



FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #80 — FEB. 23, 2012

Welcome to always lively political discussion and whatever else comes up.
<http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org> FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com

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The Sanctity and Sacredness of Sperm

(posted by Steven W. Baker / SteveB, Feb. 23, 2012)

It feels like we are being driven back to the Dark Ages. Perhaps, as with Pam's Jonathan Swift, a little satire can shed light on the subject. That's what we always hope here around our Friends of the Middle offices, anyway. We love satire and hate hypocrisy.

Unfortunately, at this time in American history, it seems to us that all the satire sits on one side of the aisle, while all the hypocrisy lurks on the other.

If there is any middle ground that has been found in this battle, it is that of President Obama, who seeks to reduce the number of abortions without imposing the stupid government on the rights of women. And, believe me, human rights are more important than gun rights any day of the week. If the pro-life positions of the Right are not hypocritical, then why is their total concern with/against women? What about the death penalty, wars, torture, and men's role in reproduction? And if they oppose government intrusion in areas dominated by men—like guns and money—why not oppose this intrusion on the rights of women? The government will never "know" when life begins. Never! Hypocrisy lives and thrives in the Republican party.

"Georgia Democrats Propose Limitations on Vasectomies for Men" by Jamie Gumbrecht, CNN

Feb. 21, 2012, (<http://news.blogs.cnn.com/2012/02/21/georgia-democrats-to-propose-limitations-on-vasectomies-for-men/>)

As members of Georgia's House of Representatives debate whether to prohibit abortions for women more than 20 weeks pregnant, House Democrats introduced their own reproductive rights plan: No more vasectomies that leave "thousands of children ... deprived of birth."

Rep. Yasmin Neal, a Democrat from the Atlanta suburb of Jonesboro, planned on Wednesday to introduce HB 1116, which would prevent men from vasectomies unless needed to avert serious injury or death.

The bill reads: "It is patently unfair that men avoid the rewards of unwanted fatherhood by presuming that their judgment over such matters is more valid than the judgment of the General Assembly. ... It is the purpose of the General Assembly to assert an invasive state interest in the reproductive habits of men in this state and substitute the will of the government over the will of adult men."

"If we legislate women's bodies, it's only fair that we legislate men's," said Neal, who said she wanted to write bill that would generate emotion and conversation the way anti-abortion bills do. "There are too many problems in the state. Why are you under the skirts of women? I'm sure there are other places to be."

Personally, Neal said, she has no qualms with vasectomies.

"But even if it were proposed as a serious issue," she said, "it's still not my place as a woman to tell a man what to do with his body."

The anti-vasectomy bill was a response to a bill that would punish abortions performed after the 20th week of pregnancy with prison sentences between one and 10 years. Georgia law currently prohibits abortion after the second trimester, except to preserve the life and health of the mother. Neal's bill borrows some language directly from the anti-abortion bill.

The anti-abortion bill makes exceptions to avert death or "serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function" of the mother, but doesn't include "diagnosis or claim of a mental or emotional condition." If an abortion occurs after the 20th week, the bill requires doctors to attempt to deliver a living baby.

Earlier discussions about the bill have been "outstanding," said Rep. Doug McKillip, a Republican from Athens, Georgia, who introduced the anti-abortion bill this month. He said legislators are "drilling down" on questions about when a fetus can feel pain and what exceptions can allow abortions later in pregnancy, and he expects more testimony late this week.

"I'm just disappointed in my colleague, that they would take this opportunity to make light of a very important topic," McKillip said. "I believe this is a serious topic deserving of serious debate. It feels like a poor attempt at humor."

Neal said she's serious about making legislators recognize women's rights to make private decisions about their bodies.

"I hope that through the madness this has caused, it gets him to understand where the woman is coming from," she said. "There are a number of women in other states trying the same plays we're trying here."

Earlier this month, Democratic Oklahoma Sen. Constance Johnson added – then withdrew – a provision to an anti-abortion bill that read "any action in which a man ejaculates or otherwise deposits semen anywhere but in a woman's vagina shall be interpreted and construed as an action against an unborn child." The state Senate passed the bill this month.

In January, as the Virginia state Senate debated a bill that required women to have an ultrasound before an abortion, Democrat Janet Howell attached an amendment that required men to have rectal exams and cardiac stress tests before they could receive prescriptions for erectile dysfunction medication like Viagra. The amendment was rejected in the Senate, 21-19.

