



## FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #89 — MAR. 7, 2012

*Welcome to always lively political discussion and whatever else comes up.*  
<http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org> [FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com)

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### **What Has America Become?**

(posted by Dick and Steven W. Baker / SteveB, Mar. 7, 2012)

from Dick (Mar. 6, 2012, 11:23):

This is getting nationwide attention. Where is Tawas City, MI? Actually, it is on Lake Huron and has a population of just over 2,000!! Go figure. A Small MICHIGAN NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL.....Short and to the point...

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.

[Source of original email unknown. –SteveB]

What Has America Become?

Editor,

Has America become the land of special interest and home of the double standard?

Lets see: if we lie to the Congress, it's a felony and if the Congress lies to us its just politics; if we dislike a black person, we're racist and if a black person dislikes whites, its their 1st Amendment right; the government spends millions to rehabilitate criminals and they do almost nothing for the victims; in public schools you can teach that homosexuality is OK, but you better not use the word God in the process; you can kill an unborn child, but it is wrong to execute a mass murderer; we don't burn books in America, we now rewrite them; we got rid of communist and socialist threats by renaming them progressive; we are unable to close our border with Mexico, but have no problem protecting the 38th parallel in Korea; if you protest against President Obama's policies you're a terrorist, but if you burned an American flag or George Bush in effigy it was your 1st Amendment right.

You can have pornography on TV or the internet, but you better not put a nativity scene in a public park during Christmas; we have eliminated all criminals in America, they are now called sick people; we can use a human fetus for medical research, but it is wrong to use an animal.

We take money from those who work hard for it and give it to those who don't want to work; we all support the Constitution, but only when it supports our political ideology; we still have freedom of speech, but only if we are being politically correct; parenting has been replaced with Ritalin and video games; the land of opportunity is now the land of hand outs; the similarity between Hurricane Katrina and the gulf oil spill is that neither president did anything to help.

And how do we handle a major crisis today? The government appoints a committee to determine who's at fault, then threatens them, passes a law, raises our taxes; tells us the problem is solved so they can get back to their reelection campaign.

What has happened to the land of the free and home of the brave?

—Ken HuberTawas City, MI (6/910)

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## What has America become?

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to close our border with Mexico, but have no problem protecting the 38th parallel in Korea; if you protest against Président Obama's policies you're a terrorist, but if you burned an American flag or George Bush in effigy it was your 1st Amendment right.

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What has happened to the land of the free and home of the brave?

— Ken Huber  
Tawas City

reply by SteveB:

This letter, published June 9, 2010 and written to the editor of a small Michigan newspaper, is all over the web. I fail to see why this piece of nothing would even make the rounds, let alone resonate. Maybe that just shows how many vaguely disgruntled citizens are out there. But compounding errors and distortions does not produce truth. After quite a bit of searching, I finally found a posting that makes a start at debunking this piece of fake-bipartisan flim-flam. Maybe I can expand upon it a little. My comments to the original letter writer and to the debunker are bracketed [ ].

"Response to Ken Huber and 'What Has America Become?'" posted by dolphindentist

Oct. 25, 2010, , (<http://dolphindentist.blogspot.com/2010/10/response-to-ken-huber-and-what-has.html>)

This letter has been going around the right-wing email circuit, and I wanted to briefly address each of Mr. Huber's comments.

Ken Huber has some good points but his timeline seems to be confused...

[I would add that the letter is full of Right-wing innuendo, without much that can definitely be identified much more specifically. The exact meaning would depend upon what decade the author is referring to or stuck in. and what he has in mind—often a mystery, here. Vagueness is the watchword. —SteveB]

"Has America become the land of special interest and home of the double standard?"

Yes, when we seceded from the union (with Britain)... We have been such ever since, regardless of who has been paying attention.

[OK, we are the land of special interests, but many of us would define those special interests as the rich and powerful. I believe the author of this letter would define them as the poor and needy. The term "double standard", when applied to something as huge as decades of American government, becomes totally and completely devoid of meaning. --SteveB]

"Let's see, if we lie to the Congress, it's a felony and if the Congress lies to us it's just politics..."

