people.

We must restore America’s principles—the truths to which we are dedicated—as the central idea of our nation’s public philosophy. But before we can rededicate ourselves as a nation to these principles, we must rediscover them as a people. Only when we truly know these principles can we renew America. Only when we understand the significance of these principles can we grasp the nobility of our accomplishments as a people and see how far we have strayed off course as a nation. Only then can we properly evaluate the choices before us and begin to develop a strategy to reclaim our future.

>> **Matthew Spalding** is a vice president of The Heritage Foundation and the director of its B. Kenneth Simon Center for American Studies.



A graphic of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes, curving across the top of the page.

America the Exceptional

Why the U.S. is not like other countries. **by Matthew Spalding**

In 1776, when America announced its independence as a nation, it was but 13 colonies surrounded by hostile powers.

Today, the United States is a country of 50 states covering a vast continent. Its military forces are the most powerful on earth. Its economy produces almost a quarter of the world's wealth. American people are among the most hard-working, church-going, successful, and generous in the world.

What is it that makes America so exceptional?

Every nation derives meaning and purpose from some unifying quality—an ethnic character, a common religion, a shared history. The United States is different. As the English writer G. K. Chesterton famously observed, “America is the only nation in the world that is founded on a creed” (*creed: a set of fundamental beliefs or guiding principles*). That creed is set forth most clearly in the Declaration of Independence. It is a timeless statement of inherent rights, the proper purposes of government, and the limits on political authority.

The American Founders appealed to self-evident truths, stemming from “the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God,” to justify their liberty. This is a universal and permanent standard. These truths are not unique to America but apply to all men and women everywhere. And they are as true today as they were in 1776.

The American Revolution drew on old ideas. The United States is the product of Western civilization, shaped by Judeo-Christian (*Judeo: Judaism; Judaism: religion of the Jewish people*) culture and the political liberties inherited from Great Britain. Yet the founding of the United States was also *revolutionary*. Not in the sense of replacing one set of rulers with another, or overthrowing the institutions of society, but in placing political authority in the hands of the people.

Working from the principle of equality, the American Founders asserted that men could govern themselves according to common beliefs and the rule of law. Throughout history, political power was—and still is—often held by the strongest. But if all are equal and have the same rights, then no one is fit by nature to rule or to be ruled. As Thomas Jefferson put it, “[T]he

mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few booted and spurred, ready to ride them legitimately, by the grace of God.” The only source of the legitimate (*legitimate: lawful; justifiable*) powers of government is the consent of the governed. This revolutionary principle is the cornerstone of American government, society, and independence.

America’s principles establish religious liberty as a fundamental right. Government must not establish an official religion, just as it must guarantee the free exercise of religion. Indeed, popular government requires a flourishing of religious faith. If a free people are to govern themselves politically, they must first govern themselves morally.

These principles also mean that everyone has the right to the fruits of their own labor. This fundamental right to acquire, possess, and sell property is the backbone of opportunity and the most practical means to pursue human happiness. This right, along with the free enterprise system that stems from it, is the source of prosperity and the foundation of economic liberty.

Because people have rights,

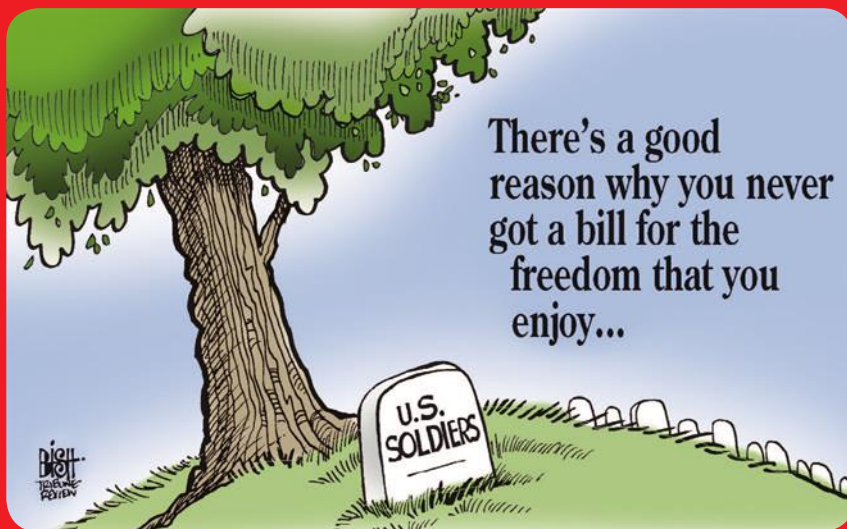
government has only the powers that the sovereign people (*sovereign: autonomous; independent*) have delegated to it. These powers are specified by a codified law called a constitution. Under the rule of law, all are protected by generally agreed-upon laws that apply, equally, to everyone.

The United States Constitution defines the institutions of American government: three distinct branches of government that make the law, enforce the law, and judge the law in particular cases. This framework gives the American government the powers it needs to secure our fundamental rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The ultimate purpose of securing these rights and of limiting government is to protect human freedom. That freedom allows the institutions of civil society—family, school, church, and private associations—to thrive, forming the habits and virtues required for liberty.

The same principles that define America also shape its understanding of the world. The United States is a nation founded on *universal* principles. Liberty does not belong only to the United States. The Declaration of Independence holds that all men everywhere are endowed with a right to liberty. That liberty is a permanent aspect of human nature everywhere is central to understanding America's first principles.

LAUGH OUT LOUD!



There's a good reason why you never got a bill for the freedom that you enjoy...

Because people have rights, government has only the powers that the sovereign people (*sovereign: autonomous; independent*) have delegated to it.

Nevertheless, the primary responsibility of the United States is to defend the freedom and well-being of the American people. To do this, the United States must apply America's universal principles to the challenges this nation faces in the world.

This is not easy. America has not always been successful. But because of the principles to which it is dedicated, the United

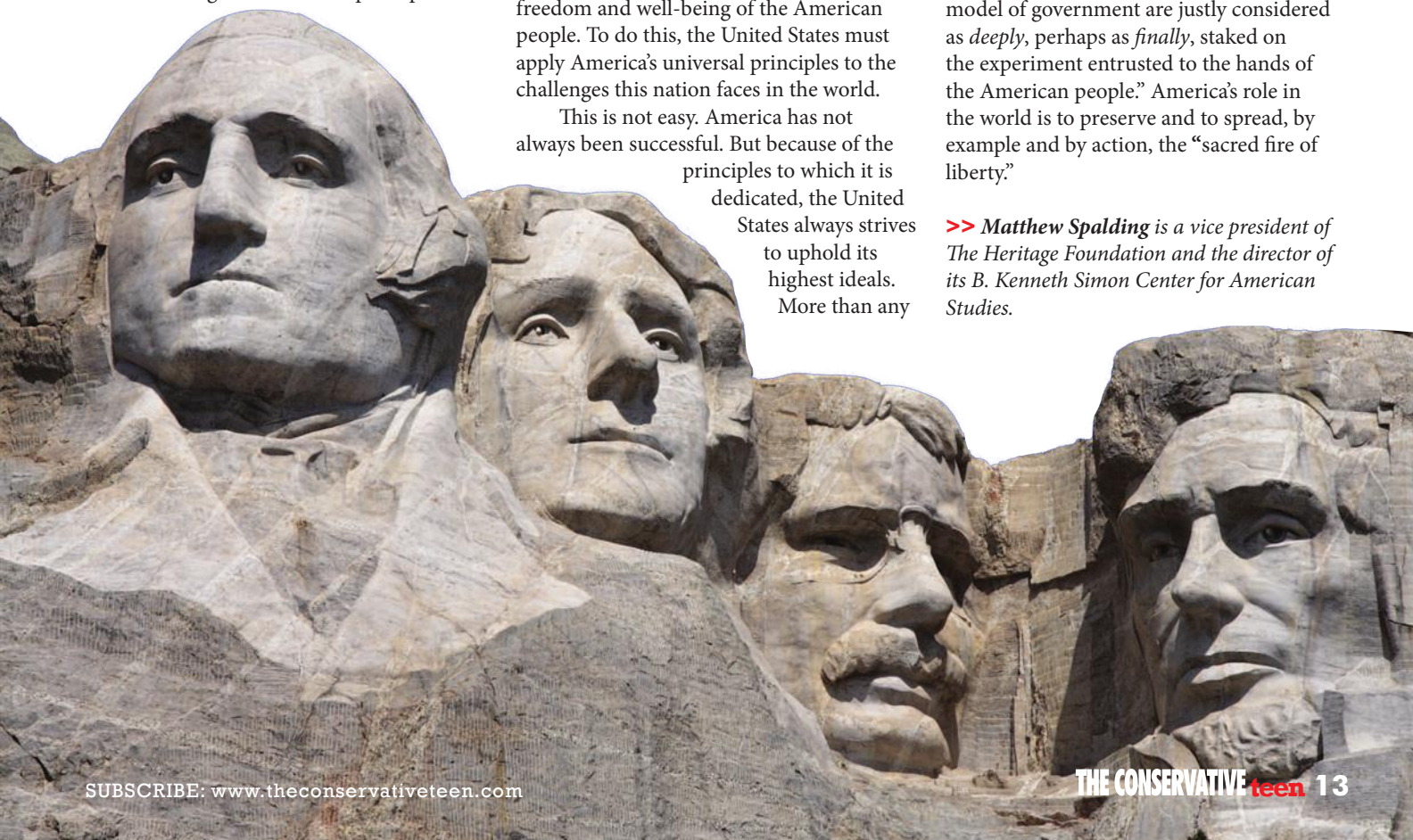
States always strives to uphold its highest ideals. More than any

Address: "The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered as *deeply*, perhaps as *finally*, staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people." America's role in the world is to preserve and to spread, by example and by action, the "sacred fire of liberty."

>> **Matthew Spalding** is a vice president of The Heritage Foundation and the director of its B. Kenneth Simon Center for American Studies.

other nation, it has a special responsibility to defend the cause of liberty at home and abroad.

As George Washington put it in his First Inaugural



The Declaration of Independence and What it Expects of You



A republic, madam, if you can keep it! **by James Brigleb**

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Familiar words? (I hope so.) Do you know their context... to what document they belong? I'll guess most readers will say, "Martin Luther King, Jr. said those words on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in his famous 'I Have a Dream' Speech." (Are you in the MLK, Jr. group?) My second hunch is the response of, "We had to memorize that passage in school." Or finally, perhaps you watch a conservative news channel, or saw a documentary about the beginnings of the United States. What document includes that famous sentence? That's right...The Declaration of Independence.

Did you know the document was written as a letter? The men who composed the letter felt called to send an explanation to another group of people. Allow me to explain.

Beginning in 1607, England established its first successful colony in Jamestown, Virginia - with others to follow soon after. During the 18th century, until 1776, America had become a collection of thirteen, loosely knit colonies owned and controlled by England. England, like other European countries, originally sought to find a westerly route to Asia - for trade. However, in their attempt to get to Asia, the Europeans unexpectedly discovered the existence of two new continents - North and South America. With new lands and opportunities before them, the European

countries began establishing colonies in this *New World*. The main players were Spain, France, England, Portugal, and to a lesser extent, the Dutch. In the minds of both government and colonists, a colony was considered not only property of the European country, it was considered part of that country - just as in traveling to Hawaii today, we step out of the airplane onto American soil.

Initially, colonists coming from England did not consider themselves "Americans." No, they considered themselves "English," and were fiercely proud of it. Accordingly, colonists believed they retained all the rights of any Englishman - the right to own property, be entitled to a trial by jury of their peers, and vote for representatives who would, in turn, determine such matters as amount of taxation. However, the English government proved itself inconsistent in granting the colonists these rights. Consequently, over time, the colonists in the American colonies grew bitter over being treated as less than equal citizens.

Repeated attempts were made through protests, boycotts, petitions, demonstrations, threats, and eventually civil disobedience to convince the English government of the need to recognize the colonists as equals. These attempts were met with the English government's resistance, and colonial efforts, alas, were futile. Between 1760 and 1775, colonists identified less and less with England, and began forging a new identity as Americans.

During an illegal meeting, a group of delegates representing the colonies determined it was time to break away from England in order to become an independent nation. Out of respect, this meeting of colonial delegates, referred to as Continental

Congress, decided such a dramatic decision necessitated a letter of explanation to King George III and the British Parliament - outlining their reasoning and justification for doing so. That letter is the Declaration of Independence.

The elegance of the Declaration of Independence cannot be overstated. In relatively few words, Thomas Jefferson, with some input from John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston, penned the guiding principles of what this new country believed about human rights, the purpose of government, the nature of people, and the responsibility of the people. Did you notice that *people* tends to be the focus? The government, according to our Founding Fathers, exists to serve the people, and the people are the source of the government's power.

While the Constitution of the United States, written in 1787, is nicknamed *The Supreme Law of the Land* and provides the foundational framework for our government, it is the Declaration of Independence which truly serves as the cornerstone of that foundation. In other words, the Constitution is built upon the principles set forth in the Declaration. For that reason, we should know and understand the content of the Declaration of Independence. Otherwise, we can't really comprehend the purpose and duty of our government.

While easily understood to listeners and readers in 1776, the language is quite different from our contemporary communication. That being the case, allow me to walk you through an essential portion of the document. (The actual document words are in bold, followed by a paraphrase in italics.)

We hold these truths to be self-



States of America,

political bands which have connected them with another, and to a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that the all men are created equal, that they are endowed...

evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

There are truths we believe to be obvious to all: all men are created equally, they have rights given to them by God including their life, their right to be free, and their right to pursue a life which fulfills them.

— That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...

In order to protect and maintain these God-given rights, it is necessary to form a government. Government obtains permission to rule from the people, and this government will have only as much power as the people determine is necessary...

— That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

If the government fails to protect the rights of the people, then it is the people's right, to change or even get rid of their government. If they do so, then the people should design a new government, built upon their beliefs, and organized in such a way the people believe it will bring about their safety and happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer,

while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

Learning from the past, we know that if a government has served the people well, it should not be changed for trendy or fashionable reasons; and by observing human nature, we can see that people are likely to put up with bad government they have tolerated for some time, as long as they can stand it, rather getting rid of that bad government and starting over.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism...

But, when the bad government continuously takes away the God-given rights and treats the people harshly, and it becomes clear that the object is to put the people under total control of the government...

... it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

...it is not only the people's right, it is their duty to get rid of the bad government, and put into place new protections for their future.

The document goes on to enumerate specific actions taken by England which substantiated the abuses practiced by the English government against the colonists. The letter concludes with this statement of determination:

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Fifty-six men, delegates to this Second Continental Congress, signed the letter. In doing so, they were "going public." Once that letter was sent, there was no hiding behind the protection of anonymity - their identity was obvious for all to see. In retrospect, we think little of the risk - as the outcome of the Revolutionary War was victory for

the Americans. At the time of the signing, however, that resolution was far from a sure thing. In fact, at the beginning of the War, the prospects of the Americans winning was considered not only absurd, but laughable. Accordingly, the 56 signers had to consider the consequences of losing the War - most likely being hung as traitors to England; it would be the leaders who would be singled out for punishment. Punishment for treason to one's country? Death.

What a relief it must have been to them that we won, right? Yes, however, during the course of the next five years, five of the signers were captured by the British and tortured before they died. Twelve others had their properties identified which were completely destroyed. Nine others fought in the War and died from wounds. Several died impoverished, selling all they had to support the War effort or attempting to pay off debts. Another was driven from the bedside of his dying wife, lived for a year in caves, and returned to find not only his wife dead, but his 13 children had vanished; John Hart died a few weeks later - exhausted and broken hearted. Ask yourself: "Would you be willing to make such a sacrifice for your country?"

In reviewing this letter we call the Declaration of Independence, for what were these men willing to die? If one dies for something, we assume the motive is to preserve and protect something cherished for future generations - otherwise the dying is meaningless. There would be no point in making a sacrifice - especially of one's life if something wasn't preserved in the sacrifice. The letter gives us the answers:

1. We are given rights by God which cannot be taken away.
2. These rights are so valuable, they need protection - therefore we develop a government to do so.
3. If the government fails to protect our rights, we have the right to change or eliminate our government.
4. If eliminated, it is important to develop a new government - because



Government is to serve the people - not the other way around. The power comes from the people.

the original need for government still exists.