CNN affiliate WAVY reported that hundreds gathered this week to protest the ultrasound bill, which is up for a vote in Virginia's House of Delegates, and another that says life begins at conception.

On the Georgia House floor, Neal doesn't anticipate her anti-vasectomy bill will generate much serious debate.

"If it moves anywhere," she said, "that'll be a very interesting day."

[Comment posted by Majav:](#)

I just want to know how far these pro death penalty warmonger men are going to reach up into women's privacy. Will they convict an alcoholic woman who drank so much she miscarried? Will these men be so disgusted by her act of negligence that they will seek the death penalty?

A woman gives life to the child. The state does not give life. If she chooses to end her pregnancy that's strictly her choice too. How she does it should be as medically safe as possible. Making it illegal will compel already vulnerable women to make extremely dangerous choices.

We don't see the state giving life to a child, but we see life taken away by the state as in capital punishment and endless wars.

Why are Republican men so pro-life with unborn babies but so calloused in taking away life with capital punishment and war? Guilty felons? What about innocent young men dying in the military?

Maybe that woman drank so much because her husband and brother were both killed in combat and she couldn't stand to bring another life into a world that worships death and destruction more than decency.

Pro-lifers should also be pacifists and anti-capital punishment. Yet, Catholic Santorum and Catholic Gingrich are staunchly pro gun pro military and pro death penalty- the latter being explicitly forbidden by the Pope.

These men do not have consciences. They read polls and wager their campaigns on the most ignorant, backward, and irrational voters imaginable. After years of this opportunistic kowtowing they actually believe the rubbish that spills from their lips.

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20120222-02

08:02

MarthaH

"Lawmaker: 'Radical' Girl Scouts Out to Destroy 'American Family Values'"

Hoosier idiot...

"Lawmaker: 'Radical' Girl Scouts Out to Destroy 'American Family Values'" by NBC/MSNBC

Feb. 21, 2012, (<http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/02/21/10469492-lawmaker-radical-girl-scouts-out-to-destroy-american-family-values>)

(Indiana state Rep. Bob Morris, R-Fort Wayne, accuses the Girl Scouts of celebrating feminists, lesbians and communists.)

There's an agenda behind those cookies the Girl Scouts sell, one bent on promoting communism, lesbianism and subverting "traditional American family values," according to an Indiana lawmaker.

That's the reason Rep. Bob Morris, a Republican representing Fort Wayne, insists he won't go along with a resolution meant to honor the Girls Scouts on the organization's 100th anniversary.

Morris owns a chain of nutrition stores, but it's not the fat and sugar in Girl Scout cookies that have him riled up.

"After talking to some well-informed constituents, I did a small amount of Web-based research, and what I found is disturbing," Morris wrote Saturday to Republican House colleagues in a letter obtained by the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*.

Morris alleged that the Girl Scouts of America and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts "have entered into a close strategic affiliation with Planned Parenthood," which he claimed is trying to "sexualiz(e) young girls through the Girl Scouts."

Even worse, he wrote, only three of the 50 role models promoted by the Girl Scouts have even "a briefly-mentioned religious background."

"All the rest are feminists, lesbians, or Communists," he wrote.

As proof, Morris notes that the "radically pro-abortion" Michelle Obama is honorary president of Girl Scouts of America, which "should give each of us reason to pause before our individual or collective endorsement of the organization."

After learning all this, he wrote, he pulled his two daughters out of the Girl Scouts and instead put them in American Heritage Girls Little Flowers, a parent-run group best described as a center for recovering Girl Scouts.

Michelle Tompkins, a spokeswoman for the Girl Scouts, responded to Morris' assertions by telling NBC station WISE of Fort Wayne, "Not only is Rep. Morris off the mark on his claims, it's also unfortunate in his limited research that he failed to discover that, since 1917, every first lady has served as the honorary leader of Girl Scouts, including Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush and Laura Bush."

"We believe that leadership is about hearing from all sides of an issue before making up one's mind," Tompkins said. "We only wish we had the chance to speak with the freshman representative before he distributed his letter."

For its part, Planned Parenthood of Indiana called Morris' comments "inflammatory, misleading, woefully inaccurate and harmful," saying he'd insulted not only it but also the Girl Scouts and Obama.

"Planned Parenthood currently has no formal partnership with the Girl Scouts, but supports their mission and recognizes their century of contributions to our society," the organization said in a statement to NBC station WTHR of Indianapolis.

20120222-03	09:11	SteveB	"Obama Seeks 28 Percent Corporate Tax Rate"
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Obama the Socialist! LOL!