Correct. This is because we don't require Congressmen to swear an oath every time they speak. Regular people lie all the time and it's not a felony. You're forgetting that Congressmen are just regular people going to work, and you seem to be under the impression that they were all completely truthful at one point..?

[In one of the last possibly bipartisan statements in the letter, the author attempts to call attention to the fact that Congressmen receive special treatment under and above their laws. So what else is new and how could you state the idea more poorly? --SteveB]

"If we dislike a black person, we're racist and if a black person dislikes whites, it's their 1st Amendment right."

Both of these things are racist and both of them are First Amendment rights. There wouldn't be a Constitution guaranteeing you the freedom to be a perfect person, this document would be unnecessary. BTW, if certain people give African Americans a pass for being racially ignorant, it's because the American double standard has shafted them historically harder than other groups, and perhaps they actually have a tiny reason to dislike us.

[Well, we now know the author of the letter is white. Notice the more subtle racism: "we" (the white people, plural) dislike "a black person" (singular), but the "black person" (singular) dislikes "whites" (plural, all whites). So the white person is made out to be a normal human in a group that might not like a particular person who happens to be black. How innocent! But then we are presented with one black person who is a total racist, as if these two examples are perfectly equal, representative, and somehow produce a "wrong" that has to be endured by innocent white people. This is not a representation of any truth except the truth that the author is a racist, in my view. --SteveB]

"The government spends millions to rehabilitate criminals and they do almost nothing for the victims."

My imagination isn't potent enough to fathom what it's like to have my life so far into the gutter that robbing a liquor store seems like a good idea... The sad truth of the matter is that we don't all share the same morals, intelligence, work ethic, education, psychological health, etc. etc. But if one of our worst hypocrisies as a nation is that we attempt to turn criminals into decent people.... I guess this doesn't enrage me as much as it should.

[Very well said by the unknown author of the rebuttal. I guess both authors are unknown, actually. I would argue that it's not like the government does "nothing" for victims, but how would the government get more money to do more in this deficit-doom scenario produced and enforced by the Right? Would the author really want the federal government to add a Department of Crime Victim Relief, even if that might not be a bad idea? I believe these are crocodile tears shed for the victims. And we all know that the efforts to rehabilitate criminals is so minimal as to be amazing, given that we have more people in prisons than any other nation. --SteveB]

"In public schools you can teach that homosexuality is OK, but you better not use the word God in the process."

But we teach that God is okay. In one form or another we all learned about the religious freedom of America, we're just not allowed to tell kids they have to believe in God anymore than we tell them they have to be homosexuals. How is this inconsistent?

[Are there really schools that teach that homosexuality is OK? I have my doubts. As to God in the schools and government, well, the majority of Americans decided long ago that they want freedom of religion and separation of government and religion = separation of education (public) and religion. Get used to it. Learn to appreciate your sacred-to-the-Right Constitution, literally written letter by letter by the Holy Spirit Herself. –SteveB]

"You can kill an unborn child, but it is wrong to execute a mass murderer."

I don't think mass murderers have as good of a reputation as you presume. [LOL! –SteveB] Also, unborn children are generally thought more highly of than "it's okay to kill them". But the reason it's LEGAL to kill them is one of the unfortunate results of a complicated society filled with contrasting world-views. You've had this discussion I'm sure.

[To me, the Constitution-worshipping Right are the ones who should be leading the charge against the death penalty. There's big, bad government again, intruding upon the rights of the individual, just like with (bang, bang) taking away guns. Don't they see the similarity? And what about the long history of mistakes, corruption, and abuse of the death penalty? Why should the government be permitted such uncorrectable finality? And, of course, "killing an unborn child" is about the most extreme way abortion could possibly be stated. Inflammatory and irrational. I don't even need to discuss morality because, as the debunker states, we live in a "complicated society filled with contrasting world-views." World views which, by the way, are not absolute, not even the letter writer's views, obviously. –SteveB]

"We don't burn books in America, we now rewrite them."

This is a somewhat alarming complaint, and I'm hoping it's just the poetic linguistics of a traditional-minded fellow. If not, let me address it quickly. Knowledge is a constantly evolving thing. What makes a book written in 1999 more valid than a similar book written in 2010? Because it was here first? If the most effective form of chemotherapy has changed over the last ten years, should the texts on chemo not be updated? And the reason we don't burn the old volumes is because they may be useful for reference. When it comes to knowledge, less is not more.