5. Government should not be changed for temporary reasons; the need for change should be based upon people's needs which transcend an immediate and temporary desire.
6. Human nature tends to be overly tolerant of bad government; history shows people don't, by nature, hold their government accountable to its purpose.
7. However, when it becomes obvious the government has a goal of destroying the God-given rights and freedoms of the people, the people have a duty to change or eliminate that government.
8. The security of the people (the country) is dependent upon eliminating the bad government, and then replacing it with elected and appointed officials who understand and practice this: Our purpose in government is to protect the God-given rights of the people - their Life, their Liberty, and their Pursuit of Happiness.

Government is to serve the people - not the other way around. The power comes from the people. The duty is upon the government. But note: The government is not a self-regulating machine. It is necessary for the people to monitor their government, to stay on top of the government, and make the changes when necessary.

Eleven years following the writing of the Declaration of Independence, the foundation of our government was developed in the writing of the Constitution of the United States. The Constitution was specifically designed to follow the guidance given in the Declaration. After four months of debating, considering, and development, the Constitutional delegates concluded their work, and prepared to send the plan to the states for ratification. One of the instrumental delegates was Benjamin Franklin. Upon exiting, it is said that a woman approached the Statesman and asked, "Dr. Franklin, what form of government have you given us?" His response - "A Republic, madam, if you can keep it."

A republic is that form where

representatives are elected who act on behalf of the people. Franklin well understood the burden of responsibility this government would require of the people - if the experiment were to be successful. From history, it was fairly obvious that men given too much power would become corrupt over time. The people governed would tolerate bad government due to their pre-occupation with everyday demands of simply living.

However, in a republic, potential representatives must be scrutinized for their commitment to preserving the rights of the people. Assessment and analysis of the "would-be rulers" and their promises serves as homework required of voters. But that would not be the end of the assignment; once in power, the people would have to evaluate the actions and decisions of their leaders. If the republic was to survive, the people would have to be aware, informed, ready, and willing to change the leadership - or even, to use force if necessary, in order to protect their God-given rights.

Maintaining and protecting our country requires participation from the people. As citizens, we have quite a bit of homework to do by way of learning how our economy works, understanding risks and benefits of interacting with the environment to obtain natural resources, remaining vigilant about what is taught in our schools, and staying current on

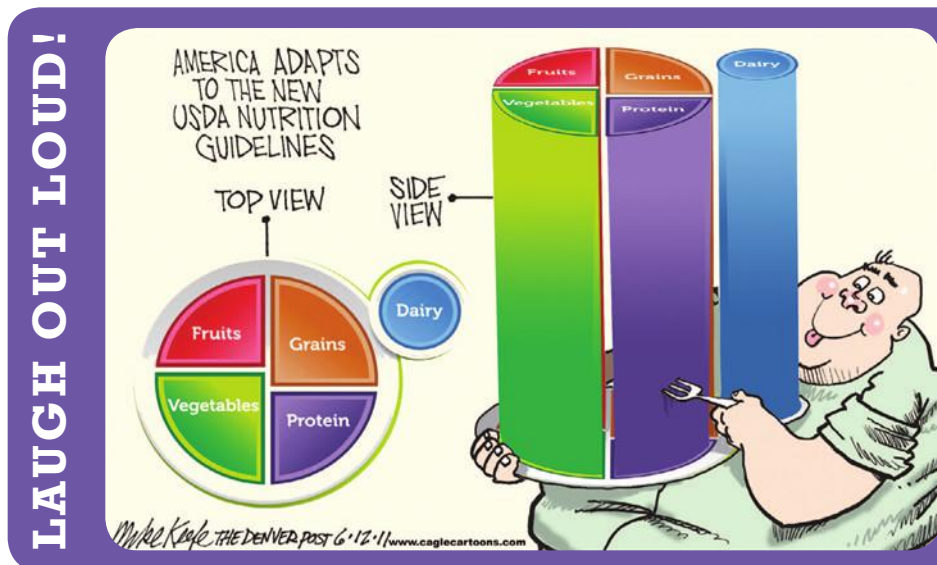
threats and needs from around the world. We need to read and understand our Constitution - appreciating that it serves as the "rule book" for how our government is

to operate. To do so, each person must be willing to devote some of their time, energy, and resources. Are we willing? The Signers said, "Here's my level of commitment: I will die if necessary. I will give up all my material possessions if necessary. I will give up my reputation and my standing in the community so that my children and children's children can have a country that devotes itself to protecting our God-given rights!"

The Founding Fathers understood our human nature; they knew it would be harder to hold our government accountable than to simply live a daily life taking care of our personal needs and wants. Yet they were willing to sacrifice everything for future generations to have a government which truly was of the people, by the people, and for the people. A government which would exist to protect the rights of the people.

How about you? What is your level of commitment? Will you help protect this great country we enjoy, for the benefit of your future children and grandchildren? And if not you, then who?

>> **James (Jim) Brigleb** is a retired school teacher who taught history to teens for 30 years. You can learn more about his new book *United States History: Roots through Constitution; Our Disappearing Legacy* at <http://jimbrigleb.com>, or you may email Jim directly at constitutiontoday@gmail.com.



END THE DEBT

TO BEGIN YOUR DREAMS

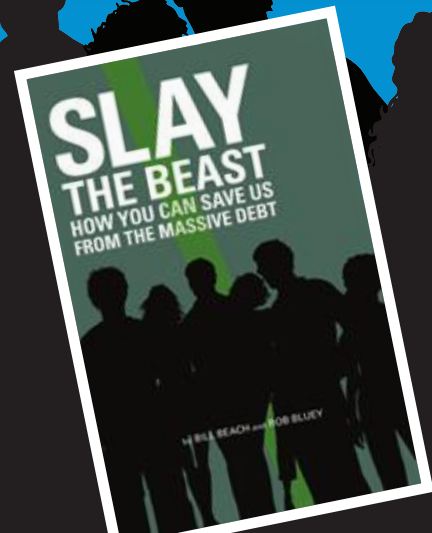
Someone's been using your credit card, spending money for their own schemes. Imagine if, in a few years, a bill for over \$31,000 hit your mailbox.

That *someone* is the federal government, racking up over \$14 trillion in unpaid debt (\$31,000+ is your share). The result is less income and fewer job opportunities for you.

In *Slay the Beast*, you'll join a lively conversation with two experts from The Heritage Foundation who ask the tough questions: *How big is the problem? Who's to blame? What can we do?* By taking charge of your own finances—and slaying the debt beast in Washington—you can secure your future.



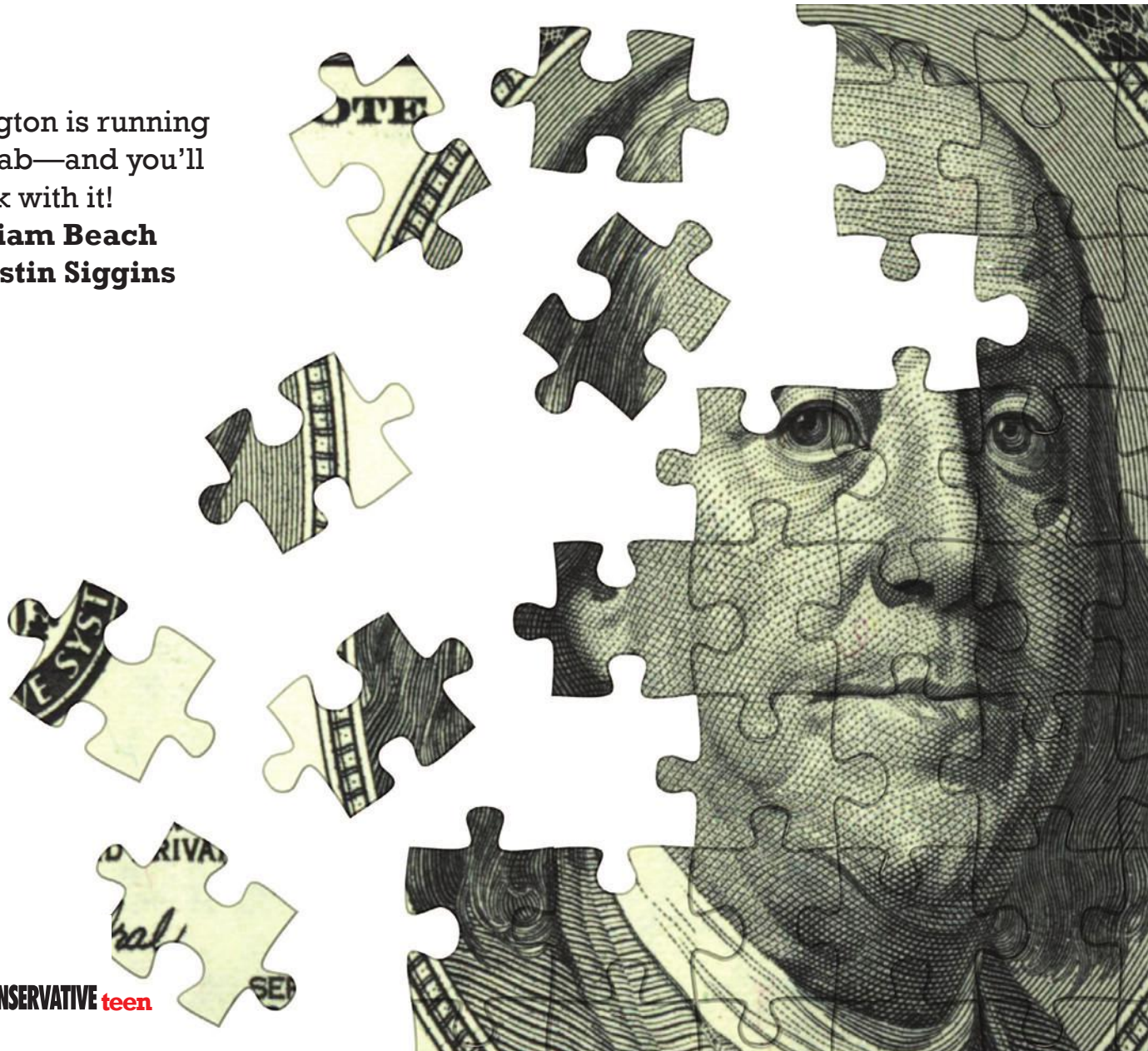
To get your FREE online copy of *Slay the Beast*, and to learn more about our Young Leaders Program, go to heritage.org/SlayTheBeast.



WELCOME TO THE DEBT-PAYING GENERATION


Washington is running
up the tab—and you'll
be stuck with it!

by **William Beach**
and **Dustin Siggins**



So you thought you were short of money! Over the last 10 years, the federal government has spent \$8.7 trillion more than it took in. And 10 years from now, our federal government will have rung-up publicly held debt totaling \$18.5 trillion. Total debt will be over \$20 trillion (that's the number 20 followed by 12 zeros).

All of this debt will have to be repaid, with interest. Guess who gets stuck with that bill? It's not your grandparents, or even your own parents. It's you and your friends—America's Debt-Paying Generation.



How much will it cost you? The debt works out to \$161,000 per working person in 2021. Paying back just the debt that's already on the books will be like buying a brand new iPhone 4 (at today's \$299 price) every month... for the next 45 years. Only, at the end of that 45 years, you won't have a collection of 540 iPhones—you'll have nothing to show for all that money.

Who, exactly, is the Debt-Paying Generation? All Americans between 5 and 30 years of age. The good news is that there are 115 million of you, which means you will have political power one day. The bad news: You will spend your whole life paying off these big debts. That means that you will live in a weaker economy, make less money, and have a more miserable time than any other generation in U.S. history... unless things get changed right away.

Deal or No Deal?

Some folks will try to argue that all the new debt is

worth it, that all this deficit spending is an "investment" that's saving our economy. So, how's that working out?

Take the trillion spent on President Obama's "economic stimulus" plan. We were told it would lower the unemployment rate to about 6.5 percent. Instead, the rate rose to 10 percent! Two years later, in May 2011, was still sky-high: 9.1 percent. And don't even talk about teen unemployment: a whopping 24.2 percent in May!

How has the economy done? Coming out of a recession, it should be growing about 5 - 6 percent per year for a couple of years. But since the government borrowed and spent the stimulus money in early 2009, we have yet to grow above 3 percent for four calendar quarters in a row. That's not fast enough to produce the jobs for all the new folks entering the workforce, much less make a dent in the unemployment rate.

And how about those bank bailouts? The bank bailout law gave banks hundreds of billions. It was supposed to get them to start lending to businesses and homeowners again. However, the nation's lenders are just as tight with their money today as they were during the recession (which officially ended in June 2009).

Unfortunately, the federal government's most notable "accomplishment" over the last two years is their record level of borrowing. That has prompted two credit rating agencies to issue dire warnings. Standard and Poor's, a major credit rating company, has downgraded U.S. debt to a negative outlook in less than a decade. And

Moody's Investors Service, the second most important credit rating firm, has threatened to do the same. You've heard about credit scores? Ours just got hammered.

The Impact on Young People

Unless the federal government makes major changes in its spending habits, we are on the road to financial ruin—even without additional "stimulus" or bail-out fiascos (*fiasco: a complete failure or disaster*). That's because the Big 3 entitlement programs—Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid—are not even part of the regular budgeting process. Instead, spending on these programs is on auto-pilot—and soaring ever higher.

Unless Congress reforms both Social Security and Medicare, their top numbers-crunchers estimate that payroll taxes (*payroll tax: money paid by your parents in addition to income tax*) will have to increase to nearly 26% in the next two decades to deliver the benefits promised by those programs. That means a quarter of your paycheck will be taken off the top to fund those programs.

Already those programs account for 34% of all federal spending. And over the next 20 years, the number of retirees collecting these benefits will expand from 31 million to 51 million. That will push program costs well beyond this nation's ability to afford them.

Let's put the situation in historical perspective. At the end of World War II, America's debt was 108% of Gross Domestic Product (*Gross Domestic Product: the total value of all American goods and services produced in a year*). That was considered massive debt. By 2050, the debt will reach 344% of expected GDP—over three times that which was built upon the largest war in history. And it will be almost entirely because of unaffordable entitlements (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid).

When it comes down to it, you will be paying your grandparents Medicare and Social Security benefits, while you're also trying to make your rent and pay the rest of your bills for food, clothing, health care, transportation and all other living expenses.

Now Let's REALLY Personalize It

It gets worse. As the debt gets bigger and bigger, the economy slows down. Why? For starters, investors—the people who buy stocks, fund new factories, and provide

financial support for research—get more and more worried that high government debt will raise interest rates. High interest rates reduce profits from investments. Second, taxes rise to pay down the debt. And higher taxes leave people and businesses with less spendable income, which further slows the economy.

A slower economy also produces some unexpected consequences.

First, young people delay marriage in hard economic times—especially when they expect the tough times to continue. (In these less-than-rosy times, the median age for marriage has increased to 27 for women and 27.5 years for men.)

The delay in marriage leads to women having fewer babies. With fewer babies born to members of the Debt-Paying Generation, there will be fewer future workers, which generally reduces economic activity. It also means there will be fewer young adults to look after the aging Debt-Paying Generation and pay their entitlement benefits when they begin to retire around 2050.

Another thing about babies: having one triggers a lot of “nesting” decisions. When couples postpone marriage and babies, they also postpone buying first homes and all the furniture and other gear that goes with moving into a house. All of that further reduces economic activity.

Finally, it's much harder to save in an economy slowed by ballooning debt. When wages are depressed, taxes increase and prices (inflation) takes off, who can save? Not only does that leave you with little or nothing in reserve for life's emergencies, it

leaves you with no nest egg for a better education (whether your own or your children's).

And it's a fact that educational attainment (like graduating from college or not) accounts for over a third of the reason you end up poor or rich. Also, if you can pass on some money to your kids, it gives them a leg up in their lives. Low savings, however, means hard times for your “golden years,” and for the next generation.

What Can Be Done?

Obviously, we must change things if we are to have a better future, if America is to remain a Land of Opportunity. And young people are the key to making that change for the better. You can make a difference both in the policy/politics arena and personally as well. Let's tackle the personal angle first. After all, public policy can only do so much. It's up to you as a citizen to take care of yourself, your family and friends, and your community. Preparing for your personal future is probably the most important thing you can do to prepare for being part of the Debt-Paying Generation.