Next, I suppose the socialist, Muslim, illegal, fantastically dangerous President Obama will seize all our property?

"Obama Seeks 28 Percent Corporate Tax Rate" by AP

Feb. 22, 2012, (<http://www.wopular.com/ap-source-obama-seeks-28-percent-corp-tax-rate-21>)

(WASHINGTON) President Barack Obama is proposing to cut the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 28 percent and wants an even lower effective rate for manufacturers, a senior administration official says, as the White House lays down an election-year marker in the debate over tax policy.

In turn, corporations would have to give up dozens of loopholes and subsidies that they now enjoy. Corporations with overseas operations would also face a minimum tax on their foreign earnings.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner on Wednesday was to detail aspects of Obama's proposed overhaul of the corporate tax system, a plan the president outlined in general terms in his State of the Union speech last month.

Chances of accomplishing such change in the tax system are slim in a year dominated mostly with presidential and congressional elections. But for Obama, the proposal is part of a larger tax plan that is central to his re-election strategy.

The corporate tax plan dovetails with Obama's call for raising taxes on millionaires and maintaining current rates on individuals making \$200,000 or less.

The 35 percent nominal corporate tax rate is the highest in the world after Japan. But deductions, credits and exemptions allow many corporations to pay taxes at a much lower rate.

Under the framework proposed by the administration, the rate cuts, closed loopholes and the minimum tax on overseas earning would result in no increase to the deficit.

That means that many businesses that slip through loopholes or enjoy subsidies and pay an effective tax rate that is substantially less than the 35 percent corporate tax could end up paying more under Obama's plan. Others, however, would pay less while some would simply benefit from a more simplified system.

The official said the Obama plan aims to help U.S. businesses, especially manufacturers who face strong international competition. Obama's plan would lower the effective rate for manufacturers to 25 percent while emphasizing development of clean energy systems. The administration official spoke on condition of anonymity to describe what the administration will do.

The New York Times first reported details of the plan in its online edition early Wednesday.

Many members of both parties have said they favor overhauling the nation's individual and corporate tax systems, which they complain have rates that are too high and are riddled with too many deductions.

The corporate tax debate has made its way into the presidential contest. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney has called for a 25 percent rate, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., would cut the corporate tax rate to

12.5 percent, and former Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., would exempt domestic manufacturers from the corporate tax and halve the top rate for other businesses.

While Obama has been promoting various aspects of his economic agenda in personal appearances and speeches, the decision to leave the corporate tax plan to the Treasury Department to unveil signaled its lower priority.

What's more, the administration's framework leaves much for Congress to decide — a deliberate move by the administration to encourage negotiations but which also doesn't subject the plan to detailed scrutiny.

Obama's plan is not as ambitious as a House Republican proposal that would lower the corporate rate to 25 percent.

Still, Obama has said corporate tax rates are too high and has proposed eliminating tax breaks for American companies that move jobs and profits overseas. He also has proposed giving tax breaks to U.S. manufacturers, to firms that return jobs to this country and to companies that relocate to some communities that have lost big employers.

Geithner told a House committee last week that the administration wants to create more incentives for corporations to invest in the United States.

"We want to bring down the rate, and we think we can, to a level that's closer to the average of that of our major competitors," Geithner told the House Ways and Means Committee.

White House economic adviser Gene Sperling has advocated a minimum tax on global profits. Currently many corporations do not invest overseas profits in the United States to avoid the 35 percent tax rate.

(Associated Press writer Alan Fram contributed to this report.)

20120222-05	13:07	SteveBA	Re: "Obama Seeks 28 Percent Corporate Tax Rate" (reply to SteveB, above)
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I'm afraid you're like the frog who kept being immersed into increasingly hotter water, so he never felt the "change".....he died just the same.

[Kinda like what I say about global warming. –SteveB]

20120222-17	19:57	SteveB	Re: "Obama Seeks 28 Percent Corporate Tax Rate" (reply to SteveBA, above)
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Ah...just like my hot tub. I love it!

"Republicans who claim that Obama in his first term was the most socialist president they can imagine clearly don't have much imagination." -- Geoffrey Kabaservice

<http://www.tnr.com/article/politics/100893/barry-goldwater-santorum-republican-establishment-hidden-conservative-majority>

20120222-04	09:30	SteveB	From the Right: Is President Obama a Christian?
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PLEASE! Can we just STOP being IDIOTS and leave this BS behind??? It is so very offensive, people!!!