[I'm not sure which conspiracy theory is being referenced here, but somebody is being accused of something pretty vague...someone who maybe used to burn books (certainly not the Left), but now insidiously rewrites them. Socialists? Creationists? Sex-Educationists? Contraceptionists? Does he have "bras" mixed-up with books? Did this guy ever hear of saying what you mean instead of trying to disguise it? –SteveB]

"We got rid of communist and socialist threats by renaming them progressive."

The claim seems to be that language is being strategically used to affect attitudes. I can do that too. Progress is being slowed down by people renaming it the Socialist Threat. Congratulations, you're a politician.

[True, my fellow rebutter. I might further add that yet another conspiracy theory lies thinly veiled in this sentence. Also, "progressive" is a word you don't hear much in America anymore, so whoever those folks

are, trying to destroy America by renaming stuff, they aren't succeeding very well in the progressive department. Where's the threat from something no one will claim to be? –SteveB]

"We are unable to close our border with Mexico, but have no problem protecting the 38th parallel in Korea."

I agree that we're spending too much money on foreign defense, although I think this one has something to do with your Communist Threat.

[Could the letter writer be schizophrenic? Here, he's a righty before the comma, and a lefty after. –SteveB]

"If you protest against President Obama's policies you're a terrorist, but if you burned an American flag or George Bush in effigy it was your 1st Amendment right."

Seriously? You got called a terrorist for peacefully protesting? That seems extreme.

[The letter writer finally seems willing to show his true colors—red! The sentence is nothing but an elaborate deception, complaining about non-existent wrongs. Obviously, the letter writer seeks an extension of First Amendment rights (Here, here!), though he seems to resent people who exercise these rights. – SteveB]

"You can have pornography on TV or the internet, but you better not put a nativity scene in a public park during Christmas."

This is perfectly consistent: you can have a nativity scene at home and you can't have pornography in a public park. What's the argument here? And just a side note, there is such a thing as non-sexual pornography, and the idea of a living manger out-front the capitol building is probably certain peoples' little blue pill.

[A bit of marvelously confused logic, underlaid by pretty common Evangelical sentiments against both pornography and the separation of church and state. That pesky Constitution! –SteveB]

"We have eliminated all criminals in America, they are now called sick people."

Huh? I think this is more rhetorical gymnastics. If the core of this statement is that you don't like the empathy that is given to people who break the law, then I don't know what to tell ya. They still go to jail, and their lives are still probably more or less empty. If you're mad that they're still treated like human beings then I can't really help ya on this one.

[Amen. But it is also a complaint against the famously criminal-coddling Left. –SteveB]

"We can use a human fetus for medical research, but it is wrong to use an animal."

They're not live fetuses being used for research. Again, I can appreciate the anti-abortion sentiment, as I think many people can, but there's something not-so-sacred about incest-rape. Additionally, I don't think the average American has a problem with using rats to cure cancer. Certain folks don't want animals mutated to test our style products. Don't confuse a vocal minority for a majority.

[More apples and oranges logic. –SteveB]

"We take money from those who work hard for it and give it to those who don't want to work"

Literally speaking, this is probably way less common than you'd expect. Do you think the average beneficiary of unemployment really WANTS to pad their resume with years of welfare? Maybe some, but the bigger social issue here is that unexceptional people are having too many babies, creating large quantities of unexceptional citizens.

"We all support the Constitution, but only when it supports our political ideology."

Good point, this is also nothing new.

[And is much more true of the Right than of the Left, anyway. I swear, the Second Amendment is the only part most of the Right has ever read. They largely ignore the rest. –SteveB]

"We still have freedom of speech, but only if we are being politically correct."

False. Politically incorrect people still have freedom of speech, they just don't like having to deal with the legal and non-legal consequences of their words. You can lose your job for something you say, but you're forgetting that a job is a privilege, not a constitutional right.

"Parenting has been replaced with Ritalin and video games."

Once again, too many unexceptional parents.

"The land of opportunity is now the land of hand outs."

Vote.