The first step is basic saving. The typical American today saves 5% of his income

To avoid becoming the Debt Paying Generation, we can't stay inside today's policy lines. Those lines must be rethought and redrawn... and quickly.

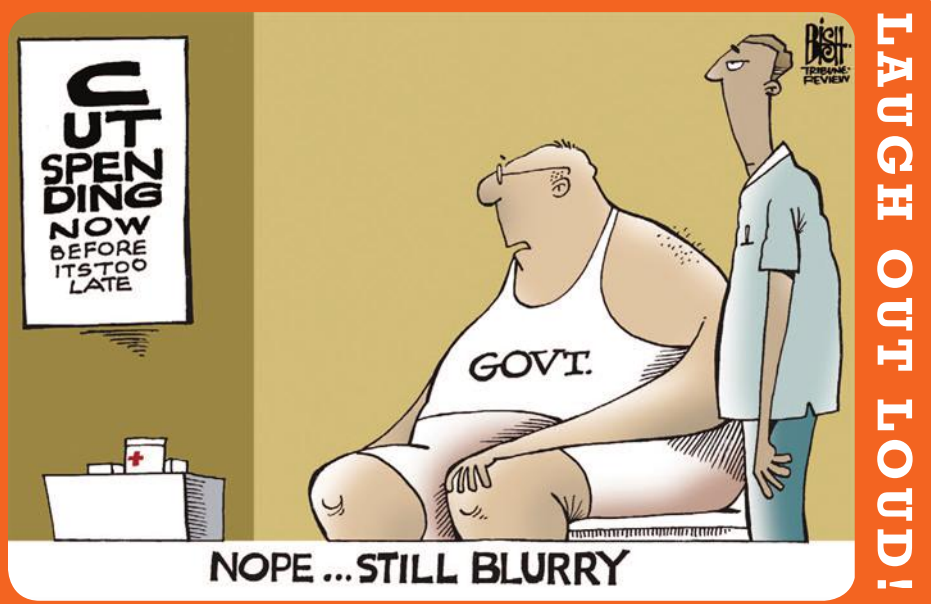
today—on average, less than \$2,500 per year. That's not even enough for a decent car every five years, never mind taking care of a family member or friend who falls on hard times.

Understanding basic finance, economics and accounting will pay off. Taking some classes on these subjects in high school or college can be a great investment, no matter what field you eventually enter. Spending money responsibly means you will have more money for the things that are really important to you, be it college, dating or that decent car.

Once you've saved, look at investment options. Gold, commodities, stocks, bonds are some of the most popular types of investments. For savings to grow into a meaningful nest egg, it must be invested. Otherwise, it simply loses value due to inflation.

One of the great mistakes of the last 25 years was the assumption that all young Americans must go to big, expensive colleges. This fallacy is quickly being rethought in today's tough economy. Three-year colleges are becoming increasingly popular, largely because their graduates save an average of \$10,000 per student. And more families are looking at community colleges and state colleges, where tuition costs are often far lower than at the big-name universities.

Over the last several generations, more schooling generally led to more income. It was nearly guaranteed that a high school graduate would make less than a four-year student, and someone with a Master's would make more than someone with a Bachelor's degree. That may not be true much longer. With the average collegiate graduating with more than \$40,000 in debt, those old assumptions may already be wrong.



The fact is, over the next eight years readers of this magazine will have to make decisions that will make a huge difference in their finances for the following five to seven decades. Understanding saving, investment, economics, finance, accounting, and the cost-benefit of education and career choices can help you make the choices that are best for you.

What about politics and policy? What difference can you make there? Well, we've got to stop electing inexperienced and poor-performing leaders, and we've got to know where our tax dollars are going before we can make practical decisions about how to get spending under control.

Consider this. Washington is borrowing 40 cents for every dollar it spends. Approximately 41 percent of the president's 2011 budget is spent on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid—programs that are driving us to the poorhouse, but that huge majorities of Americans don't want changed. Instead, they say we should cut foreign aid, which amounts to less than 2 percent of federal spending. We can't balance the budget that way.

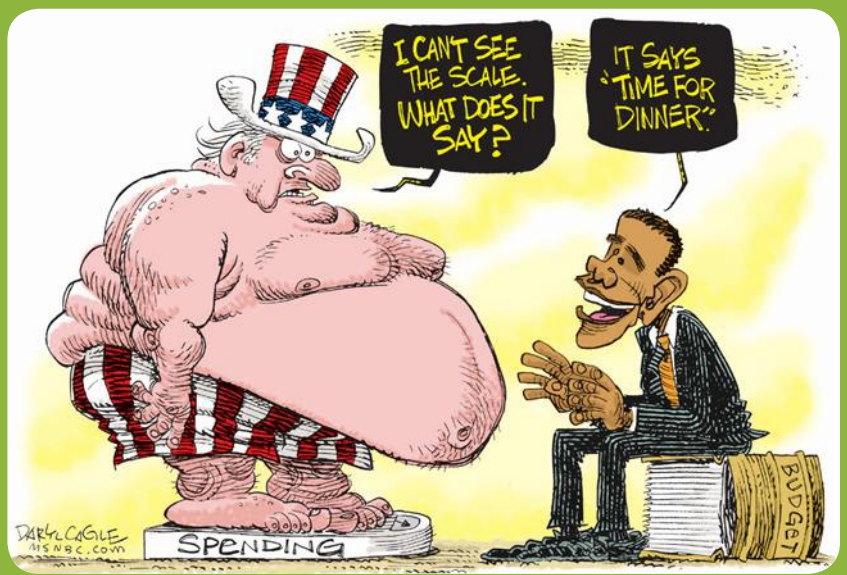
To avoid becoming the Debt Paying Generation, we can't stay inside today's policy lines. Those lines must be rethought and redrawn... and quickly. Tinkering around the edges of spending policy can't get us out from under our ever-growing mountain of debt.

The second thing is to educate the American public on politican-speak regarding the deficit and the debt. First, ask yourself if you know the difference between the deficit and the debt. If you do, great. You're ahead of the game. If not, you're going to be easy prey for big-spending politicians' double-talk.

Here's the difference. The deficit is the amount Congress overspends each year—the gap between how much money it collects and the much larger sum it pays out. The debt is the total amount of all those deficits—the total amount of money the federal government has borrowed to cover its overspending year and year after year. Both the deficits and debt are huge, and they must be repaid.

Keep this in mind as you watch the debates of the 2012 elections. Consider whether the candidates' proposals will increase America's debt or help reduce it. If you have any doubt, ask them. For example, the next time your representative or senator does a townhall-style meeting, ask if his or

LAUGH OUT LOUD!



her policies will cut the deficit. Then ask if the policies will cut the *debt*. After all, you can cut the deficit without cutting the debt. To do the latter, you need to balance the budget and start paying down the debt.

It can be done. A new Heritage Foundation publication, "Saving the American Dream," offers a solid roadmap for restoring fiscal sanity in our government. The key to the Heritage program is a fundamental rethinking of how best to provide needed income and health aid during and after one's working years. Besides the suggestions in that plan, breaking the debt grip on America can really be broken down into three categories, under the overarching concepts of increasing individual freedom for all and following the Constitution:

1. Reform our immoral and inefficient tax code, either via a national consumption tax on goods people and companies purchase (such as the Fair Tax legislation in Congress) or a national flat income tax (such as the one in the Heritage plan). While both have their weaknesses, they are substantially fairer and more economically efficient than the current tax system.
2. Cut spending. Basically anything ending with "Department" or "Administration" could be eliminated or diminished, starting with the TSA (Transportation Security Administration) and the Department of Education; fulfill all requirements for national security, but cut out every wasteful defense program and bureaucracy possible; and of course entitlements desperately need reforming.

It also wouldn't hurt to go after nearly \$100 billion in private-sector subsidies, hundreds of billions in

what Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) calls "fraud, waste, abuse and stupidity."

3. Shrink the government workforce. Fully one-sixth of America's workers are on the public payroll. Add in millions of government contractors, and well over 30 million people are being paid with tax dollars (money which will be deducted from your future paychecks). We support cutting 10% of all government employees or contractors—for mathematical reasons. Private sector jobs expand the economy and send money into the public treasury via taxes. But public sector jobs merely recycle the tax dollars (and borrowed funds). They don't grow the economy.

Whatever your political persuasion, the facts are clear: Washington is spending far more than we can afford. And with entitlements estimated to increase at the same time the Baby Boom generation starts collecting those benefits, America's financial position will become indefensible. Think Greece and France, the latter of which had major riots over raising their country's retirement age from 60 to 62.

The choice is simple: Do we act now to change course and avoid a fiscal meltdown? Or do we look the other way, think happy thoughts, and let fiscal reality hit us like a freight train? We're going to have to reform entitlements eventually; it's better that we control how it's done, instead of letting bankruptcy do the job.

>> **William Beach** is director of The Heritage Foundation's Center for Data Analysis. A contributor to several public policy blogs, Dustin Siggins is co-writing, with Beach, a book on "the Debt-Paying Generation."

Government Creates Poverty

by John Stossel



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

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

Nevertheless, Indian activists want more government "help."

It is intuitive to assume that, when people struggle, government "help" is the

answer. The opposite is true. American groups who are helped the most, do the worst.

Consider the Lumbees of Robeson County, N.C. -- a tribe not recognized as sovereign by the government and therefore ineligible for most of the "help" given other tribes. The Lumbees do much better than those recognized tribes.

Lumbees own their homes and succeed in business. They include real estate developer Jim Thomas, who used to own the Sacramento Kings, and Jack Lowery, who helped start the Cracker Barrel Restaurants. Lumbees started the first Indian-owned bank, which now has 12 branches.

The Lumbees' wealth is not from casino money.

"We don't have any casinos. We have 12 banks," says Ben Chavis, another successful Lumbee businessman. He also points out that Robeson County looks different from most Indian reservations.

"There's mansions. They look like English manors. I can take you to one

neighborhood where my people are from and show you nicer homes than the whole Sioux reservation."

Despite this success, professional "victims" activists want Congress to make the Lumbees dependent -- like other tribes. U.S. Rep. Mike McIntyre, D-N.C., has introduced the Lumbee Recognition Act, which would give the Lumbees the same "help" other tribes get -- about \$80 million a year. Some members of the tribe support the bill.

Of course they do. People like to freeload.

Lawyer Elizabeth Homer, who used to be the U.S. Interior Department's director of Indian land trusts, say the Lumbees ought to get federal recognition.

"The Lumbees have been neglected and left out of the system, and have been petitioning for 100 years. ... They're entitled, by the way."

People like Homer will never get it. Lumbees do well because they've divorced themselves from government handouts. Washington's neglect was a godsend.

Some Lumbees don't want the handout. "We shouldn't take it!" Chavis said. He says if federal money comes, members of his tribe "are going to become welfare cases. It's going to stifle creativity. On the reservations, they haven't trained to be capitalists. They've been trained to be communists."

Tribal governments and the Bureau of Indian Affairs manage most Indian land. Indians compete to serve on tribal councils because they can give out the government's money. Instead of seeking to become entrepreneurs, members of tribes aspire to become bureaucrats.

"You can help your girlfriend; you can help your girlfriend's mama. It's a great program!" Chavis said sarcastically.

Because a government trust controls most Indian property, individuals rarely build nice homes or businesses. "No individual on the reservation owns the land. So they can't develop it," Chavis added. "Look at my tribe.

We have title and deeds to our land. That's the secret. I raise cattle. I can do what I want to because it's my private property."

I did a TV segment on the Lumbees that I included in a special called "Freeloaders." That won me the predictable vitriol. Apparently, I'm ignorant of history and a racist.

The criticism misses the point. Yes, many years ago white people stole the Indians' land and caused great misery. And yes, the government signed treaties with the tribes that make Indians "special." But that "specialness" has brought the Indians socialism. It's what keeps them dependent and poor.

On the other hand, because the U.S. government never signed a treaty with the Lumbees, they aren't so "special" in its eyes. That left them mostly free.

Freedom lets them prosper.

>> **John Stossel** is the very well-known host of "Stossel" on the Fox Business Network. Copyright 2011 by JFS Productions INC. Distributed by Creators.com



OOPS!

President Obama Omits Key Words from the Constitution in Two Speeches

DURING A SPEECH in October 2010 at a fundraiser, President Obama omitted the Declaration of Independence's mention of man's "Creator" as the source of man's unalienable rights.

But this isn't the first time the president has edited-out from the Declaration of Independence, the role of God in bestowing these rights upon man. During a September 2010 speech before the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's Annual Awards Gala, the president also omitted these same words.

See the YouTube video at the 0:58 mark: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yR61uTGTFoM>

Obama's obvious disgust at the word "Creator" he either sees on the

teleprompter or knows from memory his speech has now come to, is his uncontrollable "tell" (a tell: a movement or behavior or action which serves as evidence or indication of something which the subject does not wish to be made known).

When asked why the president did not use the words "endowed by their Creator" in his speech, White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs told reporters Tuesday, "I can assure you the president believes in the Declaration of Independence."

Yeah, maybe, everything but that our unalienable rights have been bestowed upon us by our Creator. Why is this an



important point? This is ever so important because if these unalienable rights are bestowed upon us by our Creator and not by our government, then our government cannot take them away from us.

- TCT Staff

Why Abstinence Works



& How it Can Work for You!

Science shows that it's best to wait.

by Peter Sprigg

If you attend a public high school or middle school, there's a good chance that in sex education or health class you've been taught about "safe sex." The term "safe sex" usually refers to the use of a male prophylactic. The goal of safe sex is to prevent infection by diseases such as HIV, the virus that causes the disease AIDS.

However, male prophylactics alone can't make sex entirely "safe." The best way to be safe is not to practice "safe sex." It's to *save* sex until marriage.

What Is 'Abstinence?'

The decision not to have sex until you are married is called "purity," "chastity" or (most often) "abstinence." To "abstain" from something is to choose not to do something, even though you may want to or be tempted to. Some people "abstain" from eating certain foods or from drinking alcohol. In recent years, though, the word "abstinence" has usually meant not having sex before marriage. "Abstinence education" is designed to teach young people both *why* abstinence is the best choice for teenagers and *how* to resist the pressure and temptation to have sex before marriage.

Is There Something Wrong With Sex?

People sometimes accuse conservatives and abstinence supporters of treating sex as dirty or shameful. Nothing could be further from the truth. Sex is normal and natural. The vast majority of people will have sex at some time in their lives. We *need* people to have sex in order to produce babies – otherwise the human race would become extinct! When a husband and wife have sex, they express their love for each other and can strengthen their lifelong bond.

Many people believe that sex outside of marriage is immoral. The Bible's creation story makes clear that God's will was for a man and woman to unite for life (Genesis 2:18-25), and this was repeated by Jesus (Matthew 19:4-6). But the Bible celebrates sex *within* marriage (read the Bible's Old Testament book, the *Song of Solomon*).

You don't have to be religious to recognize the wisdom of abstinence. Sex is like a river – when it flows in its proper channel (marriage), it can be beautiful, powerful and productive. But when it overflows, flooding beyond its proper boundaries, it can be destructive and even deadly.

What Makes Some Sex 'Unsafe?'

One danger of sex outside of marriage is the risk of sexually transmitted diseases, or STD's. (Once called "venereal diseases" or "VD," they are now sometimes called "sexually transmitted infections," or "STIs.") These are diseases that someone can only get, or can often get, through sexual contact with an infected person.

If you only have sex with one other person in your life, and that person only has sex with you, then you have virtually no chance of getting an STD. That is the ideal for marriage. (A married person can get an STD if his or her spouse was infected by a previous partner, or cheats by having sex with someone else.)

However, without the commitment of marriage, people are more likely to have several sexual partners (and those partners are more likely to have had several partners). This greatly increases the risk of getting an STD.

The consequences of STDs can range from just annoying (some bacterial infections can be cured with antibiotics) to deadly. The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) can cause AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), which can kill by weakening the body's ability to fight other illnesses. Despite improved treatments which have extended the lifespans of many people with HIV or AIDS, thousands of Americans still die from HIV and AIDS every year. Another virus, the human papillomavirus (HPV), has been identified as the main cause of cervical cancer, which kills thousands of women each year. Other STDs like chlamydia can lead to infertility (the inability to have a baby).