I always thought that if any man told a Christian that he was a Christian too, well, that was the end of it. Perhaps if the answer is not believed, perhaps it is the inquirer who is not Christian...

"One step removed from accusing people of witchcraft."

from Politico's forum: The Arena, Feb. 22, 2012, (<http://www.politico.com/arena/>)

Erika Lovley (Moderator): Evangelist Franklin Graham yesterday called President Obama's religious views into question, stating he does not know if Obama is a Christian. "[Obama] has said he's a Christian, so I just have to assume that he is," Graham said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." However, Graham was much more concrete about Rick Santorum's religious views. "I think so," Graham said when asked if he believes Santorum is a Christian. "His values are so clear on moral issues. No question about it... I think he's a man of faith." Are Graham's comments a sign that religious voters are questioning Obama's faith? Or will the comments lose steam before the election?

John Anzalone (Democratic consultant, Anzalone Liszt Research): As a Christian I was appalled by this interview. I truly felt like I was listening to a modern day Pharisee. I always loved watching Billy Graham preach on TV to those big outdoor stadiums. He was a man of God, but more importantly he taught a theology of love, unlike the Christianity that is spewed by the like of Franklin and other modern day political-preachers. At the end of the day, each person has their own relationship with God and there is no room for judgment from the likes of Franklin Graham or anyone else.

Timothy Stoltzfus Jost (Law Professor at the Washington and Lee University): Some Americans have become deeply confused as to what it means to be a Christian. It is not the same as being a conservative Republican. If people would actually pay any attention to what Jesus Christ said and taught and the way he lived, they would notice that President Obama comes a lot closer to those teachings and that way of life than many of his opponents. He leads an exemplary personal and family life. He cares deeply about the poor and oppressed and about justice and righteousness. Although he does not, unlike some of his opponents, try to impose his religious beliefs on others, he often refers to his Christian beliefs and to Christian teachings. These attacks do, of course, cater to a certain element of the American electorate, but I suspect, or at least hope, that most Americans are going to tire of self-righteousness and religious bigotry by the fall election, and will vote on the basis of the issues that matter to them rather than on what some people think about other's religious beliefs. And of course, in the end, if one believes the teachings of the Bible, God, and not Franklin Graham, will judge and a lot of people are going to be surprised.

Victor Kamber (Vice President, American Income Life Insurance): Anti-Obama people will use anything to discredit him. Although Graham may think he is God, he is not. No man can judge what is in another man's heart and soul. Having been raised in a fundamentalist Christian home by a minister, I have seen all types. All professed to be Christian regardless of their words, actions or deeds. Those so called Christians that wish to hate Obama will never believe what he says whether it be about health, the economy, foreign policy or his beliefs and faith. I question people like this man who is giving the Graham name a bad one.

Steve Murphy (Democratic consultant; Managing Partner at Murphy Vogel Askew Reilly): Questioning a political candidate's religion is despicable. It has no place in civilized discourse. **It is one step removed from accusing people of witchcraft and such.** Frankly, President Obama's religious beliefs are none of this blasphemous bozo's business. Who but God makes that judgement?

20120222-10	17:42 Art	From the Right: Extremism Illustrated
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I don't know about the rest of you, but I believe very little that I read on the Internet, even the news articles. What I do enjoy, however, is reading the reader comments posted below the articles. I thought I'd share a few of those with all from time to time. The below is a sample. Shows you the intellect and depth of thinking we are up against.

posted on February 21, 2012 at 10:15pm

President Obama has been absolutely diabolical in his agenda to take guns away from Americans. How? He hasn't even mentioned it, that's how. He is concealing his true agenda and betrayed himself by remaining silent (like Scott Walker did about his anti-union views during his election). Once elected for a second term (and of course he will be) we all know what will happen. Rush Limbaugh knows, the NRA knows and all gun owners know what President Obama is thinking, because they have special powers to perceive his unspoken thoughts.

Let's be honest here. If President Obama wins the general election again (assuming there is an election!), he will become absolute dictator, a communist dictator, a socialist and totalitarian dictator, and a Marxist dictator to boot. All of 'em at once. And, once that's done, ban arms. No, not arms like legs, but firearms. No more elections, no nothin'.

Of course a few of the brave, those who have stored food and water, and bought gold and seeds for crops to feed themselves and their families will fight back. It will be hard at first, but thank to seeds which provide valuable tomatoes, potatoes (did I spell that right?) and squash, and freeze dried food and guns, the tide will turn. The gun wielding patriots will block by block, city by city, gradually take back America! And reestablish a Democracy. Or a Republic. Or whatever we're taking back.