"The similarity between Hurricane Katrina and the gulf oil spill is that neither president did anything to help."

Fair enough.

[Except, what about that \$10 billion fund President Obama made BP create? I don't remember Bush doing much except jawing. But yeh, his actions were pretty consistent with the Republican philosophy of making people stand (or swim) on their own. Why would another Republican knock it? Especially since the victims were mainly black, people which the letter writer may have a little problem with (see below.) –SteveB]

"And how do we handle a major crisis today? The government appoints a committee to determine who's at fault, then threatens them, passes a law, raises our taxes; tells us the problem is solved so they can get back to their reelection campaign."

Duh.

[This is why we so badly need election reform. Yet no lifeboat of solutions can be permitted in this sea of vague complaints, many of which have been voiced by the Right at certain times during the last 50 years, and by the Left at other times. Complaints, like beauty, are largely in the eye of the beholder. Vague complaints like these are largely in the mind of the complainer, since they remain unexplained and unresolved. –SteveB]

"What has happened to the land of the free and home of the brave?"

This is from a song. There are still brave people and free people living here. But the reason those lyrics are popular in song form instead of document form is because they're intended to get you emotive about a vague concept, rather than particular about specific concepts. To ask "What has happened to the land of the free and home of the brave?" is to ask a rhetorical question for the purpose of making a broad statement: "I don't like the way my country is behaving as of late". But the hypocrisies that you're dealing with here are remarkably consistent with the hypocrisies we've always had. The only difference LATELY is that your fellow voters have been disagreeing with you about the details. You're mad at your government but the folks you should really be mad at are the voters who have a different outlook than you.

What you're probably MOST upset about, is that non-religious people have different values than the faithful. You are unable to see religious dogma as subjective truth. And I don't blame you, because what use would religion be if it WAS seen as subjective? I don't know how to help you reconcile this, other than to tell you to keep on voting and hope for the best. Progress and entropy are more or less two sides to the same coin. One of these (entropy) is inevitable by definition. If that's the idiom you subscribe to, then we're already doomed. If you see social movement as progress, then this is NOT inevitable, and there's hope for you. Only problem becomes dealing with the reality that you're rooting against progress. You can look at the public moving away from religion, towards humanism and see it as entropy or progress. But you can't call it neither. Or, shouldn't.

My friend, you're a man without a nation, and this is going to sound odd and strangely anti-American to say, but if this stuff is really important to you, your best bet is to join the Tea Party and start planning which Mesoamerican states are going to be fenced off for the REAL America to begin. Only awkward thing is that you're going to lose the name America and the songs and flags... Can you reconcile fighting for your secession (which you WILL win, because if there's one thing your Tea Party friends will have, it's lots of guns--and if there's one thing godless neo-liberals don't have, it's willingness to fight and die for anything) when after the dust settles, you'll have your perfect set of small-government laws but a less traditional flag to wave, different songs to learn, and a whole new set of patriots to start idolizing? Boy it's gonna be wistful, but at least things will be back to the way they.... (were?)

**FotM NEWSLETTER #89 (Mar. 7, 2012)—HYPERTEXT INDEX**

<b><u>DATE-ID</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>FROM</u></b>	<b><u>SUBJECT/TITLE</u></b>
<a href="#">20120307-00</a>		SteveB	<b>What Has America Become?</b> by Steven W. Baker / SteveB ("Response to Ken Huber and 'What Has America Become?'"")
<a href="#">20120306-10</a>	17:46	Phil	Re: What Has America Become? (reply to SteveB, above)
<a href="#">20120306-12</a>	18:03	SteveB	Re: What Has America Become? (reply to Phil, above)
<a href="#">20120306-13</a>	18:17	Art	Re: What Has America Become? (reply to SteveB, above)
<a href="#">20120306-01</a>	09:36	Art	Re: Rush Limbaugh's Giant Lie (& Joke) of the Day (reply to SteveB, FotM Newsletter #88)
<a href="#">20120306-02</a>	09:40	MarthaH	Rush Limbaugh & Rick Santorum
<a href="#">20120306-05</a>	10:12	Art	Cartoons: Rush Limbaugh (A Prostitute in Hot Water)
<a href="#">20120306-03</a>	10:04	SteveG	Fw: The Occupied Amendment Petition: Corporations Are Not People!
<a href="#">20120306-04</a>	10:10	SteveG	"Culture Wars Come To Two Super Tuesday States"
<a href="#">20120306-11</a>	17:58	Art	Re: "Culture Wars Come To Two Super Tuesday States" (reply to SteveG, above)
<a href="#">20120306-06</a>	11:14	Beth	Re: "Where Are the Progressive Christians?" (reply to SteveG, FotM Newsletter # 88)
<a href="#">20120306-07</a>	12:08	Dale	Old Butch
<a href="#">20120306-09</a>	16:32	SteveB	Re: Old Butch (reply to Dale, above) & Henry the Rooster
<a href="#">20120306-08</a>	13:26	SteveB	Fw: MoveOn Petition: Cancel Rush Limbaugh!
<a href="#">20120306-14</a>	23:58	SteveB	Our Cookie Business in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Day 3
<a href="#">20120306-15</a>	23:59	SteveB	Photo: Greencastle, Indiana