Male contraception has been shown to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV – but not eliminate it. However, there is no scientific evidence that Male contraception is effective against all STDs. The only 100 percent effective way to avoid an STD is to practice abstinence – that is, don't have sex. Saying that male contraception makes sex "safe" is like saying that a cigarette filter makes smoking "safe."

What About Pregnancy?

Another main risk of sex is unplanned pregnancy. Single moms – especially teenaged single moms – are much less likely to complete their education or achieve their career goals. They (and their children) are also much more likely to live in poverty.

Some young women seek to avoid these problems by having an abortion (a medical procedure that kills the unborn baby). But

abortion carries its own set of negative consequences – physical, emotional and spiritual. Adoption is a positive alternative to abortion, especially since there are many couples eager to adopt infants. However, it is better for an unmarried woman to avoid pregnancy altogether.

Just as male contraception cannot provide complete protection against STDs, no contraceptive (birth control) device or method can provide complete protection against unplanned pregnancy. Only abstinence can do that.

'Sex Makes Me Happy' – or Does It?

Some people assume that a young person who satisfies his or her desire to have sex will be happier than someone who is denied that satisfaction. However, scientific research has shown the opposite. Young people who are sexually active are actually *more likely to be depressed* than young people who abstain from sex!

Part of the reason is psychological. People (especially girls) have a natural desire to be in a long-term, secure, loving relationship with their sexual partner – something they will rarely find outside of marriage. However, brain research has shown there may be biological reasons, too. When someone has sex with another person (or they are very physically intimate, like with prolonged hugging and kissing), the body releases hormones (oxytocin in women, vasopressin in men) that make the person feel good and want to do it again. But these hormones also bond us to that particular person, almost like glue. If someone breaks that first bond, forms a new one by having sex with someone else and continues to do that over and over again, it is almost like a piece of tape – the more times you stick it to something, remove it and stick it to something else, the more it loses its stickiness.

One survey proved this in a dramatic way. It asked women if they were in a stable marriage (that had already lasted five or more years), and compared the answers based on how many sex partners they had outside of marriage (including before marriage). Of those who had never had sex outside of marriage, 80 percent were in a stable marriage. Even with only *one* sexual partner outside marriage, that figure dropped dramatically, with only 54 percent in stable marriages. Among those with five or more such partners, the figure was less than a third. Sex before marriage clearly reduces the chance of having a successful marriage later on.



The assumption that “they’ll do it anyway” is not the approach that schools take toward other high-risk behaviors. When talking about drugs, underage drinking, tobacco use, or violence, schools don’t teach how to *reduce* your risk.

Is Abstinence Realistic?

Anyone who thinks “all teenagers have sex” is wrong. In fact, a majority of young people aged 15 to 17 have *not* had sex – and the percentage of teens who are abstinent has been growing for at least two decades. Between 1988 and 2008, the percentage of girls in that age group who had *never* had sexual intercourse rose from 63 percent to 72 percent, while the percentage of boys who were abstinent rose from 50 percent to 71 percent.

Unfortunately, those who are still virgins when they get married are a minority in America – but a substantial one. In one survey of adults up to age 44, 26 percent of men and over 30 percent of women who had never married had also never had sexual intercourse. Some in the media were astonished when football star Tim Tebow told reporters he was still a virgin at 22, and planned on saving himself for marriage. But he is not alone.

What Should Schools Teach?

Real “abstinence education” programs teach sexual abstinence until marriage as the expected standard of sexual conduct. True “abstinence” means not just avoiding intercourse, but avoiding any kind of sexual contact. Some abstinence programs encourage young people to make a “pledge” of “virginity” or “purity,” but the best ones do much more.

Abstinence programs give medically accurate information about the harms of sexual activity outside of marriage. A full

abstinence curriculum also teaches skills for building healthy relationships and marriages. More broadly, it teaches skills of decision-making and goal-setting to help teens build a successful future. The ultimate goal is not just abstinence, but personal responsibility and strong character.

Liberal critics of abstinence education, however, argue that teaching abstinence doesn’t work at changing people’s behavior. Instead, they favor what they call “comprehensive sex education.” These programs usually mention the benefits of abstinence, but treat it as unlikely and operate on the assumption that most teens will have sex. They put a strong emphasis on teaching “safe sex” to prevent STDs, and contraception (birth control methods, such as the oral contraceptive or “Pill”) to prevent unintended pregnancies.

However, these methods are only partially effective. And ironically, liberals do not hold “comprehensive” programs to the same standard they hold abstinence programs. They do not ask whether *telling* young people to use contraceptives is actually effective at *getting* them to do so.

The assumption that “they’ll do it anyway” is *not* the approach that schools take toward other high-risk behaviors. When talking about drugs, underage drinking, tobacco use, or violence, schools don’t teach how to *reduce* your risk. They teach you to *avoid* those risks by never engaging in those behaviors. Why not take the same approach to sex before marriage?

What If I’ve Had Sex Already?

“Abstinence” (choosing not to have sex) is not the same as “virginity” (never having had sex). It is never too late to make a decision to practice abstinence from now until your marriage, even if you are no longer a virgin. Some people call this “secondary virginity.”

The Politics of Abstinence

When George W. Bush was president, the federal budget included money to support abstinence education. However, even during the Bush administration, funding for “comprehensive” programs was about *12 times higher* than funding for abstinence. That didn’t stop critics like Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) from attacking abstinence funding, though.

When Barack Obama became president, he cut federal abstinence funding to *zero* in his first two budgets. An amendment to the president’s health care plan (proposed by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah) restored some funding, but it is still far below previous levels.

Why are liberals so hostile toward abstinence education? It’s not because it doesn’t work – one survey of the research found that 17 out of 22 studies had found positive results from abstinence education.

Linda Klepacki of Focus on the Family argues that the real reason liberals oppose abstinence education is ideological. They have combined two different philosophies – a heavy emphasis on individual rights, and “naturalism.” Naturalism is the belief that the physical world is all that exists, and there is therefore no God or divinely revealed morality. Under this view, having sex is just a “natural” activity, so we should not deny someone their personal “right” to engage in it – no matter what the consequences.

The Best Sex

The liberal view is wrong, because human beings are not just animals. The “natural” way for humans to have sex is in the context of a committed, lifelong relationship – marriage.

Although you would never guess it from watching TV or the movies, research shows that married people have sex more often than single people, *and they enjoy it more*. If you want to have the best sex you can possibly have – save it for marriage.

It’s worth waiting for – and so are you.

>> Peter S. Sprigg is Senior Fellow for Policy Studies at the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. www.frc.org



Why the Unborn Need Our Protection

Young people in the fight for the unborn. **by Jeanne Monahan**

If you were born in the United States after 1973, you have lived your whole life through one of the most prolonged and profound human rights abuses in the history of the world: abortion.

Roe v. Wade

For those of us who don't remember January 22, 1973, my colleague Bob Morrison shares his memories of that unforgettable day:

"Only days before the Supreme Court ruling in *Roe versus Wade*, Richard Nixon had taken office and the day after the decision, Lyndon Johnson died. As significant as the Roe decision was, the death of Johnson stole the media headlines. But it was a cold, gray, threatening day in Washington, D.C., and the news that the U.S. Supreme Court had struck down the abortion laws of all 50 states came as a profound shock to the nation. Moreover, the weight of a Supreme Court ruling was the kind of thing that would not be spoken out against; young people had been schooled to believe that the Supreme Court had the final word. Therefore to receive word from the high court that abortion was constitutional shook the very foundation of the country. What had become of the nation that believed 'the God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time?' How could Americans reconcile themselves to this cruel and unjust ruling? Well, they didn't. First in Catholic parishes, then in Lutheran churches, and soon in a mighty rush in thousands of Evangelical churches and para-church ministries, the heart of America rallied. Within one year, the first March for Life was organized. Efforts soon got underway to resist. Churches and churchgoers sponsored pregnancy resource centers to help desperate young women choose life. "Right to life" groups organized, lobbied, wrote and took to the airwaves. Today, it is an honor to stand with people – young people – peacefully protesting this Supreme Court ruling."

To put this issue in perspective, since the Supreme Court Decision in *Roe versus Wade* over 53 million babies have been denied the most basic of all rights: life.

53 million is a number that is difficult to fully comprehend. It is a shocking reality that the United States has lost a whole group of people equal in size to the combined

populations of the states of California, Washington, Nevada and Oregon to the grave human rights abuse that abortion is.

The cover of a recent popular pro-life magazine for young people has a picture of a developing baby via ultrasound on the front and a caption, "The Most Dangerous Place in America: A Mother's Womb." Why do the unborn need our protection? Because developing babies are utterly defenseless; they are unable to protect themselves.

Consider that in the United States a criminal is treated in a very different way than a victim of a crime. A criminal is treated as one who is guilty of wrongdoing, whereas a victim is appropriately given help and support to fight the criminal. Developing babies are innocent, unable to commit a wrong, but also unable to act on their own behalf. Yet abortion becomes a death penalty for these little ones that are only guilty of merely existing.

From the very moment of conception or fertilization the DNA that a fully-functioning adult has is present in the developing baby.

'A Person's a Person No Matter How Small'

In the animated comedy based on the Dr. Seuss book, "Horton Hears a Who," a sensitive elephant named Horton becomes the voice of an entire village of "whos" who were not able to be heard until the very end because of their small size. One of Horton's famous lines, as he works to protect the Who-Village is that "a person's a person no matter how small." While only a sweet fictional story, the line depicts a deep truth about personhood.

Much like the character of Horton, we, too, are the voice of the "little people," the unborn who do not yet have a voice, but are people no less. Sometimes abortion advocates argue that a developing baby (oftentimes called a "fetus") is not a person at all but instead is simply a blob of tissue until a certain point of development, perhaps birth. However, scientific and technological advances show us the opposite.

From the very moment of conception or fertilization the DNA that a fully-functioning adult has is present in the developing baby. The only difference is the level of intellectual, physical development.

By 21 days of development, a baby's heart starts to beat, pumping the baby's blood through the circulatory system. Around this same time, a baby's arms begin to develop. At about 40 days of development, a baby's brain begins to generate measurable electroencephalographic (EEG) impulses ("brain waves").

The baby begins moving at around seven weeks of development, which can be felt by the mother as early as 16 weeks. The baby's facial muscles move, even forming "smiles," around the time of 11 weeks. As early as 18 weeks babies can begin to feel pain. This scientifically proven reality has been the basis for a number of states enacting laws making abortion illegal after the baby can feel pain, "fetal pain laws."

As we can see, the claim that a baby is not a baby because it is simply in its early development stages just doesn't stand under the weight of scientific evidence. Horton had it right: "A person's a person no matter how small."

Why Young People Are the Best Ambassadors for Life

Why do we need young people to defend life? Youth not only have a special energy and enthusiasm but also possess idealism and zeal that is contagious. Young people yearn to do something noble; to aid those in need and to fight for human rights. The innocence of a young voice is potentially the most dramatic and persuasive in this discussion!

Young people fight in solidarity for their younger brothers and sisters who have no voice to speak on their behalf. In this way they undo the Old Testament story of Cain and Abel and instead declare, "I am my brother's keeper!" There have been countless young leaders who have profoundly impacted change, in some places even saving lives.

Even as I sit here writing this article I gaze at a picture of a pro-life prayer vigil outside of a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic given to me by one such youthful luminary (*luminary: a very famous or successful person*). A young girl of 14 co-founded with her brother a pro-life

We can also look to the Bible to find role models and direction about the importance of protecting life. Psalm 139 reveals that God knits a person in its mother's womb.



group in her state in the Midwest. Part of their mission was paying for billboards with powerful pro-life messages. On one occasion a young mother facing an unexpected pregnancy who was planning on aborting her baby drove by one of those billboards and had a change of heart. She later contacted my young friend to inform her that the baby was saved due to the billboard. This is only one of many stories from countless young pro-life leaders.

One of my favorite pro-life groups is Students for Life, who host an annual conference of thousands of young people the day before or after the March for Life in Washington, D.C., every anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *Roe versus Wade*. And anyone who has attended the March For Life knows well that one of the most powerful aspects of the day are the hundreds of thousands of young, cheerful people marching through the nation's capitol and respectfully yet passionately championing the unborn. There are other wonderful groups led by young people: Live Action, World Youth Alliance, Speak Now: Girl Scouts and more.

We can also look to the Bible to find role models and direction about the importance of protecting life. Psalm 139 reveals that God knits a person in its mother's womb.

"You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! My very self you knew; my bones were not hidden from you, When I was being made in secret, fashioned as in the depths of the earth. Your eyes foresaw my actions; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped, before one came to be. How precious to me are your designs, O God; how vast the sum of them!" Psalm 139: 13-17.

Perhaps the strongest biblical example for young people is that of the teenage girl in the gospels who was totally dedicated to God. She became unexpectedly pregnant, but despite not being culturally accepted and even facing rejection from her fiancé and potential danger for her safety, she

heroically chose to protect the precious life developing within her. Of course, the life she chose to protect and nurture saved the world. "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." Matthew 1: 23.

What Can You Do?


There are countless ways young people can promote life! Be creative – your ideas are probably the best! But here are a few examples: You can start a pro-life club in your school or church if one does not already exist. You can attend the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. in January, or organize something similar in your local community. One of the most powerful ways you can promote life is to regularly pray for an end to abortion. Young people can also volunteer at their local Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC). PRCs are in almost every city in the United States and serve to help women facing unexpected pregnancies by providing them with emotional and monetary support (clothing, diapers, etc.). For more information visit apassiontoserve.org.

Every life counts. There is much at stake. Perhaps in the end, young people are the most critical promoters of human dignity and life because the future of the world is in their hands. Either young people will change the tide or they will perish by a culture of death. We need you, young people! Please know that the choices you make do have a huge impact on the world.

>> *Jeanne Monahan* is the Director of the Center for Human Dignity at the Family Research Council. www.frc.org




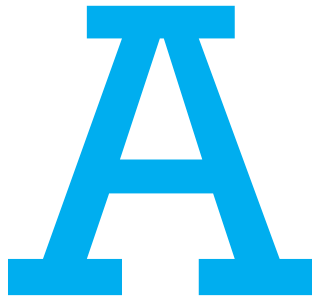
LAUGH OUT LOUD!



The Hot Air & Cold Facts of Liberal Media Bias

The global warming issue speaks volumes about how journalists and entertainers seek to skew our perception.
by Matt Philbin



s a young conservative, it's pretty easy to feel the cultural and informational deck is stacked against you. The fact that you're reading this means that you're aware of politics and sensitive to the political and cultural messages that surround you. And often, those messages seem to be relentlessly liberal: sexual abstinence is "unrealistic;" government action – not the free market – creates jobs and prosperity; America must have United Nations approval and cooperation to legitimately defend itself; on and on.

But believe it or not, where media is concerned, you have it much better than young conservatives did 30, 20 or even 10 years ago. The mainstream media's credibility with the public has dramatically eroded. In a 2009 survey conducted by the liberal Pew Research Center, 63 percent of Americans said news articles were often inaccurate, and 67 percent said the news media chose sides in political debates.

For conservatives, that's good news. But the message hasn't gotten through to the newsrooms and studios of New York and Washington, D.C. or the back lots of Hollywood. In many ways, liberal bias in what Americans watch and read is even more pronounced.

Let's take an issue – global warming and related environmental topics – and look at how all parts of the media spin information, suppress undesirable viewpoints and contribute to the liberal "green" indoctrination of audiences (*indoctrinate: to teach someone to fully accept the beliefs of a particular group and to not consider other beliefs*). You don't even realize how prevalent it is until you know what to look for.

Entertainment

The people who create the movies, TV shows, books, magazines and music Americans consume have a tremendous power to shape the attitudes of their audiences, and they're well aware of it. Unfortunately, the vast majority of those people are liberal, and most liberals never miss an opportunity to "educate" or "raise consciousness"; in other words, "indoctrinate." So they're not shy about inserting their views into their products.

While groups like the Media Research

Center and others have been pointing that out for years, "Primetime Propaganda," a new book by conservative columnist Ben Shapiro, proves it. Shapiro interviewed more than 100 Hollywood executives and creative personnel and got their admissions of left-wing bias on tape. Not only is the bias present, many of Shapiro's interviewees acknowledged purposely injecting political and social messages into their work (movies and television programs).