[20120222-18](#) 20:09 SteveG Re: From the Right: Extremism Illustrated (reply to Art, above)

Thanks, Art. It has been a rough couple of days and I needed a good laugh.

I know a couple of people like this, oh wait a minute – they live in Tennessee – do they still count?

[20120222-11](#) 17:59 SteveB Re: From the Right: Extremism Illustrated (reply to Art, above)

This one is precious, Art. I wish we could get that guy into our little discussion here. It would be a lot like bottom fishing. "Or whatever we're taking back." LOL.

What a great time this guy will have with his gun and gold and seeds when civilization collapses and millions or billions of people die horrible deaths. Ah, what great fun that will be! Maybe he'll even get to shoot a few liberals, maybe even some media types. Aren't the violence and slaughter this dude's secret goals?

There won't be any pesky taxes or government regulation and intrusion then! No Obamacare! No dangerous education! Just the law and guns in the hands of lunatics.

Thanks to seeds!

That Diabolical Obama!

This is what gets dredged to the surface and encouraged by media and politicians who live by hatred.

[20120222-12](#) 18:17 Ben Re: From the Right: Extremism Illustrated (reply to Art & SteveB, above)

Freeze-dried guns?

[20120222-13](#) 18:31 Dennis Re: From the Right: Extremism Illustrated (reply to Art & SteveB, above)

I hate to disillusion you guys, but I think Mr. Diabolical is actually Mr. Facetious. Yes, surely he jests. You've been had!

[20120222-14](#) 18:53 Art Re: From the Right: Extremism Illustrated (reply to Dennis, above)

I dunno. I found at least a dozen more in the same vein in reponse to an NRA article. I think it's real. I even know a few like this bozo.

[20120222-23](#) 23:28 SteveG Re: From the Right: Extremism Illustrated (reply to Dennis, above)

Half jest/half real.

[20120222-16](#) 19:26 SteveB Re: From the Right: Extremism Illustrated (reply to Dennis, above)

Maybe...but do you think this below is in jest? Dennis, do you remember our old friend, Bob? Surely, the reality makes any ruse pale by comparison. What I said stands!

From: Bob
Ref (bb): Just a word of thanks to all who voted for Obama!
Date: Nov. 16, 2008, 6:03 am

Hey SteveB, Dennis, and all my new friends!

Sorry all I have not been in touch for awhile. It has been because as I told you before I live in the Congo, and I dont know how much news you have seen, but here all the n*ggers are killing each other and with any luck maybe they will kill 50% or more, well we could only be so lucky!!! Anyway just goes to show you and just wait soon al the n*ggers will be in tribal warfare in the good ole USA soon.

Well you guys did it congratulations!!!

Actually I heard the other day Obama came out and admitted that he was not going to be able to fix the economy like he had promised, but he does still think he will be able to n*gger-rig it!!!

But really we need to thank all of you for voting for Obama. However, I look at my fellow conservatives! There they go, glumly shuffling along, depressed by the election aftermath. But not me!!!! I'm virtually euphoric.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not thrilled with America's flirtation with neo-socialism. But there's a massive silver lining in those magical clouds that lofted Barack Obama to the Presidency. For today, without a shred of intellectually legitimate opposition, I can loudly proclaim to America: The Era of White Guilt is over.

This seemingly impossible event occurred because the vast majority of white Americans didn't give a fluff about skin color, and enthusiastically pulled the voting lever for a black man. Not just any black man. A very liberal black man who spent his early career racehustling banks, praying in a racist church for 20 years, and actively worked with America hating domestic terrorists. Wow! Some resume! Yet they made Barack Obama their leader. Therefore, as of Nov. 4th, 2008, white guilt is dead.

For over a century, the millstone of white guilt hung around our necks, retribution for slave-owning predecessors. In the 60s, American liberals began yanking that millstone while sticking a fork in the eye of black Americans, exacerbating the racial divide to extort a socialist solution. But if a black man can become President, exactly what significant barrier is left? The election of Barack Obama absolutely destroys the entire validation of liberal white guilt. The dragon is hereby slain.

So today, I'm feeling a little "uppity," if you will. From this day forward, my tolerance level for having my skin color hustled is now exactly ZERO. And it's time to clean house. No more Reverend Wright's "God Damn America," Al Sharpton's Church of Perpetual Victimization, or Jesse Jackson's rainbow racism. Cornell West? You're a fraud. Go

home. All those "black studies" programs that taught kids to hate whitey? You must now thank Whitey. And I want that on the final.