<a href="#">20120306-10</a>	17:46	Phil	Re: What Has America Become? (reply to SteveB, above)
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For a little clarification, African Americans have been shafted harder than some other groups, but if you want to compare being shafted, I would suggest you check with a few Native Americans.

<a href="#">20120306-12</a>	18:03	SteveB	Re: What Has America Become? (reply to Phil, above)
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Man, ain't that the truth.

<a href="#">20120306-13</a>	18:17	Art	Re: What Has America Become? (reply to SteveB, above)
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Steve, I admire your patience and resolve. The writer is obviously made up and has the mind of a fourth grader. Just more white right wing racism poorly wrapped in a flag.

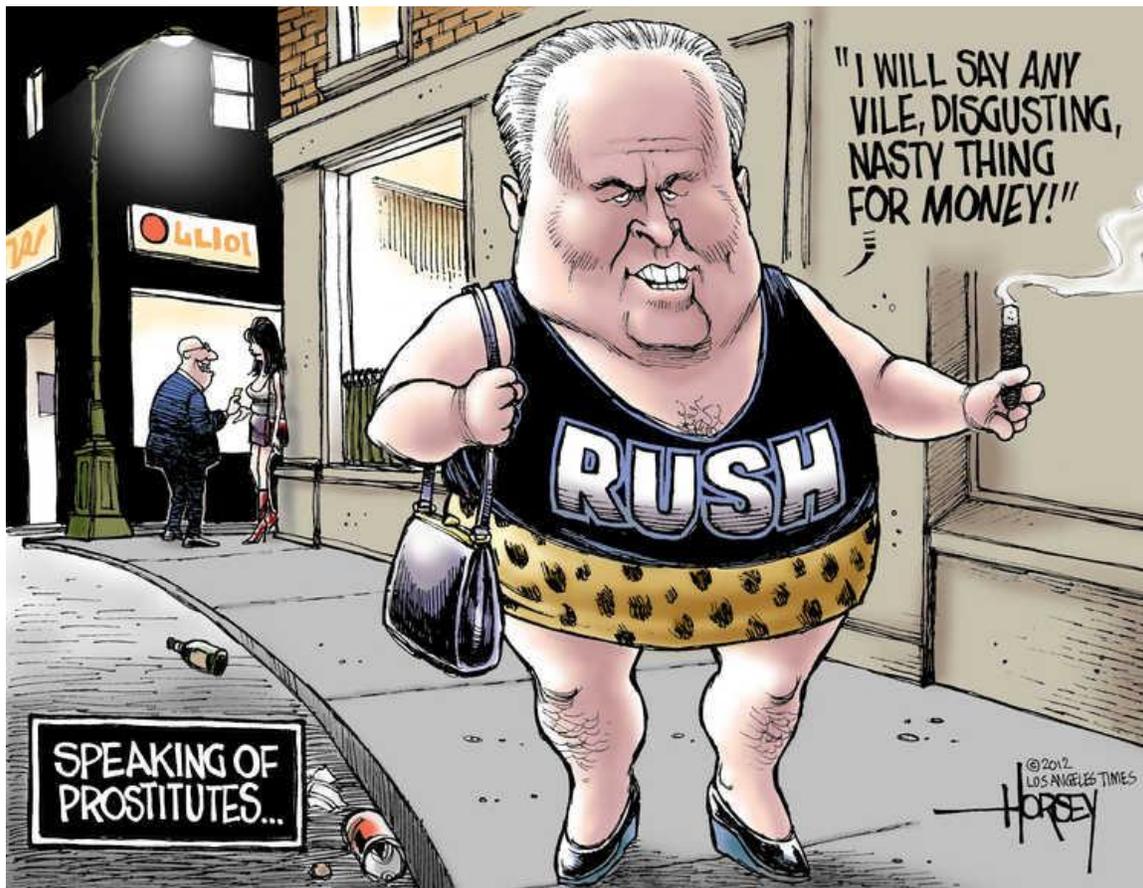
<a href="#">20120306-01</a>	09:36	Art	Re: Rush Limbaugh's Giant Lie (& Joke) of the Day (reply to SteveB, FotM Newsletter #88)
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Unbelievable and some will buy this.