Whether it's the gay agenda, racism or simple old leftist class warfare propaganda, if you watch carefully, you can tell what writers and producers want you to know and what they'd rather you didn't.

Here's something the environmental movement, liberals and the mainstream media would like to keep from you: When it comes to global warming or climate change or whatever they'll be calling it next, the science is not "settled" and the debate is not over. Plenty of scientists debate whether the planet is warming or that, if it is, whether human activity causes it. And there are even experts who accept both premises, but maintain that the policies the left demands to address the problem are extreme, unworkable and ridiculously expensive.

While the Bible teaches that we should be good caretakers of the Earth, yours is the first generation born into a time when environmentalism itself has become a major religion, and one whose believers aggressively evangelize (*evangelize: to try to convert someone to a different religion*). From your first exposure to pop culture, you were told in ways subtle and not so subtle that human activity was harming the Earth. By the time you were born, the "Captain Planet" cartoon with its eco villains and "Earth spirit" heroines had come and,

thankfully, gone.

But the entertainment and publishing industries are dominated by liberals all too happy to pick up the environmental propaganda slack in other kid-oriented outlets (*propaganda: information which is often false or exaggerated*). There's been a kids' Christmas book featuring an eco-conscious Santa. Movies like "Fern Gully" and more importantly, "Avatar," show humans as greedy aggressors. "Sesame Street" put out a "Being Green" DVD featuring a Green Elmo.

A couple of years ago, Nickelodeon launched "The Big Green Help," which prodded viewers to become junior environmentalists, and major finger-waggers. "Nickelodeon's Big Green Help is all about helping YOU find simple, positive ways to protect the Earth every day," explained the home page on Nick's Web site.

A Nick executive said, "With The Big Green Help, we want to provide them with the necessary tools and information so they can become part of the environmental solution." By definition, a solution can only exist if there's a problem, so The Big Green Help took it as a given that (a) global warming is real and (b) humans are causing it. Nick didn't acknowledge anywhere the considerable skepticism of and disagreement with these views. Kids were to accept environmental dogma (*dogma: beliefs that are accepted by the members of a group without being questioned or doubted*), and then scold their ignorant parents about their light bulb choices or leaving the car idling.

Nick wasn't alone in pushing kids to correct their parents. In 2009, a MasterCard commercial aired that had a young boy follow his dad around and correct his little



absorb the environment of liberalism in their journalism schools and first newsrooms, and they complete the left-leaning “groupthink” among those who decide what and how to report.

When there simply isn't another point of view around, it's easy for journalists to get lazy, or to assume that those who think differently represent a fringe that needn't be taken seriously. Journalists do sometimes consciously distort stories to fit their bias (*bias: a tendency to believe that some people, ideas, etc., are better than others, usually resulting in treating some people unfairly*). But more often reporters often don't see all the ways they slant their coverage.

You should be aware that writers and producers are trying to influence you every day.

daily environmental mistakes. The payoff line was: “Helping your dad become a better man: priceless.” Liberals, usually so reluctant to judge anyone, have no problem telling kids their dads aren't good men because they get plastic bags at the supermarket checkout.

Nor are kid shows the only vehicles for green propaganda. At a 2007 conference called “Hollywood Goes Green,” entertainment executives advocated putting “messages subliminally into the action” to influence audience behavior.

Next time you settle in for a night of TV, be aware of the messages shows and advertisements include. How do dramas frame their plots? Is the bad guy a “corporate polluter?” (He often is.) Is the noble victim a tree-hugging environmentalist or an earth-loving American Indian? Or are there beside-the-point references to recycling or carbon emissions? While you should never let the liberal messages ruin your favorite

shows, you should be aware that writers and producers are trying to influence you every day.

In the News

If their lock on the entertainment industry allows liberals to shape attitudes by coloring entertainment with political messages, the left's dominance of the news media means it controls the information by which audiences make political judgments.

With the possible exception of the Democratic National Committee HQ or Hollywood, few places are more liberal than newsrooms. Surveys over the past 30 years have consistently found that journalists – especially those at the highest ranks of their profession – are much more liberal than rest of America. According to a 2004 Pew poll, five times more national journalists view themselves as “liberal” (34 percent) than “conservative” (7 percent).

Why is it that way? Unfortunately, journalism is attractive to people who want to “make a difference” rather than to report facts or tell stories. They begin their careers confusing reporting and activism, and most are never set straight. Other people simply

Types of Bias

Global warming tops a list of issues (the gay agenda and the election of Barack Obama being two others) where the news media have abandoned any attempt to cover their bias and essentially become cheerleaders. Like Nickelodeon above, they take as fact that humans are causing the planet to warm, and their coverage reflects their bias.

So what are those ways of slanting a story? There are many ways bias shows up in media reporting. In climate change coverage, the media have shown all of them, here are three of them:

Bias by Commission: This is when the media reports only one side of a story, or passes on to audiences questionable “facts.” The instances of bias commission in global warming reporting are almost endless, but here are a few:

- **Those poor cute, threatened polar bears:** In September 2007, ABC weatherman and global warming alarmist Sam Champion reported that “the loss of Arctic ice could mean the loss of the homeland for polar bears.” He went on to paint polar bears as a species on the brink of extinction due to warming. But earlier that

Surveys over the past 30 years have consistently found that journalists – especially those at the highest ranks of their profession – are much more liberal than rest of America.

same month, a British newspaper the Telegraph, had reported that the bears were thriving, quoting an expert as saying, “There are a hell of a lot more bears” than there used to be.

- **Global warming causes [insert your natural disaster here]:** Hurricanes, tornadoes, wild fires, floods – even earthquakes – have at times been attributed to climate change, often in the face of evidence to the contrary. Even when they can’t directly attribute a tragedy to warming, the news media will look for ways to link it. “Climatologists say, while we can’t blame one fire on climate change, we can say that these factors are combining in that area [Southern California] to set up what could be a century of fires just like what we’re seeing now,” CNN’s Tom Foreman said in 2007.
- **All weather patterns lead to Global Warming:** While they’re quick to suggest heat waves, extended rainy seasons and the like are proof of warming, don’t even think of suggesting blizzards and arctic temperatures disprove it. In January of last year, ABC’s Bill Blakemore pointed out that “weather is not climate,” and therefore, “the cold doesn’t mean no global warming.” But the media has spent much of the last decade linking weather patterns to climate change.

Bias by Omission: Simply, what aren’t the media telling audiences?

- **Hiding the “Hide the Decline”:** In November 2009, hacked e-mails from prominent climate researchers showed they falsified scientific data to “hide the decline” in average temperatures over the last few years, insulted global warming skeptics, and discussed ways to silence critics. The broadcast networks ignored the story for 14 days. But when a supposedly independent investigation cleared the scientists involved of any wrongdoing a year later, there was no such silence.

- **Thin Ice:** In Sept. 2009, NBC’s Lester Holt told viewers, “A new study warns rapidly melting ice in Greenland could result in a colossal rise in ocean levels.” Scary. Except that Holt might have mentioned recent studies that found the ice in Antarctica is *expanding!*
- **Inconvenient Errors:** Did you know that in 2007 a British court ruled that there were “nine significant errors” in Al Gore’s global warming movie, “An Inconvenient Truth?” Or that the court said the film’s “apocalyptic vision” was “politically partisan and not an impartial analysis of the science of climate change,” and therefore could not be presented in UK schools without a warning to that effect? Probably not, because just one network (CBS) made one mention (52 words) of the ruling that cast doubt on the credibility of the film that won Al Gore an Oscar and a Nobel Prize.

Bias by Selection of Sources: One of the more subtle ways bias appears in a story is in the sources the reporter chooses to cite. Who are the experts called on to comment? Are they identified as liberal or

conservative? How much time is devoted to their views?

- **Dissenters? What Dissenters?:** More than 1,000 climate experts and scientists have signed petitions dissenting from the “consensus” that human activity is causing climate change. But you wouldn’t know that from most news reporting. In reporting on Al Gore’s “An Inconvenient Truth,” the networks excluded critics from 80 percent of their stories (222 of 272).

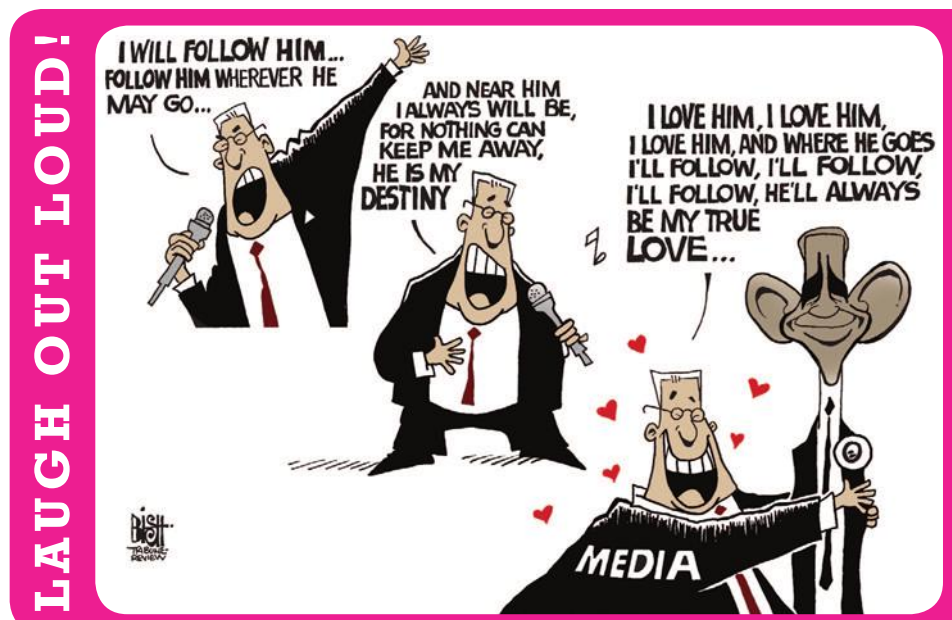
Truth is What Matters

It’s crucial young conservatives (and, ideally, everyone) be able to recognize and expose liberal media bias. But it’s just as important to make it clear that conservatives do not want liberal opinions and arguments ignored, or the facts that support them suppressed. Quite the opposite.

In the case of climate change, the media, assured by Al Gore and others that warming and its causes are now indisputable, decided the public no longer needed to hear the other side. That is where the issue lies, not in whether the climate alarmists are correct or not.


The goal is fairness – to every side. Democracy is a battle of ideas and arguments. Given an equal chance and even-handed coverage by a responsible press, conservative ideas and arguments will prevail.

>> **Matt Philbin** is managing editor of the Media Research Center’s Culture & Media and Business & Media Institutes. www.mrc.org.



To Improve
Education,
LIMIT
Government's
Role!

The smart way to reform education in America.
by Lindsey Burke



You've spent most of your life in school. By the time you graduate high school, you will have spent 13 years in the classroom. So what should you

expect from your schools?

A few obvious expectations come to mind: caring and capable teachers, challenging coursework, opportunities to excel in extracurricular activities such as music or athletics, and a safe environment. Most students in America get this—or something fairly close—from their schools. But not all. For far too many families, a quality education is out of reach.

As currently structured, our education system does little to improve life prospects for students living in poor neighborhoods. They are assigned to the public schools nearest to their homes. And public schools in poor neighborhoods generally provide a poor education.

It's not that these schools do poorly because they lack money. They don't lack money. In fact, many of the nation's lowest-performing school districts are some of the most expensive in the country.

It's not just the poor, of course, who lack access to quality schools. Many children from middle-class families wind up stuck in failing schools due to assignment-by-zip code policies. Most middle-income families cannot afford to pay private school tuition on top of the state taxes they pay to support public schools. They're stuck with sending their children to the nearest public schools, whether they're good or not.

This is bad for the schools as well as the students. Where students have no choice but to attend the public school nearest their home, the school has little incentive to improve. The mindset becomes: "Heck, we get a steady stream of students and money no matter how well or how poorly we do; why knock ourselves out?"

That system may work okay for the people who draw their paychecks from the public school establishment, but it has had a catastrophic effect on American education.

In the United States today, more than one-third of all fourth-graders cannot read at a basic level. In some of the nation's largest cities, fewer than half of all students graduate. In international tests of math and science ability, American students now rank in the middle of the pack. And, ominously (*ominously: showing a sign of misfortune to come*), the achievement gap between poor students and those better off persists, as

The tremendous amounts of federal money and regulation have not improved school performance. Instead, academic achievement has languished.

does the achievement gap between white and minority students.

There are two "schools" of thought on how to fix the problems afflicting American education. Some cling to an unwavering belief that throwing more money at the public education system will improve outcomes. They also believe that the federal government should continue to play a large role in trying to improve local schools. President Obama, many members of Congress, teachers unions and liberals are all in this school of thought.

The other side, however, believes that spending more money is no cure-all, and that bureaucrats (*bureaucrat: a person of the government who does everything according to the rules of that government*) sitting in Washington D.C. can do little to improve local schools. Instead of empowering federal bureaucrats, conservatives argue, let's empower parents and local leaders to make the key decisions about how and where students are educated.

Sadly, the liberal approach has prevailed for nearly a half century now. Today, we are spending, on average, more than \$10,000 a year, per student, on public

schools. A child entering kindergarten today will cost taxpayers no less than \$120,000 in education expenses by the time he or she graduates high school.

The federal government alone spends more than \$70 billion on public elementary and secondary education. When all spending is combined, local, state and federal, annual education expenditures exceed \$550 billion. And every year, education spending increases.

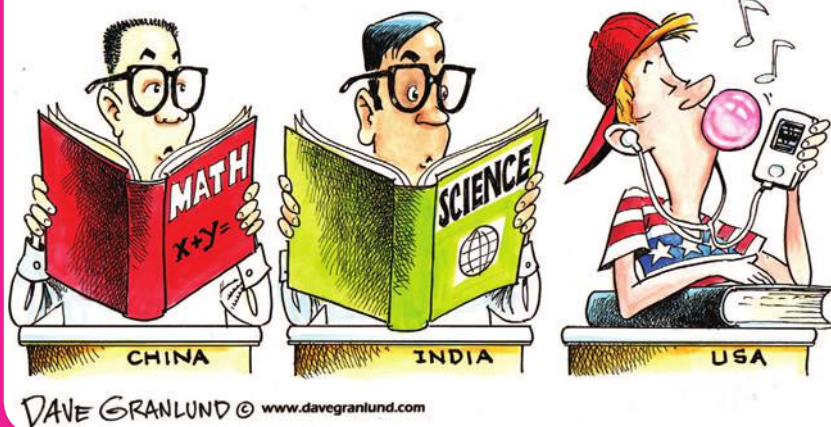
Since the 1970s, federal spending on education has nearly tripled, even after adjusting for inflation. As federal spending has increased, so has federal involvement in how local schools operate.

The federal government first became heavily involved in K-12 education in the mid-1960s. In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), now known as No Child Left Behind. ESEA was intended to boost public school performance in poor school districts by injecting them with federal money and other "assistance." When President Johnson signed ESEA into law, he announced: "No law I have signed or ever will sign means more to the future of America."

The original ESEA was about 30 pages long and authorized \$1 billion in new federal spending. Today, No Child Left Behind – the eighth reauthorization of ESEA – is more than 600 pages long and costs \$25 billion. Why the huge increase? Over the years, Congress has added more and more programs to the bill in a continuing effort to improve America's schools. The U.S. Department of Education now operates more than 100 programs as a result. Yet none of these programs has produced the desired results.

The federal government's involvement in education has grown rapidly since LBJ left the Oval Office. At the end of his presidency,

Study habits...



LAUGH OUT LOUD!

Jimmy Carter created the U.S. Department of Education. It began operation in 1980. A year later, Ronald Reagan tried, but failed to close the Department and send education decision-making closer to students. Today the Department of Education has a budget of nearly \$50 billion for K-12 education. It also has more than 4,200 employees writing and enforcing rules and regulations for local schools.

The tremendous amounts of federal money and regulation have not improved school performance. Instead, academic achievement has languished. American students rank as mediocre by international standards, the achievement gaps persist, and graduation rates are no better than they were in the 1970s.

But President Obama hasn't given up on "The Washington Way" approach. He wants to spend even more federal tax money (money paid by your parents from their hard-earned income) on public schools and continue to rely on the "expertise" of federal bureaucrats to get things going in a positive direction. Thus, he has called for Congress to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act – a move that would mean spending more money on the 80+ programs that are authorized under the law.