Congressional Black Caucus? Irrelevant. Maxine Waters? Shut up. ACORN? Outlawed. Black Panthers? Go home and pet your kitty. Black separatists? Find another nation that offers better dreams. Go ahead. I'm waiting.

Gangsta rappers? Start praising America. Begin with the Pledge of Allegiance. And please, no more ebonics. Speak English, and who knows where you might end up? Oh, yeah, pull up your pants. Your underwear is showing. You look stupid.

Black Fraternities? Seek diversity. Race Card? It's now the joker. Miss Black America? Get in line with all the other lovely ladies. Reparations? Paid.

To those Eurosnots who forged entire careers hating America? I'm still waiting for the first black French President.

And let me offer an equal opportunity whupping. I've always despised lazy white people. Now, I can talk smack about lazy black people. You're poor because you quit school, did drugs, had three kids with three different fathers, and refuse to work. So when you plop your Colt 45-swilling, Oprah watchin' butt on the couch and complain "Da Man is keepin' me down!!!" allow me to inform you: Da Man is now black. You have no excuses.

No more quotas. No more handouts. No more stealing my money because someone's great-great-great-great grandparents suffered actual pain and misery at the hands of people I have no relation to, and personally revile.

It's time to toss that massive, obsolete race-hustle machine upon the heap of the other stupid 60s ideas. Drag it over there, by wife swapping, next to dope-smoking. Plenty of room right between free love and cop-killing. Careful, don't trip on streaking. There ya go, don't be gentle. Just dump it. Wash your hands. It's filthy.

In fact, Obama's ascension created a gargantuan irony. How can you sell class envy and American unfairness when you and your black wife went to Ivy League schools, got high paying jobs, became millionaires, bought a mansion, and got elected President? How unfair is that??? Now, Like a delicious O'Henry tale, Obama's spread-the-wealth campaign rendered itself moot by it's own victory! America is officially a meritocracy. Obama's election has validated American conservatism!

So, listen carefully ... "Wham!!!"

That's the sound of my foot kicking the door shut on the era of white guilt. The rites have been muttered, the carcass lowered, dirt shoveled, and tombstone erected. White guilt is dead and buried.

However, despite my glee, there's apparently one small, rabid bastion of American racism remaining. Black Americans voted 96% for Barack Obama. Hmmm. In a color-blind world, shouldn't that be 50-50? Tonight, every black person should ask forgiveness for their apparent racism and prejudice towards white people. Maybe it's time to start spreading that guilt around.

While the technician is more important than the technology it is good to remember that a 9mm might expand but a .45 won't shrink.

All the loving best to you stupid n*gger-rag head loving mother f*ckers, and when you are all eating dirt cookies and everybody is living like Africans don't go blaming the Republicans like you stupid f*cks always do!!!!

PS: Black Hurricanes.....

Well, it appears our African-American friends have found yet something else to be p*ssed about. A black congresswoman (this would be Sheila Jackson Lee, of Houston), reportedly complained that the names of hurricanes are all Caucasian sounding names.

She would prefer some names that reflect African-American culture such as Chamiqua, Tanisha, Woeisha, Shaqueal, and Jamal. I am NOT making this up! She would also like the weather reports to be broad cast in 'language' that street people can understand because one of the problems that happened in New Orleans was that black people couldn't understand the seriousness of the situation, due to the racially biased language of the weather report.

I guess if the weather person says that the winds are going to blow at 140+ MPH, thats too hard to understand. I can hear it now: A weatherman in New Orleans says... Wazzup, mutha-fukkas! Hehr-icane Chamiqua be headin' fo' yo a*s like Leroy on a crotch rocket! B*tch be a category fo'! So, turn off dem chitlins, grab yo' chirren, leave yo crib, and head fo' de nearest FEMA office fo yo FREE sh*t!

[20120222-20](#) 20:44 Pam Re: From the Right: Extremism Illustrated (reply to SteveB, above)

Wow. Is this for real? This Bob person has some serious issues. When someone has this much anger, I always suspect something terrible in his background and/or childhood. "Normal" people are not so hateful. It must be very hard to live with so much turmoil in your head.