<a href="#">20120306-02</a>	09:40	MarthaH	Rush Limbaugh & Rick Santorum
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How about Rush interview Santorum on aspirin stocks...just kidding/sarcastic! I might even have to listen to THAT show...Turn off the furnace with my blood pressure UP...With so many legitimate issues, how did my beloved country (yes, liberals are patriotic too!!!!) get into this "discourse." Maybe we shouldn't try to answer THAT...

Rush's Friends, O'Reilly, Hannity and Coulter, Stop by for a Swim



from The Occupied Amendment:

Today is not Super Tuesday; it's Super PAC Tuesday! The polls may be open, but today's primary elections in Ohio, Georgia, and eight other states will unfortunately be determined by which Super PACs were flush with the most corporate cash. That's because Citizens United has turned our democracy upside down, giving corporations and their executives even more influence in our elections. While most Americans struggle to make ends meet, dozens of corporations and their CEO's have written checks of over \$100,000 and Super PACs have spent more than \$12 million alone in just the states voting today!

You signed my petition for the OCCUPIED Amendment (<http://www.theoccupiedamendment.org/>) because you understand that our elections should be determined by the voices of the many - not the dollars of the few. To reclaim our democracy, we must pass a 28th Amendment to our Constitution that makes clear that corporations are not people and that money spent in our elections is not a protected form of speech.

Thanks to your support, the OCCUPIED Amendment now has 43 cosponsors, making it the most widely supported constitutional remedy in Congress. Also, in the United States Senate, we have Senator Bernie Sanders championing the same Constitutional Amendment to save American democracy and outlaw corporate cash from our elections. You can help build momentum for the 28th amendment to our Constitution in several ways:

- Use the #SuperPACTuesday hashtag on Twitter today to raise awareness of our need to get money out of politics. Tweet now
- Write a status update on Facebook about your support for the OCCUPIED Amendment and share a link for <http://theoccupiedamendment.org>
- Find out if your Representative has cosponsored H.J. Res 90 and send them an email if they have not.
- Send 28 of your friends, relatives, and coworkers an email inviting them to join the movement by signing the petition.

Occupy Wall Street may have highlighted the economic challenges faced by the 99 percent, but our ability to achieve change is threatened by an electoral system determined by the 1 percent. To deliver progress on issues like long-term joblessness, financial industry abuses, and income inequality, we must overturn Citizens United by working together to make clear that democracy is not for sale.

Thank you for your support, Congressman Ted Deutch

"Culture Wars Come To Two Super Tuesday States" by Henry Decker, The National Memo

Mar. 5, 2012, (<http://www.nationalmemo.com/article/culture-wars-come-two-super-tuesday-states>)

For months, both pundits and presidential candidates have repeatedly declared that the 2012 campaign would be all about the economy. In two major Super Tuesday battlegrounds, however, the local governments have instead been focusing on social issues.

Georgia, which has 76 delegates up for grabs on Tuesday, doesn't seem to be worried about the economy in its statehouse. Instead, local lawmakers have been busy unanimously passing a bill that would post a copy of the Ten Commandments in all Georgia schools and government buildings.