Conservatives, by contrast, want to give states the chance to free themselves from the many prescriptive (*prescriptive: giving exact rules, directions, or instructions about how you should do something*) education programs operated by the Department of Education. Instead, they would allow state leaders to use education dollars however

they think can best meet local needs.

Certainly Congress can go a long way in freeing states from federal red tape (*red tape: a series of actions or tasks that seem unnecessary, but that the government requires you to do in order to get or do something*).

But this also puts the responsibility to improve education squarely on the shoulders of state and local leaders. The good news: States have shown they are quite capable of rising to this challenge.

The best example of a state working creatively—and successfully—to improve education is Florida. The Sunshine State has made more progress than any other state in raising the academic achievement levels of all students. It has even started to significantly narrow achievement gaps between races.

Since 1999, under the leadership of former Governor Jeb Bush, Florida has implemented a set of sweeping education reforms. Florida ended social promotion. This means that children who are unable to read in third grade are not allowed to pass on to fourth grade.

The state also began permitting alternative teacher certification. This recognized that people who had years of experience using academic skills in a non-school setting could be fully qualified to teach, even if they didn't have a degree in education. Alternative certification made it easier for mid-career professionals to

join the teaching profession and share their expertise with students.

Florida also created performance pay for teachers. For example, teachers who are able to get more students to take and pass Advanced Placement (AP) courses receive bonuses. Florida also created high state standards and began grading schools and school districts on an A – F scale based on their performance on state tests.

Finally – and most importantly – Florida started giving families real opportunities by providing several school choice options for children. Florida families can homeschool, send their children to virtual school, receive assistance with private school tuition if they are low-income or have special needs, or attend a higher-performing public school. They can even do a combination of all of those options, meaning students can have three or four different education sources on their diplomas.

The Florida Virtual School is now the largest online learning program in the country. The state offers a voucher program for special needs children (*voucher: a document that gives you the right to get something (such as a product or service)*

The Sunshine State has made more progress than any other state in raising the academic achievement levels of all students.

without paying for it). Parents can use the voucher to enroll their children in the school best prepared to help their kids succeed. And *any* student in a school that gets rated "F" for two years, doesn't have to stay there. Instead, they can transfer to a higher-performing public school of their choice.

It's a completely different approach than that prescribed by the federal government. But where the federal government has been unable to improve student performance for 50 years, Florida has been wildly successful. Florida has been able to increase academic achievement for all students! It now ranks fifth in the nation in percentage of students passing the AP exam. It has also narrowed the achievement gap. Indeed, in reading skills, Hispanic students in Florida now outpace or tie the *general* student population in 31 states.

Florida stands as proof that state and local leaders can significantly improve



the quality and effectiveness of education. And other states are starting to take note. Governors and state leaders in New Mexico, Nevada, Indiana and Utah are working to follow the Florida reform model. Many more states are concentrating on providing just one key element of the Florida success story: school choice.

This year, Arizona, Indiana, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, and other states have adopted or expanded school choice programs. From tuition tax credit programs to vouchers to education savings accounts (a promising new option) lawmakers are offering a variety of policy innovations to help parents get the best education possible for their kids.

Ironically (*ironically: strange or funny because something is different from what you expected*), one of the most significant school choice victories this year came in Washington, D.C. The D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program was revived and expanded. The program provides vouchers of \$7,500 to help low-income children in D.C. to attend a private school of their choice. The last Congress threatened to phase out the program. But the new Speaker of the House, John Boehner, successfully fought to save the program this spring. Now poor families in D.C. again have an option to escape the unsafe and underperforming public schools.

The D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program is an example how school choice can make a critical difference in a child's life. Just 55 percent of students attending D.C. public schools graduate high school. By contrast, students who receive vouchers through the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program have a 91 percent graduation rate!

School choice works because it puts parents in the driver's seat. When school choice options are available – whether through vouchers, tuition tax credit programs or online learning—students need not fear being trapped in a non-performing school. They have a way out—options that offer a chance to get a real education.

Economist Milton Friedman first proposed the idea of school choice in the 1950s. He argued that government-run schools are not the best way to offer education in a free society. That is to say, just because government funds public education does not mean it should administer education or dictate where children attend school.

What was an academic idea a half-century ago has now taken hold across the country. Some 20 private school choice programs now operate in a dozen states and Washington, D.C. And they are helping approximately 200,000 children, ill-served by their local public schools, get a real education.

Americans who expect the federal government to fix America's broken schools will be waiting another 50 years – perhaps forever – for signs of success. It is those closest to the students – local leaders and parents, not federal bureaucrats – who know them best and are best equipped to improve educational outcomes. If policymakers act on that insight, education can improve rapidly, and America can once again lead the pack.

>> **Lindsey M. Burke** is an education policy analyst at *The Heritage Foundation*, www.Heritage.org

WHAT SCHOOLS PROVIDE THE BEST ROI?

ROI means Return on Investment, which means how much of something did you get in return for an investment

of something. Usually the something invested is one's time or one's money. In the case of a college education, it is both one's time and one's money which is invested. Payscale.com has collected ROI information from over 500 colleges and universities and charted out the student's ROI based on the cost of attendance and the student's future earnings.

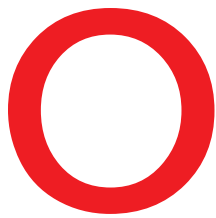
While the earnings information was provided by the college graduates themselves, and admittedly a college education benefits individuals in multiple, non-monetary ways, it is noteworthy that the study concludes that public institutions offer slightly better rates of ROI when compared to private schools with the same level of selectivity. Selectivity means how selective the school when accepting applicants.

Lower selectivity means the school accepts a larger percentage of applicants, say 40% of all its applicants, and higher level of selectivity means a school may select only 8-10% of the total number of applicants. Graduates from schools with a higher level of selectivity achieve a greater Return on their Investment of time and money spent. See PayScale.com for a more in-depth analysis. - TCT Staff



Patrick Henry College

Patrick Henry College, launching leaders for Christ and for liberty. **by TCT Staff**



Originally created as an academically rigorous alternative for some of the nation's brightest Christian students, Patrick Henry

College has, in an eventful first decade, grown into a well-known and influential evangelical school. Designed to train leaders for high level service in the public square, its demanding academic programs, abundant Capitol Hill and Washington, D.C. apprenticeships and championship debate culture even led to its being dubbed "God's Harvard" in a recently published book.

Located in Purcellville, Va., less than an hour from Washington, D.C., Patrick Henry College was founded in 2000. It is a classical Christian liberal arts college created for students seeking an academically superior education at a school grounded in America's founding principles, centered within a campus culture of passionate Christian discipleship.

Its Ivy League-caliber scholastics paired with a distinctly Christian worldview has produced graduates who are today serving at the highest levels of government, business, media, and industry.

The New Yorker reported in 2005 that Patrick Henry College students held roughly the same number of White

House internships as Georgetown, a disproportionately high representation for a college with 300 students. Capitol Hill officials for whom they served seem to agree that PHC students excel because of their disciplined work ethic, critical thinking skills, and eager, plainspoken humility.

Many PHC graduates have gone on to prestigious graduate schools including Harvard, Yale, and Columbia colleges of law, and presently hold positions in the 10th U.S. Circuit Court, the Arizona Supreme Court, the FBI, National Geographic, Fox News and throughout the intelligence community. Reflective of its mission to energize the public square with world-class Christian speakers, jurists, writers, and apologists, PHC's vaunted legal and parliamentary debate teams annually dominate national and regional tournaments.

Michael P. Farris, the founder and chancellor of the school, says, "Most students that come to PHC have a vision to go out into the public square and make an impact. George Washington had a desire to start a college in D.C. to train national leadership, knowing national camaraderie and vision would be served by training leaders together. It never happened in the way he dreamed, but a little more than 200 years later we started this College in the D.C. area, embracing many of the values of George Washington and equipping the kind

of leaders I believe he would have wanted."

The College attracts high profile Christian academics, among them Dr. John Warwick Montgomery, an internationally renowned Christian apologist, famed debater, and author of more than 40 books; acclaimed author and cultural commentator, Dr. Gene Edward Veith, formerly World Magazine's culture editor and one of the nation's leading experts on classical learning, and award-winning, former Time Magazine senior correspondent and best-selling author, Dr. David Aikman. The College's president, Dr. Graham Walker, is a highly regarded Christian scholar and longtime educator.

As Walker puts it, PHC is a "one-of-a-kind college," one that forms in students "a fervent heart of worship and a lucid mind for leadership." It offers, he says, "a curriculum that transmits the classical legacy of our Christian civilization."

A vision to add new majors and facilities was presented at the College's 10th Anniversary celebration in April, and its reputation as a "debaters' college" continues to grow. Its legal debate teams, coached by Dr. Farris, a constitutional attorney and chairman of the Home School Legal Defense Association, have not only beaten Oxford University *twice*, they've captured five of the past seven ACMA national moot court championships. In that time they've earned



PATRICK HENRY COLLEGE

Recreating the original American collegiate ideal:

*Education for truth,
Truth for leadership,
All for Christ...*

At Patrick Henry College we're helping our students grow into the leaders of tomorrow by offering the same classical liberal arts curriculum that shaped many of our country's Founding Fathers. With an emphasis on timeless academic disciplines and a campus environment that fosters spiritual growth, Patrick Henry College is equipping future leaders to shape the culture and serve the nation.



**PATRICK
HENRY
COLLEGE**

For Christ & for Liberty
888.338.1776 • www.phc.edu
To find out more, visit us at
home.phc.edu

PHC's leadership remains committed to holding fast to its biblical roots, founding principles and evangelical aspirations, come what may.



PATRICK HENRY COLLEGE



more individual speaker and team trophies at moot court nationals than any other college.

Anchored in a distinctly Christian statement of faith and an academic foundation built upon the truth found only in Scripture, the College's core curriculum is among the most comprehensive in the country. To safeguard its liberty to teach from an uncompromised Christian worldview and protect itself from potentially intrusive government regulations, the College operates with a no-debt policy and accepts no government funding. Its operations and facilities are funded entirely through donations.

Because of its unique mission to shape the culture and serve the nation, Patrick Henry College continues to be the subject of intense media scrutiny, books, and international features, documentaries – even movies – not to mention the ongoing and often vicious attacks from its critics on the left. Yet PHC's leadership remains committed to holding fast to its biblical roots, founding principles and evangelical aspirations, come what may.

"A small number of Christian colleges are truly faithful to word of God," Farris said. "At Patrick Henry we are committed to remaining faithful. We are not alone in that, but among an increasingly small number. Many schools have compromised. We remain unwavering."

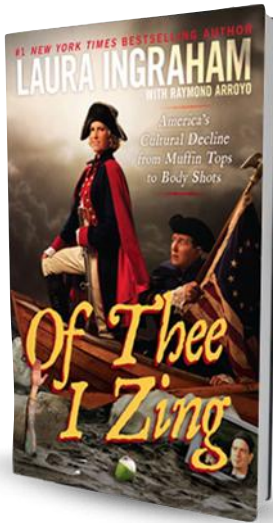
Great Reads of 2010-11

Ask your teacher or parent if one of these great titles is okay for your next book report!

Of Thee I Zing America's Cultural Decline from Muffin Tops to Body Shots

By Laura Ingraham
with: Raymond Arroyo

This edition:
Hardcover,
320 pages
(July 2011)



While Laura Ingraham was walking through a Northern Virginia shopping mall one Saturday afternoon, it all became clear to her. Everywhere she turned, she saw signs of the impending disaster: zombie teens texting each other across a cafe table; a man having his eyebrows threaded at a kiosk; a fiftyish woman shoe-horned into a tube top and skinny jeans; and a storefront ad featuring a Victoria's Secret model spilling out of her push-up bra and into the faces of young passersby. Ingraham wondered to herself, "Is this it? Is this what our forefathers fought for? What my parents struggled for? I wonder if Victoria's Secret is still having that two-for-one sale?"

Now in an act of patriotic intervention the most-listened-to woman in talk radio casts her satirical eye upon all that ails American society. In this sharp-witted, comic romp, Laura Ingraham takes you on a guided tour through ten levels of our cultural hell.

Of Thee I Zing is cultural commentary too funny to ignore, igniting a national conversation long past due. America, your cultural recovery begins here.

Grass Roots A Commonsense Action Agenda for America

By Scott Hennen and Jim Denney

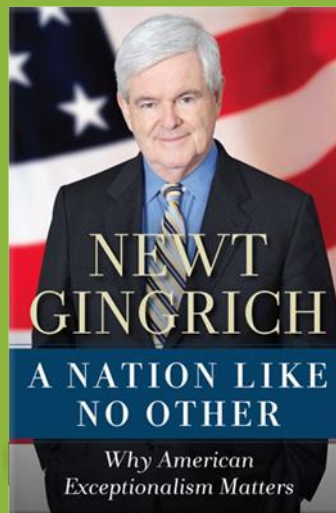
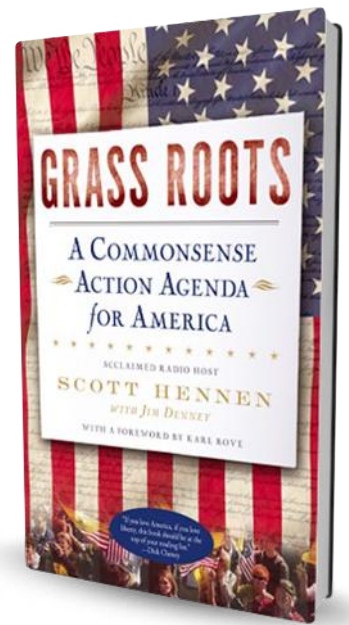
This edition: Hardcover, 400 pages (July 2011)

Grass Roots is a no-nonsense instruction manual that explains exactly what you can do. This down-to-earth handbook gives you clear, practical, effective actions you can take to preserve the American dream for your children and grandchildren.

We are staggering under a crushing burden of big government, out-of-control spending, and towering federal debt. We have become tax slaves—and the people we sent to Washington to represent us are the very ones who sold us there.

We're angry—and rightly so. But ruling-class politicians have shrugged off our grassroots anger, calling it "Astroturf." We're tired of being ignored, patronized, and lied to by the very people who are supposed to be our "public servants." Not since the original Boston Tea Party of 1773 have so many everyday Americans participated in such a significant display of righteous indignation and freedom-loving patriotism.

Scott Hennen has drawn up a practical blueprint for change, a handbook for all of us who are ready to roll up our sleeves and do our part to restore America's goodness—and greatness. *Grass Roots* is a political manifesto for every American who loves liberty and cares enough to get involved.



A Nation Like No Other

by Newt Gingrich

Regnery Publishing, Inc.; ISBN: 1596982713
Hardcover - 356 pages (June 2011)

Despite what the liberal elites say, we know the truth: America is an exceptional nation. But the president and his friends don't agree. In fact, they are actively working to weaken America by ridiculing the very principles that have made us great. So how do we refute the leftists who argue that patriotism is simply empty boasting? As presidential candidate and historical scholar Newt Gingrich explains—we just need to remember a few key phrases from our Founders.

In his inspirational new book, *A Nation Like No Other: Why American Exceptionalism Matters*, Gingrich lays out a powerful defense for America as the Founders intended it. Recounting our nation's unique birth and our Founding Fathers' struggle to create a country in which the individual—not the state—is sovereign, *A Nation Like No Other* explains exactly what American Exceptionalism is (a set of core values reflected in our Declaration of Independence) and what it is not (nationalist hubris).

These core principles are being threatened. Centralized bureaucracies, left-wing ideologies, destructive litigation, and liberal elites are actively campaigning against American Exceptionalism and the very things that have made this country the wealthiest, the most powerful, and the most generous nation in history.



Resurgent
How Constitutional Conservatism Can Save America

By Ken Blackwell and Ken Klukowski
 This edition: Hardcover, 432 pages
 (May 2011)

This book is a wake-up call. Written by acclaimed conservative leaders Ken Blackwell and Ken Klukowski, it is a back-to-basics action plan inspired by the original words and beliefs of our nation's forefathers. Using the U.S. Constitution, the authors guide us through our current political minefield, showing how both Democrats and Republicans have led our country astray.