[20120222-06](#) 14:17 Dennis Re: "Rush Limbaugh on Santorum & Satan" (reply to SteveB, FotM Newsletter #79)

from SteveB:

Perhaps Mr. Santorum's Achilles Heel:

"We look at the shape of mainline Protestantism in this country, and it is in shambles. It is gone from the world of Christianity as I see it," Santorum said.

Dear SteveB,

Mullah Rick Sanitarium wouldn't know Christianity if Jesus slapped him upside the head with it.

I believe Jesus would agree that the problem with Christian fundamentalists is they know none of the fundamentals.

[20120222-07](#) 14:36 Pam Re: "Rush Limbaugh on Santorum & Satan" (reply to SteveB, FotM Newsletter #79)

We might as well be hunting witches, the way the fundies (Santorum et. al.) go after what they consider heretics. It's the same mentality. It never ceases to amaze me that some people believe they, and they alone, know the truth. If Santorum had been born into a different family, he'd hold different beliefs today.

I'm so very sick of candidates bragging about how righteous they are, as if you can't be a good person without being the right kind of Christian. When is the world going to come to its senses and realize that NO ONE knows the truth about the meaning of the cosmos?

[20120222-08](#) 15:47 SteveB "Santorum: Who Needs Public Education?"

Public education in the crosshairs...

I guess they figure that if they can return us to ignorance, shutter the dreaded "liberal media" and "liberal universities"... maybe Republicans would be able to win more elections. LOL --SteveB

"Santorum: Who Needs Public Education?" by Timothy Noah, *The New Republic*

Feb. 20, 2012, (<http://www.tnr.com/blog/timothy-noah/100911/santorum-who-needs-public-education>)

At a weekend appearance in Ohio, Rick Santorum said this about public education, according to the *New York Times*:

[T]he idea that the federal government should be running schools, *frankly much less that the state government should be running schools* [italics mine], is anachronistic. It goes back to the time of industrialization of America when people came off the farms where they did home-school or have the little neighborhood school, and into these big factories, so we built equal factories called public schools. And while those factories as we all know in Ohio and Pennsylvania have fundamentally changed, the factory school has not.

Where to begin? The idea that the government should be running schools goes back to the nation's founding. Its principal advocate was Thomas Jefferson, who proposed (in Notes on the State of Virginia) that every child be entitled to three years of schooling free of charge (after that, parents had to pay). Horace Mann acted and expanded on Jefferson's idea starting in the 1830s through his energetic advocacy of publicly-funded education. Mann was appalled by the quality of the "little neighborhood schools" that Santorum rhapsodizes about and he fought to raise standards for the teaching profession and to abolish religious sectarianism from public schools. Prior to the 20th century more than 90 percent of American teenagers didn't go to high school, and whatever "home schooling" they received on the farm was typically limited to learning how to tend animals and plant and harvest crops. Young people were lucky to have a parent who could even read the Bible; as late as 1870 fully 20 percent of the adult U.S. population couldn't read or write. Even if a farmer or his wife were literate, where was he or she supposed to find the time to teach the children much of anything? Education was, by and large, a luxury for the rich.

The spread of government-funded high schools during the first half of the 20th century, far from violating some pastoral ideal of the little red schoolhouse, made it possible for the first time for most Americans to receive any kind of education at all. With electrification and the rise of other technologies, a high school education became essential not only to holding many factory jobs but also, with the rise of new agricultural techniques, to managing a farm. America's emergence as the world's richest and most powerful nation would have been impossible without the spread of government-funded, government-regulated education to raise the skill levels of its workers. To pine for the days before public education became a practical reality is to pine for an America held back by mass ignorance and mass illiteracy. Santorum might as well say he's opposed to knowledge itself. It's absolutely stupefying that a major presidential candidate would evangelize against education in this fashion.

20120222-09	16:28	Dennis	Re: "Santorum: Who Needs Public Education?" (reply to SteveB, above)
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Ironically, Ron Paul is now running an ad in Michigan criticizing Mullah Rick Sanitarium as a fake conservative who voted when he was in the Senate to double the funding of the Department of Education, as well as for funding Planned Parenthood. But that was then, as Romney would no doubt agree.

20120222-15	19:44	Art	A Huge, Incredibly Wonderful Listing of Debunked Lies!
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Another one to keep handy: <http://factcheck.org/hot-topics/>.

20120222-21	22:42	SteveG	Racism, Church & State
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Cannot believe some of the crap that comes out of right wingers mouths these days. I bad mouthed W and threatened to move out of country, but nothing like what is being said about Obama. Rodgers, black guy I met at some of the Occupy meetings, thinks it is all racial and the country wasn't ready for a black president.

