



FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #105 — MAR. 29, 2012

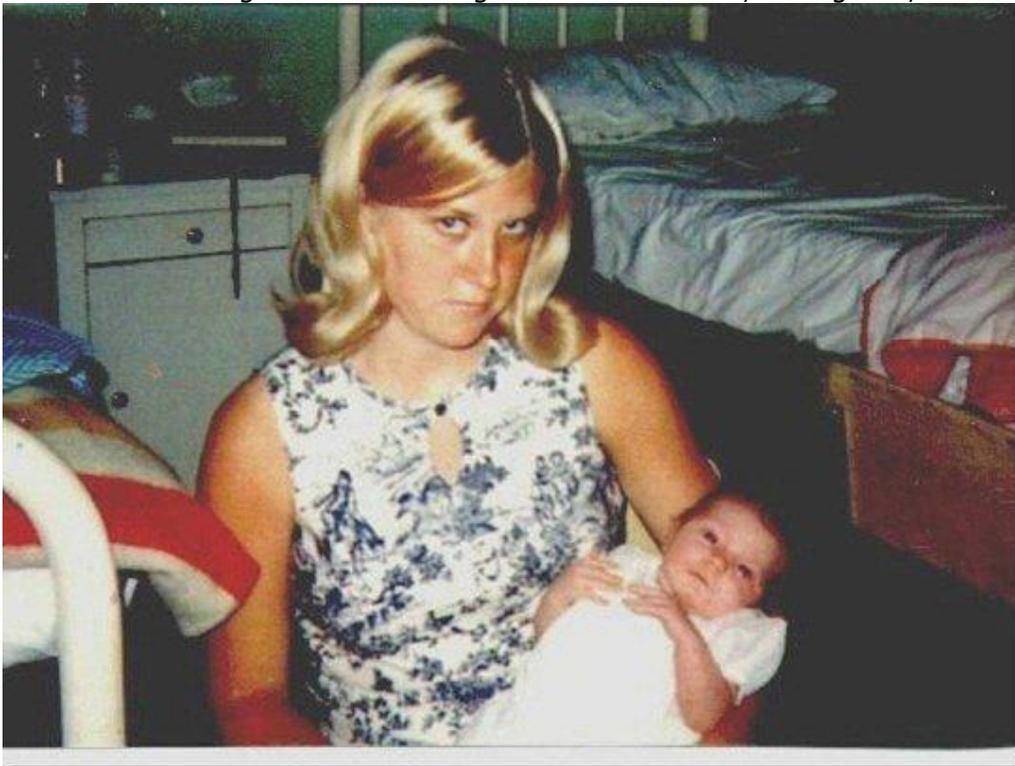
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...And Justice for All?

(posted by Pam McRae, Mar. 29, 2012)

"Karen B." holding her newborn daughter for the last time, on August 1, 1966.



If I did everything right, you should have seen a Yahoo News item about a CBS report on adoption in the 50s, 60s, and 70s in another post [see below]. I'm not sure it was included, but there was also a page taken from an old social work textbook that discusses unwed motherhood, which I cannot now find. Basically it says that young women who give birth out of wedlock are immoral and deserved to be punished, that society shouldn't have to take up the burden of raising "illegitimate" children, that single mothers are bad mothers who will deny their children adequate material comfort and educational opportunity. It also says no one knows how these birth mothers feel after giving up their children. Really?

I'm reading Howard Zinn's *History of the United States* and being reminded just how unfair life was for women at least until the hiatus of WW II, when women were allowed to take men's jobs for the duration. It's enough to make a feminist out of Rick Santorum. There was a time when women were denied--just about everything. Many subjects were taboo, most especially anything to do with the human body. The past thirty years have brought many changes, and "feminism" has gone mainstream. There is one subject, however, that remains beneath the radar: the plight of birth mothers and their children who are prevented by law from finding each other.

Ever since Dan Quayle had the vapors over Murphy Brown's baby, unwed motherhood has lost its stigma. Babies are still given up for adoption, but not because their mothers will be social outcasts if they don't. In fact, a young woman is more likely today to face opprobrium if she relinquishes her child. Times have changed. Unmentionable topics, such as birth control, breast cancer, and STDs, are now discussed openly, and "Two and a Half Men," which glorifies extra-marital sex, is the most popular TV show in America. The silent generation, my generation, still labors (no pun intended) under the old rules of secrecy and shame. It is time to shed some light on these women and their children, change the laws that deny their access to each other, and acknowledge that the real wrong was the way unwed mothers were treated and made to feel so ashamed that many, if not most, of them still keep their secret from even their families and closest friends. It's time for the shame to stop, for birth mothers to be acknowledged as the mothers they are and accorded the respect they deserve. The only way to begin this conversation is for women like me, who are birth mothers, to be open about our experience. Most of us have proved ourselves to be good mothers to subsequent children and to have careers and accomplishments comparable to those of other women of our generation. Betty Ford was a brave lady. We should all follow her example.

"Adopted or Abducted?" by Dan Rather, Yahoo! News

Mar. 27, 2012, (<http://news.yahoo.com/forced-adoptions-for-unwed-mothers-around-the-globe.html>)

(Veil of secrecy lifts slowly on decades of forced adoptions for unwed mothers around the globe.)

Most women describe giving birth to a child as a life changing experience – in a word – “challenging”, “joyous”, “miraculous.” But generations of young, unwed women describe their experience of giving birth to a child as a nightmare – and decades later their suffering has yet to end.