They reveal startling connections between the crash of the economy, the collapse of the family, and the rise of big government. They lay out a policy agenda of constitutional fixes for our greatest national problems, from retirement, to education, to social issues, to taxes. Finally, they offer Republicans a step-by-step plan for rebuilding the GOP from the ground up, for winning both Congress and the White House, and for changing directions on the road to our future. More than two centuries ago, our forefathers gave us the dream and the directions—spelled out in black and white. Now more than ever, we need to embrace those principles and get our country back on track.

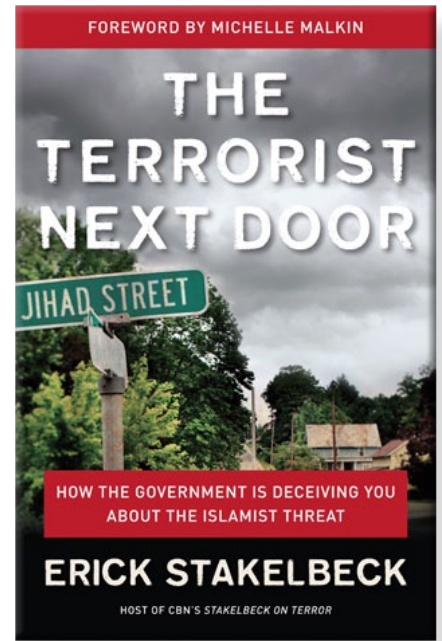
The Terrorist Next Door
 by Erick Stakelbeck

Regnery Publishing, Inc.; ISBN: 1596981520
 Hardcover - 256 pages (May 2011)

Amid daily reports of violence and conflict in the Middle East, most Americans feel safe from terrorist attacks on our shores. And the recent series of thwarted bombing attempts have been dismissed as not terrorist attacks but isolated incidents by “extremists.” “Not so,” says investigative reporter Erick Stakelbeck. “In fact the Islamist threat on American soil is steadily growing. These attacks are actually part of a much larger arsenal of new tactics being employed by Islamic terrorists to conquer America.”

The Terrorist Next Door: How the Government Is Deceiving You about the Islamist Threat exposes just how determined, patient, and adaptable Islamic terrorists are. As an investigative reporter, Stakelbeck has gained unprecedented access to the terrorists themselves as well as the mega-mosques and secret terrorist training camps that are cropping up in seemingly unlikely places across America, and he provides first hand evidence of just how vulnerable America is.

The Terrorist Next Door reminds us that as we struggle against a relentless and adaptable Islamist enemy that is committed to destroying our nation, we can't say we weren't warned.

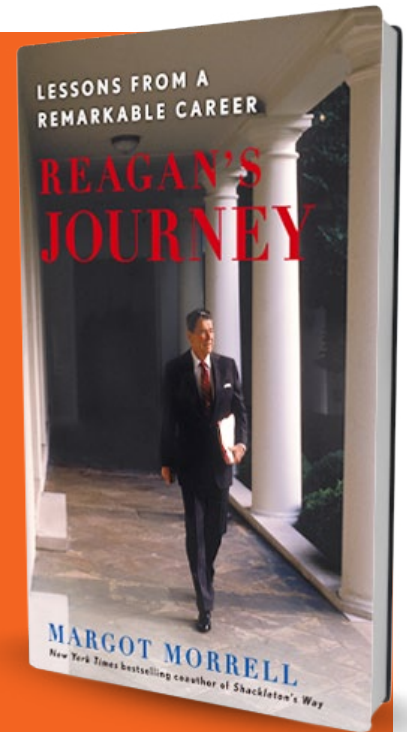


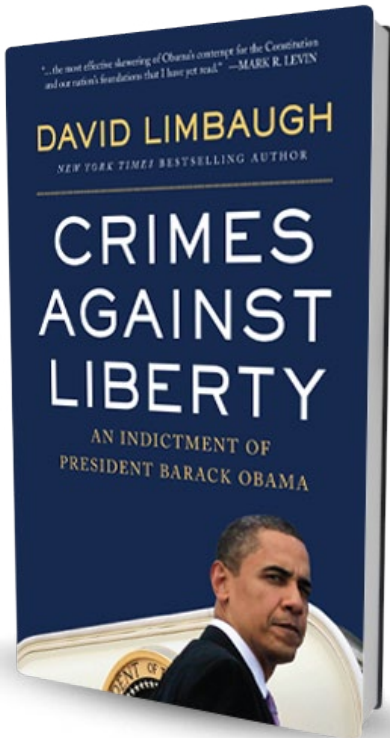
Reagan's Journey
Lessons From a Remarkable Career
 By Margot Morrell

This edition: Hardcover, 320 pages (May 2011)

In a compelling narrative that is both a motivational leadership teaching tool and a fascinating biography, bestselling author Margot Morrell sheds light on the challenges and heartbreaks that shaped Ronald Reagan. Four times his life slammed into a brick wall: his 1948 divorce from actress Jane Wyman; the termination of his long-standing contract with Warner Bros.; the end of his eight-year association with General Electric; and a hard-fought loss to President Gerald Ford in the 1976 primary campaign.

Setting politics and policies largely aside, Morrell highlights the strategies and tactics Ronald Reagan used to transform himself from shy introvert to confident communicator; the methods and tools he employed to keep his career on track; and the skills he developed that led to his many accomplishments. Each chapter of *Reagan's Journey* is followed by summary bullet points and an essential overview titled "Working It In," to facilitate these lessons into your formation as a leader. Anyone interested in strengthening their leadership and communications skills, becoming more resilient in the face of setbacks, or taking their careers to the next level will find practical and useful lessons in the life of Ronald Reagan.





Crimes Against Liberty

by David Limbaugh

Regnery Publishing, Inc.;

ISBN: 1596986247; Hardcover - 512 pages

(August 2010)

Barack Obama is the most destructive president in American history, says New York Times bestselling author, David Limbaugh in his controversial book, *Crimes Against Liberty*. Skillfully unraveling the tangled web of Obama's broken promises and blatant fabrications, Limbaugh constructs an air-tight indictment of Obama, charging him with ambitiously unraveling the Constitution and ultimately stripping of us our God-given freedoms. *Crimes Against Liberty* uncovers the truth behind Obama's political tactics and sweeping policies, while also revealing Obama's calculated lies, personality flaws, and serious character lapses.

Gangster Government

By David Freddoso

Regnery Publishing, Inc.; ISBN:

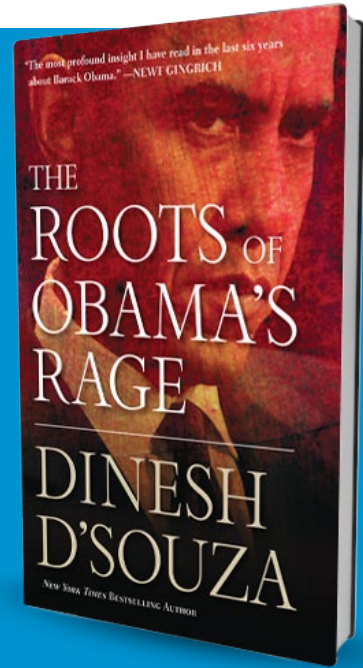
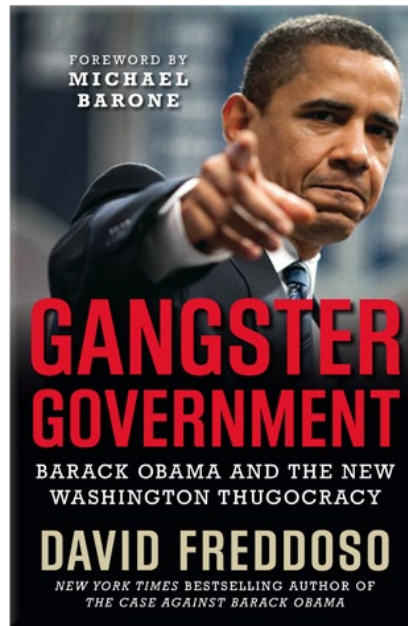
1596986484

Hardcover - 350 pages (April 2011)

And in this new and stunning book, *New York Times* best-selling author David Freddoso the much-needed exposé of an administration that has brought Chicago-style corruption and strong-arm politics to Washington, looking to reward its friends (the unions, federal workers, and other liberal interest groups) and punish its enemies (the private sector workers and taxpayers who foot the bill for Obama's massive expansion of the federal government). In *Gangster Government* you'll learn:

- How the Obama administration ignored the Constitution and reversed 100 years of bankruptcy law to reward its friends (the United Autoworkers) in the GM and Chrysler bailout.
- How the trillion dollar "stimulus" was directed overwhelmingly at protecting government workers supported by the taxpayers.
- Why "green jobs" are all about shaking down the taxpayer for favored businesses—not about truly "sustainable" energy or jobs.
- How the Obama administration bullies private businesses and even state governments that don't cooperate with gangster government.

Gangster Government is a devastating and revealing look at the momentous first two years of the Obama administration and its subversion of our Constitution and laws.



The Roots of Obama's Rage

by Dinesh D'Souza

Regnery Publishing, Inc.; ISBN:

1596986255

Hardcover - 258 pages (September 2010)

He's been called many things: a socialist, a radical fellow traveler, a Chicago machine politician, a prince of the civil rights movement, a virtual second coming of Christ, or even a covert Muslim.

But as *New York Times* bestselling author Dinesh D'Souza points out in his controversial new book, *The Roots of Obama's Rage*, these labels merely slap our own preconceived notions on Barack Obama.

The real Obama is a man shaped by experiences far different from those of most Americans; he is a much stranger, more determined, and exponentially more dangerous man than you'd ever imagined. He is not motivated by civil rights struggles, socialist principles, or the tenets of Islam. What really motivates Barack Obama is an inherited rage—an often masked, but profound rage that comes from his African father; an anti-colonialist rage against Western dominance, and most especially against the wealth and power of the very nation Barack Obama now leads.

Stunning, provocative, original, and telling—no one has better diagnosed who Obama is, what he intends to do, and why he poses an existential threat to America than Dinesh D'Souza in *The Roots of Obama's Rage*.

The Fisher House

Student Supports Troops by Volunteering with Fisher House. **by Ashley Estill**

While some people think Generation Y teens spend most of their time socializing, on the Internet or hanging out, that couldn't be further from the truth for some teens. Consider Connor Mulloy, a 17-year-old junior at Woodson High School in Fairfax, VA. He might seem like your all-American boy: cute, smart and athletic. But he's so much more. He's into community service and gives back every single month by preparing dinner and delivering his culinary creations to the Fisher House in Bethesda, Maryland, a "home away from home" that provides lodging free of charge for families of service members receiving medical care at National Naval Medical Center.

While Fisher House Foundation has 54 homes across the country and in Germany, it is the Bethesda houses that Connor and his Mom Beth visit each month.

"I started talking to my Mom and since we're a Navy family, I heard about Fisher House Foundation and we decided to start cooking meals," Connor said.

Conferring with his Mom and Grandma, Connor looks through his recipes and decides on which meal to prepare for the Fisher House guests. He spends Sunday at the commissary getting all the necessary ingredients. Cooking won't take place until Monday night – after school and soccer practice of course – and it usually takes this chef three or four hours to prepare his dish, complete with a salad or veggies and bread.

"I usually make all the dressings for the salad," Connor said. "And I try to put some vegetables in it to keep things healthy. I really like trying new things."

You might wonder when Connor has time to deliver his meal, given that he plays sports year-round, is involved with National Honor Society and leadership. He skips his lunch period on Tuesday to drive down to Bethesda with his Mom and deliver the meal.



"I feel really good about doing this because I love helping people," Connor said. "I plan to keep volunteering through my senior year and continue community service in college too."

And what do his friends have to say about Connor's service?

"Some of them know but I'm not going to brag about it. My friends that know are happy and proud that I do this...some have even offered to help. They understand it's something that needs to be done."

Here's to Connor's positive attitude and work ethic being infectious among his generation, and influencing teens to continue giving back.

>> To learn more about Fisher House Foundation or to learn about volunteering, visit www.fisherhouse.org.



“THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE” IS NO LONGER ENOUGH.

Our service members take an oath to serve, protect and defend this country. In return they ask for nothing from us. And yet, many of us feel a great sense of duty to say, “Thank You” whenever we come across someone in uniform. We take tremendous pride attaching a troop-supporting ribbon on our vehicles. And we’re grateful to the young men and women who bravely go into battle for the freedoms we enjoy.

For the more than 31,000 service men and women wounded or injured in Iraq or Afghanistan, “Thank you for your service” is no longer enough. Give thanks — then get involved.

To help these wounded service members and their families, we’re asking you to become part of something more meaningful, something truly rewarding. A donation to the Fisher House Foundation or a Fisher House in your area helps our heroes at a time when they need it the most. Fisher Houses, built through generous public donations, offer our service members and their families a comfortable living situation during treatment for traumatic, war-related medical crises. In most cases, these service members are being treated at medical facilities far from home — and their stays are lengthy due to the severity of their injuries.

Go above and beyond for those who give their all. Make a donation to the Fisher House program at www.fisherhouse.org or call (888) 294-8560 toll free.



RONALD REAGAN: Our First Black President?

by Michael Reagan



Who was the first black president? Two decades before the election of Barack

Obama, novelist Toni Morrison dubbed Bill Clinton “our first black President.” She even said that Clinton was “blacker than any actual black person who could ever be elected in our children’s lifetime.”

Well, I could make an even stronger case for my father, Ronald Reagan, as “our first black president” -- but I won’t make that claim. I don’t want to diminish the justifiable pride African-Americans take in having a president who is genetically and culturally black. Our first black president is Barack Obama.

But the past three years have made one thing clear: Ronald Reagan was a far better friend to black Americans than Barack Obama has been. Just compare the Reagan and Obama records. Under Obama, black unemployment rose from 12.6 percent in January 2009 to 16.0 percent today. This means that black unemployment has increased by *more than one-fourth* since Obama took office.

And the Reagan record? African-American columnist Joseph Perkins has studied the effects of Reaganomics on black America. He found that, after the Reagan tax cuts gained traction, African-American unemployment fell from 19.5 percent in 1983 to 11.4 percent in 1989. Black-owned businesses saw income rise from \$12.4 billion in 1982 to \$18.1 billion in 1987—an annual average growth rate of 7.9 percent. The black middle class expanded by one-third during the Reagan years, from 3.6 million to 4.8 million.

Before he was elected, in speech after speech, my father said that his economic plan would improve the lives of African-Americans. In a February 1977 CPAC address, he said, “The time has come for Republicans to say to black voters: ‘We offer principles that black Americans can and do support. We believe in jobs, real jobs; we believe in education that is really education; we believe in treating all Americans as individuals and not as stereotypes or voting blocs.’”

My father understood that, while African-Americans may vote Democratic, they live as conservatives. Like all Americans, black Americans want to succeed, they want to be free, and they want

to maintain strong families.

During the Great Depression, Dad played football for Coach Mac McKinzie at Eureka College in Illinois. During a game trip to a nearby Illinois college, the team was scheduled to stay in a hotel—but the hotel manager refused to give a room to Dad’s two black teammates, William Franklin “Burgie” Burghardt and Jim Rattan.

Coach McKinzie angrily replied that the entire team would sleep on the bus that night. Dad spoke up and offered an alternative: Why not send Burgie and Jim to the Reagan home in Dixon, just 15 miles away? Dad’s parents, Jack and Nelle Reagan, would welcome his teammates -- and the whole team would get a good night’s rest.

In his autobiography, “An American Life,” Dad recalled, “We went to my house and I rang the bell and Nelle came to the door. . . ‘Well, come on in,’ she said. . . . She was absolutely color-blind when it came to racial matters; these fellows were just two of my friends. That was the way she and Jack had always raised my brother and me.”

Burgie was Dad’s best friend on the team -- he played center and Dad played guard -- and he recalled the incident as well. Shortly

after Dad's inauguration in 1981, liberal columnist Mark Shields interviewed Burgie, who was then a retired college professor. Burgie recounted the story exactly as Dad would later tell it in his book, including the warm welcome from Jack and Nelle Reagan.

As Shields related in a November 2010 column, the incident took place "in an America where, overwhelmingly, blacks and whites did not break bread together or sleep under the same roof. In 1981 -- some eight months before his death -- Burgie still remembered that Reagan had not hesitated to invite Rattan and him into his family home. . . . [Ronald Reagan's] teammate and lifelong friend William Franklin Burghardt could and did eloquently testify: The Gipper was free of racial prejudice in his personal life."