Back in the 80's I used to refer to K Mart mentality, but it has gone way beyond that.

I remember saying the pledge of allegiance in school, but I have no memory of religious talk/teachings – was there? I know when I first started working with disabilities we would use church rooms and would take down all of the religious pictures, etc. before we used the room and then put them all back before Sunday school.

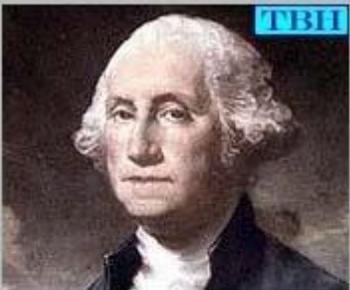
20120222-22 23:05 SteveB Re: Racism, Church & State (reply to SteveG, above)

I think your friend is right about the racism and have started saying so openly myself. Whenever I get to destroy the cr*p they put out, I'm determined to point out the racism and hate. That's really what the Right is all about. Racism and exclusion. And include at least the poor with the people of color in those being denied.

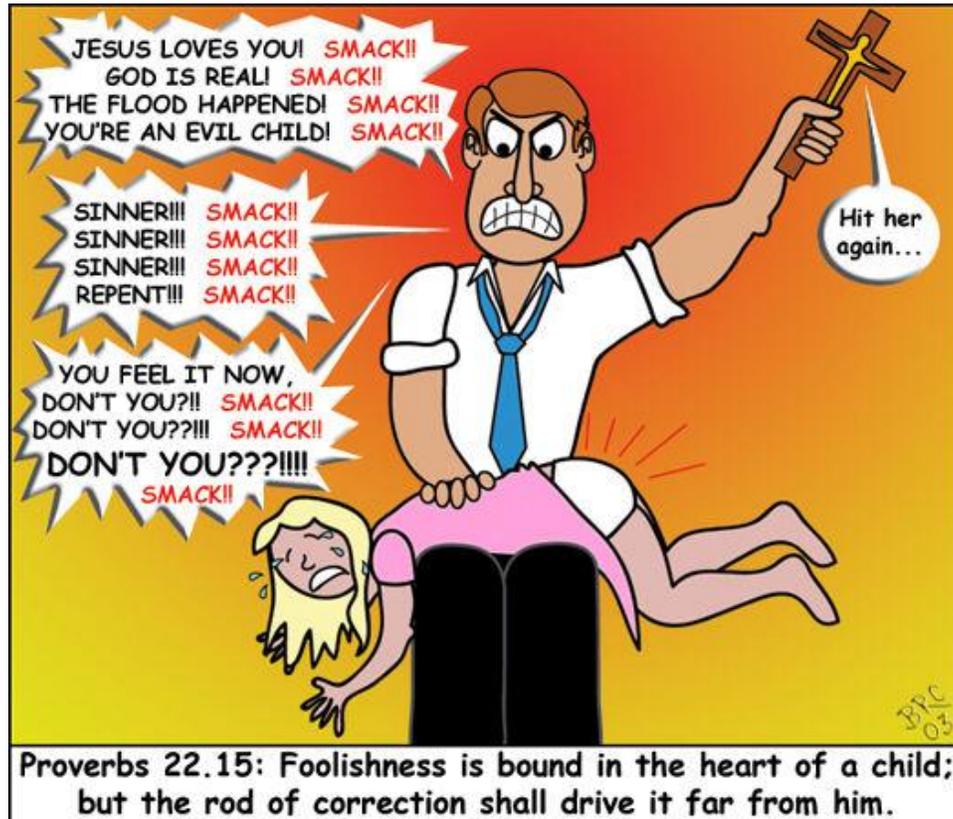
And notice what cowards they are! Where are those who thought they would brow beat us with lies and name calling into becoming right wingers? They have never presented one logical argument. It's only greed and hate. Only emotion. So rationality and logic don't apply.

I am sickened, but all the more determined to tell the truth and fight, however I can.

20120222-19 20:36 SteveG Which of These Two people Is a Liar?

	
"I will never apologize for fearlessly defending the Judeo-Christian values on which this nation was founded." Jerry Falwell	"The United States is in no sense founded upon the Christian religion." George Washington
Which of these two people is a liar?	

http://fundamentalistfunhouse.blogspot.com/2007_06_03_archive.html



—Friends of the Middle,
Steven W. Baker (SteveB), Editor/Moderator

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