Supporters of the bill, which was introduced by Republican Rep. Tommy Benton, believe that it is appropriate because American law is largely based in the Christian and Jewish traditions. Opponents, such as Barry Lynn -- a Christian minister and the executive director of Americans United For Separation Of Church and State -- believe that the bill could violate the First Amendment.

"There's a faulty premise there and that is that The Ten Commandments has anything to do with the civil laws of the United States — it does not, of course," Lynn told the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. "We don't make it illegal to dishonor our mother and father. We don't have blasphemy laws."

Lynn predicts that the debate won't give way to a discussion of economic issues any time soon; rather, he believes that a legal battle is coming.

"This is the kind of thing that raises a gigantic red flag, and on that flag are the words, 'Sue us,'" he said.

The Georgia legislature's strange priorities pale in comparison to Oklahoma's. Oklahoma, which is worth 40 delegates -- and which Rick Santorum has called the "ground zero of the conservative movement" -- is currently preoccupied with abortion.

The "Personhood Bill," which was introduced by Republican State Senator Brian Crain, would grant legal personhood status to embryos from the moment of fertilization. The bill, which could have the unintended consequence of banning some forms of birth control, has led to massive protests which were highlighted by a state senator carrying a sign proclaiming "If I wanted the government in my womb, I'd f\*ck a Senator."

Another Oklahoma Senator, Constance Johnson, has responded to Crain's bill by attempting to add a "spilled semen" amendment in an effort to highlight the Personhood bill's absurdity and hypocrisy.

Oklahoma and Georgia have the 7th and 14th highest poverty rates in the nation, respectively. But instead of focusing their efforts on economic growth, both states' governments have chosen to zero in on social issues. With priorities like this, it's not surprising that just 26 percent of respondents to the latest NBC/ *Wall Street Journal* poll said that the Republican Party does a good job of reaching out to those who aren't hardcore supporters.

Comment posted by Floxyword:

Sharia Law, Bible Law, Cherokee law...no, I want to live under the laws of the United States, please. Every egg is a potential human being. Women should have all their eggs harvested, fertilized by the local Senator's sperm and raised in an incubator. Every mother could have at least 200 offspring during her life, and God would be happy, right? C'mon people, get real. You can't force people to have and raise children they don't want.

<a href="#">20120306-11</a>	17:58	Art	Re: "Culture Wars Come To Two Super Tuesday States" (reply to SteveG, above)
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If English was good enough for Jesus, it's good enough for me. Take that!

[A big AMEN to that, Art! -SteveB]

<a href="#">20120306-06</a>	11:14	Beth	Re: "Where Are the Progressive Christians?" (reply to SteveG, FotM Newsletter # 88)
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Since I identify myself as a Christian, I feel I must weigh in on this issue. Mainstream Protestants (as opposed to evangelical Christians) do not generally advertise their faith. Many of us are "turned off" by the evangelicals, who we see as Pharisees proclaiming their "faith" in the marketplace for show. Also, most mainstream Christians feel strongly about the separation of church and state. Therefore, the political arena is not where we choose to discuss our faith. Of course the membership of mainstream Christian churches has declined for the past several years, as the membership of evangelical churches has risen.



John was in the fertilized egg business.

He had several hundred young layers (hens), called 'pullets,' and ten roosters to fertilize the eggs.

He kept records, and any rooster not performing went into the soup pot and was replaced.

This took a lot of time, so he bought some tiny bells and attached them to his roosters.

Each bell had a different tone, so he could tell from a distance, which rooster was performing.

Now, he could sit on the porch and fill out an efficiency report by just listening to the bells.

John's favorite rooster, old Butch, was a very fine specimen, but this morning he noticed old Butch's bell hadn't rung at all!

When he went to investigate, he saw the other roosters were busy chasing pullets, bells-a-ringing, but the pullets, hearing the roosters coming, would run for cover.

To John's amazement, old Butch had his bell in his beak, so it couldn't ring.

He'd sneak up on a pullet, do his job and walk on to the next one.

John was so proud of old Butch, he entered him in the Saint Lawrence County Fair and he became an overnight sensation among the judges.

The result was the judges not only awarded old Butch the "No Bell Piece Prize," but they also awarded him the "Pulletsurprise" as well.