My father was educated in a racially color-blind setting at Eureka College. In March 2009, when Mikhail Gorbachev toured the Ronald Reagan Museum at Eureka College, he seemed especially impressed by Dad's 1932 Eureka yearbook which showed a photo of an African-American woman, Willie Sue Smith, on the same page as my father's senior picture. Gorbachev was surprised to see a black woman in an American college yearbook of that time.

I think I know why Gorbachev was surprised. In my travels in Eastern Europe, I talked to many who once lived under communism. They told me that the Communist schools required students to read Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Students were taught that this book accurately portrayed racism in America today. When Gorbachev saw a black woman in Ronald Reagan's graduating class, it contradicted everything he'd been taught about life in America.

Dad's alma mater led the way in promoting racial equality -- yet much of America lagged behind in race relations. In the late 1950s and 1960s, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., pointed us toward a new era of racial harmony, in which all Americans would be judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin.

In a White House Rose Garden ceremony in 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill honoring Dr. King with a federal holiday on the third Monday of January every year. On Dr. King's birthday that year, my father said, "Abraham Lincoln freed the black man. In many ways, Dr. King



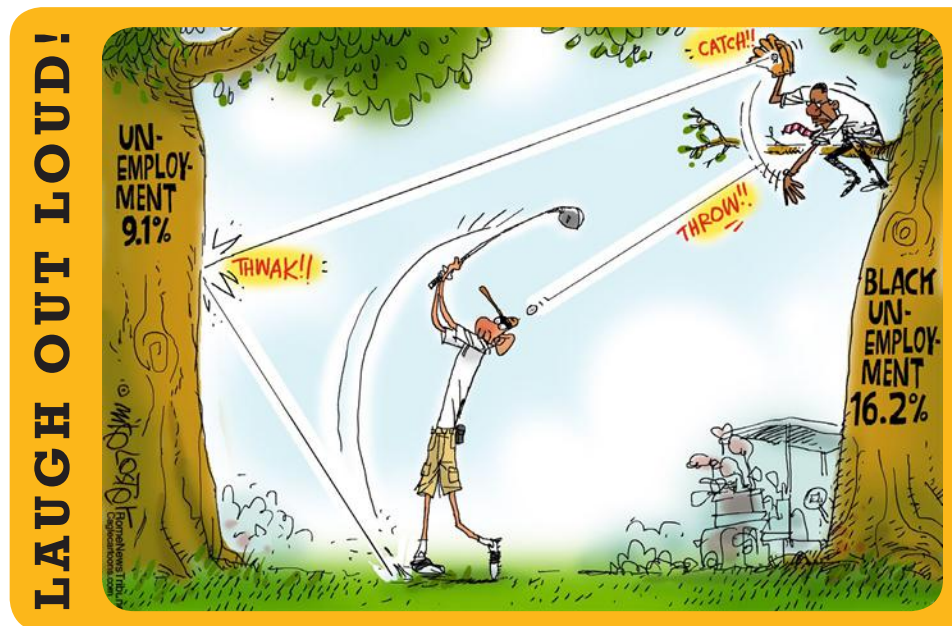
freed the white man. . . . Where others -- white and black -- preached hatred, he taught the principles of love and nonviolence."

On this anniversary of Dr. King's birthday, it's fitting to note that Ronald Reagan did more to improve the lives of African-Americans than any other president since Abraham Lincoln. Unfortunately, we have to acknowledge that America's first black president has made life worse for us all -- and especially for black Americans.

History does not judge presidents by the color of their skin, but by the content of their policies.

Ronald Reagan. He is the founder and chairman of The Reagan Group and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his website at www.reagan.com. ©2011 Mike Reagan. Mike's column is distributed exclusively by: Cagle Cartoons, Inc

>> *Michael Reagan is the son of President*



How to Draw OBAMA

by Daryl Cagle



Obama seems like an easy guy to draw; he's skinny, has a big chin, expressive eyebrows and lips. As it turns out, no matter how a cartoonist draws Obama, somebody gets mad.

When Obama burst into the presidential campaign cartoonists started drawing him as a caricature without much exaggeration. As time goes by, political figures morph in cartoons into caricatures of caricatures; George W. Bush shrank to knee height and grew huge bunny ears; Bill Clinton lost his pants and grew fatter (even as he got skinnier in real life).

I worked for twenty years as a cartoon illustrator, doing drawings for books, magazines and advertising. I was often given clear guidelines on how I was supposed to draw African-Americans: with "small noses" and "thin lips". I was instructed to make any crowds of cartoon characters racially

diverse, but only diverse in color, not in facial features. Thick lips and wide noses on African American faces would be returned to me for correction, with a polite reminder of the corporate policies on depictions of minority facial features.

Cartoonist Gary McCoy has been lambasted by readers, and by Salon.com, for drawing racially insensitive, big lips on Obama. Some cartoonists have drawn attention for giving Obama blue lips. Canadian cartoonist Patrick Corrigan of the Toronto Star had an Obama cartoon killed by his editor because of "racist" blue lips. Thomas "Tab" Boldt of the Calgary Sun and Cam Cardow of the Ottawa Citizen have also been rendering Obama with blue lips. Corrigan tells me that everyone in Canada, in the winter, has blue lips.

Readers of my blog explained to me that blue lips are racist and pointed out an old racist expression "blue gums," which was a new one for me. Corrigan tells me he'll be switching to purple lips, Cam will be giving up on the blue lips and Tab was

laid off. That may mean the end of blue lips for Obama.

Syndicated caricaturist Taylor Jones also sees blue in Obama. He writes: "One of the most interesting things about Obama's eyes is the slight blue tinge to the flesh below his eyebrows. It's also visible on his eyelids. It's as though he's wearing a bit of eye shadow. Don't know if it's actual blue pigmentation, or just the effect of light bouncing off the skin stretched against his eye sockets. But it adds a nifty touch whenever I'm drawing Obama's caricature in color."

I'm considering going all the way, making Obama completely blue (if that's not racist).

Obama's ears have grown huge for most cartoonists. George W. Bush's ears also grew huge, but it took more than a year for Bush's big ears to catch on -- Obama's ears started right away, and have been expanding faster than the national debt. It may be that after eight years of Bush, we now see huge ears as a standard, presidential attribute. I don't see

LAUGH OUT LOUD!

Some cartoonists have complained in the press that Obama is dull, and that there is little to criticize about him -- we have a term of art for cartoonists like that, we call them "bad cartoonists." It is the job of an editorial cartoonist to dislike everybody.

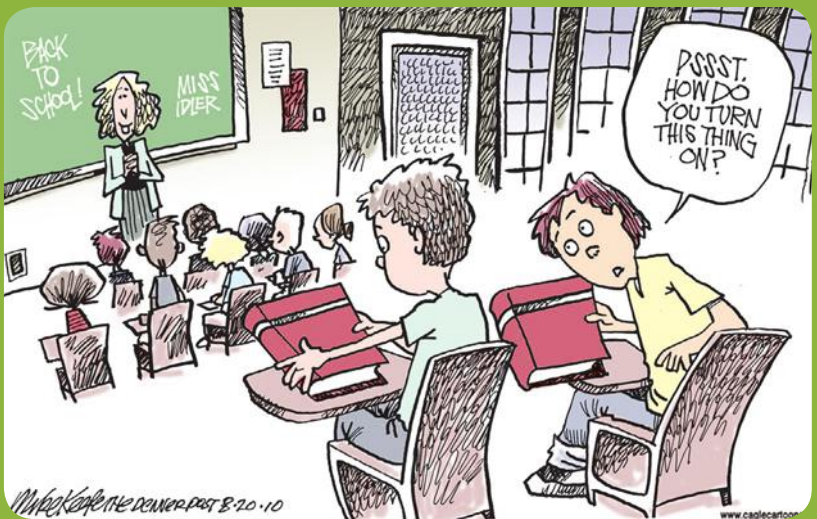
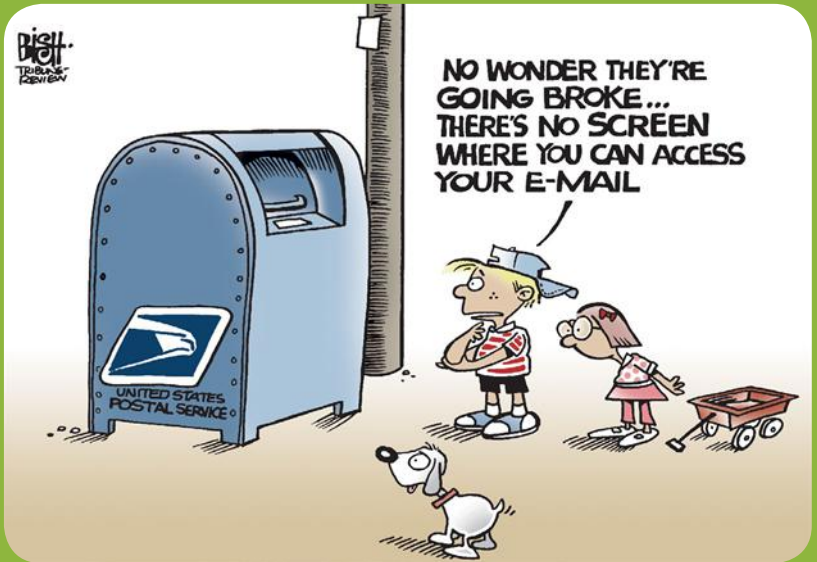
any particular reason for either Bush's or Obama's ears to grow in cartoons, but with cartoonist peer pressure it will soon be impossible to draw a likeness of Obama without colossal ears.

There seems to be an expectation that political cartoonists are mostly liberals who love Obama and will find it hard to make fun of him in cartoons. Some cartoonists have complained in the press that Obama is dull, and that there is little to criticize about him -- we have a term of art for cartoonists like that, we call them "bad cartoonists." It is the job of an editorial cartoonist to dislike everybody. Political cartoonists have nothing to gain by being in favor of anything. Cartoons that support anything are lousy cartoons. There is plenty for everyone not to like about Obama -- and with the porky stimulus package and tax-evading cabinet appointments, there's more every day!

The cartoon version of Obama will continue to evolve quickly. If we ever actually see him smoking a cigarette, he will always be smoking in cartoons. Obama may turn different colors, and he'll grow or shrink with his performance. Obama's ears will keep growing no matter what he does. As Obama's honeymoon passes and the caricatures become more severe, I expect the complaints about racism in the cartoons will also grow more severe.

But I don't care. I'm making Obama blue today.

>> *Daryl Cagle is a political cartoonist and a past president of the National Cartoonists Society. His cartoons are syndicated to more than 850 publications including the magazine you are reading.*



Understanding Liberals

by Walter E. Williams

The liberal vision of government is easily understood and makes perfect sense if one acknowledges their misunderstanding and implied assumptions about

the sources of income. Their vision helps explain the language they use and policies they support, such as income redistribution and calls for the rich to give something back.

Suppose the true source of income was a gigantic pile of money meant to be shared equally amongst Americans. The reason some people have more money than others is because they got to the pile first and greedily took an unfair share. That being the case, justice requires that the rich give something back, and if they won't do so voluntarily, Congress should confiscate their ill-gotten gains and return them to their rightful owners.

A competing liberal implied assumption about the sources of income is that income is distributed, as in distribution of income. There might be a dealer of dollars. The reason why some people have more dollars than others is because the dollar dealer is a racist, a sexist, a multinationalist or a conservative. The only right thing to do, for those to whom the dollar dealer unfairly dealt too many dollars, is to give back their ill-gotten gains. If they refuse to do so, then it's the job of Congress to use their agents at the IRS to confiscate their ill-gotten gains and return them to their rightful owners. In a word, there must be a re-dealing of the dollars or what some people call income redistribution.

The sane among us recognize that in a free society, income is neither taken nor distributed; for the most part, it is earned. Income is earned by pleasing one's fellow man. The greater one's ability to please his fellow man, the greater is his claim on what his fellow man produces. Those claims



are represented by the number of dollars received from his fellow man.

Say I mow your lawn. For doing so, you pay me \$20. I go to my grocer and demand, "Give me 2 pounds of steak and a six-pack of beer that my fellow man produced." In effect, the grocer asks, "Williams, you're asking your fellow man to serve you. Did you serve him?" I reply, "Yes." The grocer says, "Prove it."

That's when I pull out the \$20 I earned from serving my fellow man. We can think of that \$20 as "certificates of performance." They stand as proof that I served my fellow man. It would be no different if I were an orthopedic doctor, with a large clientele, earning \$500,000 per year by serving my fellow man. By the way, having mowed my fellow man's lawn or set his fractured fibula, what else do I owe him or anyone else? What's the case for being forced to give anything back? If one wishes to be charitable, that's an entirely different matter.

Contrast the morality of having to serve one's fellow man in order to have a claim on what he produces with congressional handouts. In effect, Congress says, "You don't have to serve your fellow man in order to have a claim on what he produces. We'll

take what he produces and give it to you. Just vote for me."

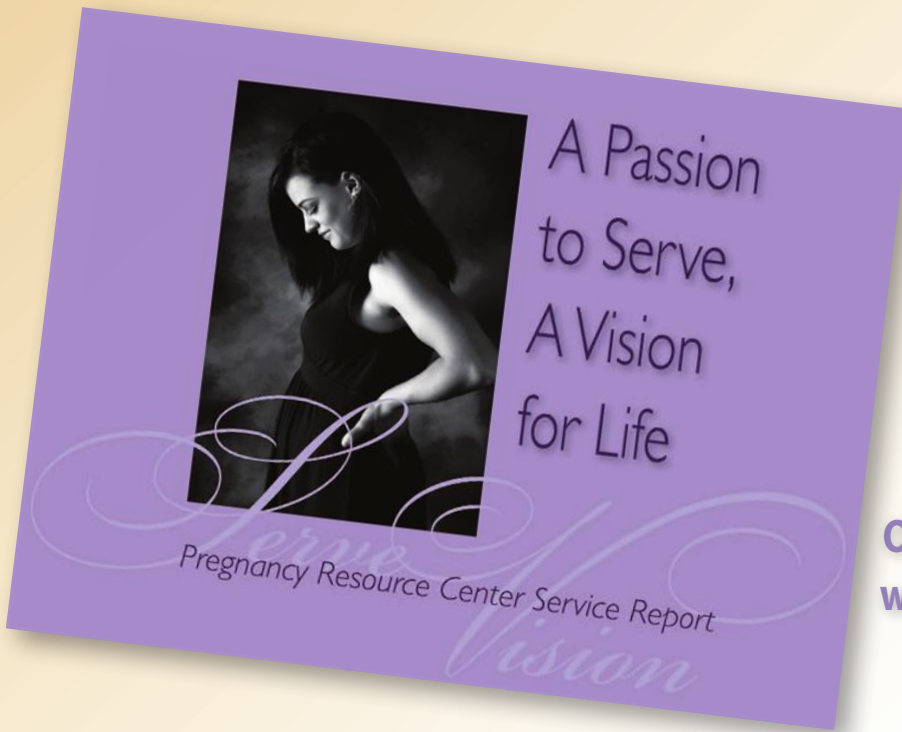
Who should give back? Sam Walton founded Wal-Mart, Bill Gates founded Microsoft, Steve Jobs founded Apple Computer. Which one of these billionaires acquired their wealth by coercing us to purchase their product? Which has taken the property of anyone?

Each of these examples, and thousands more, is a person who served his fellow men by producing products and services that made life easier. What else do they owe? They've already given.

If anyone is obliged to give something back, they are the thieves and recipients of legalized theft, namely people who've used Congress, including America's corporate welfare queens, to live at the expense of others. When a nation vilifies the productive and makes mascots of the unproductive, it doesn't bode well for its future.

>> Walter E. Williams is an accomplished American economist, commentator, and academic. He is the John M Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University. Copyright 2011 Creators.com

Family Research Council Honors Life



Order the report at:
www.apassiontoserve.org

**Adult
STEM CELLS
saved My Life**
EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

For more information
please visit: www.stemcellresearchfacts.org



www.frc.org



Beautiful! Formidable! Exceptional!

Prepared by MagCloud for Andrew Kaczynski. Get more at tctmag.magcloud.com.