Clearly old Butch was a politician in the making. Who else but a politician could figure out how to win two of the most coveted awards on our planet by being the best at sneaking up on the unsuspecting populace and screwing them when they weren't paying attention.

Vote carefully, the bells are not always audible.

20120306-09 16:32 SteveB Re: Old Butch (reply to Dale, above) & Henry the Rooster

Hey, good to hear from ya! I especially like the picture. (Looks like a fresh Henry.)

A farmer wanted to have his hens serviced, so he went to the market looking for a rooster. He was hoping he could get a special rooster - one that would service all of his many hens.

When he told this to the market vendor, the vendor replied, "I have just the rooster for you. Henry here is the horniest rooster you will ever see!"

So the farmer took Henry back to the farm. Before setting him loose in the hen house though, he gave Henry a little pep talk. "Henry", he said, "I'm counting on you to do your stuff." And without a word, Henry then strutted into the hen house.

Henry was as fast as he was furious, mounting each hen like a thunderbolt. There was much squawking and many feathers flying, till Henry had finished having his way with each hen. But Henry didn't stop there, he went in to the barn and mounted all the horses, one by one and still at the same frantic pace. Then he went to the pig house where he did the same.

The farmer, watching all of this with disbelief, cried out, "Stop, Henry, you'll kill yourself." But Henry continued, seeking out each farm animal in the same manner.

Well the next morning, the farmer looked out and saw Henry lying there on his lawn. His legs were up in the air, his eyes rolled back, and his long tongue hanging out. A buzzard was already circling above Henry.

The farmer walked up to Henry saying, "Oh you poor thing, look what you did, you've gone and killed yourself. I warned you big buddy."

"Shhhhh," Henry whispered, "The buzzard is getting closer."

20120306-08 13:26 SteveB Fw: MoveOn Petition: Cancel Rush Limbaugh!

from MoveOn:

Rush Limbaugh has gone too far with his attacks on Georgetown University student Sandra Fluke, calling her a "slut" and a "prostitute" and suggesting she post video tapes of herself online having sex.

Rush Limbaugh's radio show is a part of the Clear Channel lineup, and it's time that they no longer allow Rush Limbaugh to spew hateful and derogatory comments. That's why I created a petition to Clear Channel on SignOn.org, which says:

Sandra Fluke, a law student at Georgetown University who was advocating for health insurance plans to cover the cost of contraception, became the target of a series of attacks by Rush Limbaugh. Besides calling her a "slut," he also called her a "prostitute," said that he wanted her to make sex tapes and post them online, and speculated that she only had a problem paying for contraception because she was having "so much sex." We who support Ms. Fluke find that this is a serious offense committed by Mr. Limbaugh, and we ask that his radio show be terminated.

Will you sign the petition? Click here to add your name, and then pass it along to your friends:

<http://www.moveon.org/r?r=272285&id=36711-20195165-0USiTx&t=2>

Thanks, D. Washington

<a href="#">20120306-14</a>	23:58	SteveB	Our Cookie Business in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Day 3
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We didn't really get a lot accomplished today. Marci did her lawyering, so I talked to the landlord, worked on the logs, and did a few little things.

Tomorrow we sign our lease (though it's a little more complicated than that) and file the paperwork for our business organization.

<a href="#">20120306-15</a>	23:59	SteveB	Photo: Greencastle, Indiana
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[http://lloydkahn-ongoing.blogspot.com/2008\\_09\\_14\\_archive.html](http://lloydkahn-ongoing.blogspot.com/2008_09_14_archive.html)

1840s Pioneer Cabin in Robe Ann Park (Lloyd Kahn)



—Friends of the Middle,

Steven W. Baker (SteveB), Editor/Moderator

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Welcome to all our new members who may be here for the first time. We want to hear from YOU! To submit your comment, you can use the form on our website or blog, or reply to this email with your two cents worth. Be sure to sign with your desired user name.

Your email address will always be kept strictly confidential.

Feel free to forward this Newsletter to anyone you know on the Right or the Left, though your motives might be different in each case. Regardless, PASS IT ON! Help keep your friends and acquaintances informed and thinking.

<http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org>  
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