From Australia to Spain, Ireland to America, and as recent as 1987, young mothers say they were “coerced”, “manipulated”, and “duped” into handing over their babies for adoption. These women say sometimes their parents forged consent documents, but more often they say these forced adoptions were coordinated by the people their families trusted most...priests, nuns, social workers, nurses or doctors.

Last month, a Dan Rather Reports producer and crew were in Canberra, Australia as Parliament released the findings of an 18-month-long investigation revealing illegal and unethical tactics used to convince young, unmarried mothers to surrender their babies to adoptive homes from the late 1940s to the 1980s. And we interviewed some of the victims -- adoptees and mothers separated at birth.

“One of the happiest days of my life, most proudest achievements, is giving birth and holding my newborn child,” says Senator Rachel Siewert, who oversaw the Australian Senate Committee Report. “These women didn't have that experience. And I can't imagine it.”

Siewert added, “There was a lot of testimony from people that were associated with Catholic institutions. And Catholic Health Services here issued an apology and I understand they're gonna be putting in place some grievance procedures.”

In some cases, mothers in Australia were drugged and forced to sign papers relinquishing custody. In others, women were told their children had died. Single mothers also did not have access to the financial support given to widows or abandoned wives, and many were told by doctors, nurses, and social workers that they were unfit to raise a child. Siewert says, “We heard practices that were either illegal or unethical and downright cruel.”

"It wouldn't surprise me to hear the same thing happened elsewhere," continues Siewert, "...the U.K., the U.S., Canada and Ireland. So you could, I think, expect that those countries also had these sorts of practices."

Two weeks ago, a prominent Canadian law firm announced that it would file a class-action lawsuit against Quebec's Catholic Church accusing the Church of kidnapping, fraud and coercion to force unwed mothers to give up their children for adoption.

Attorney Tony Merchant represents several hundred women who claim that when they were in maternity homes in the 1950s and 1960s, social workers, nurses, doctors, and even men and women in the employ of the Catholic Church cooperated with government officials to force or, even coerce, young women to sign away their rights to keep their child never knowing they even had a choice.

Merchant was quoted in the Montreal Gazette as saying, "The beliefs the Catholic Church (in Quebec) had about premarital sex and the judgmental approach the church had, made it particularly aggressive in pressuring women into putting their children up for adoption."

In Spain, an 80-year-old nun, Sister Maria Gómez, became the first person accused of baby snatching in a scandal over the trafficking of 1,500 newborns in Spanish hospitals over four decades until the 1980s. The babies were either stolen, sold or given away by adoption.

Since October, Dan Rather Reports has contacted nearly 100 alleged victims, social workers, researchers, lawyers and authors from around the world to shine a bright light on the issue of forced adoptions. The two most respected books on the subject of "forced adoptions," Ann Fessler's *The Girls Who Went Away* and Rickie Solinger's *Beggars and Choosers* indicate that the tactics used to procure adoptable babies in Australia, Ireland, Canada and Spain were also implemented in the United States.

We have interviewed numerous women in the U.S. who told us that they were sent to maternity homes, denied contact with their families and friends, forced to endure labor with purposely painful procedures and return home without their babies. Single, American mothers were also denied financial support and told that their children would be better off without them.

In some cases, they too were told that their babies had died. Many signed away their rights while drugged and exhausted after childbirth. Others were threatened with substantial medical bills if they didn't surrender or were manipulated through humiliation. According to Fessler, these seemingly unethical practices were used against as many as 1.5 million mothers in the United States.

When we asked these women who say they were victims of "forced adoption" to use one word to describe their experience giving birth...here's what they told us...

"Sad" states Angie from Colorado, who says at age 19 her pregnancy was kept an absolute secret and that she disappeared before her infant daughter was put up for adoption against her will in 1972. "Sad" also states Chris from Massachusetts, who gave up her firstborn through Catholic Charities in 1969.

"Trauma" states Valerie from Toronto who says in 1970 a Salvation Army matron at the Bethany Home for unwed mothers dropped her off at Grace Hospital in Toronto to labor alone. While crying out in pain during labor, she says a nurse called her a "slut."

"Barbaric" states Christine, a PhD. candidate at the University of Western Sydney in Australia, who heads the Apology Alliance, made up of individuals and groups from all around Australia who seek an apology for the practices and policies that led to forced adoptions in her country.

"Devastating" states Shawn who was a sophomore in college in 1974 when at age 19 she gave birth to a son she has yet to see in person or touch. During the delivery, she says her doctor forcibly grabbed her foot and said, "I hope this has taught you not to get in trouble again."

"Horrible" states Lily who was 17 in 1967 when she says she was "held in slavery for nearly 10 months" in a home for unwed mothers before she says she was forced to give her son up for adoption.

"Traumatic" states Fran from Pennsylvania, who says in 1959 at age 20 she did not give informed consent before her son was placed for adoption. "It was not a choice...it was social policy."

"Tragic" states Susan, who at age 21 in 1967 says she had to fight just to see her daughter a day after giving birth to her at Miserecordia Hospital in Milwaukee. A supervisor tried to talk her out of it, but she persisted. A few days later, she regrettably agreed to give her daughter up for adoption.

"Torture" states Hanne from British Columbia, Canada, who says at age 16, her baby girl was "stolen...abducted on the delivery table." "Torture" also states Carlynne from Florida, who says at age 20, she was not able to see, touch or was told the sex of her baby before being forced to put it up for adoption.

"Shattering" states Karen who was living in Virginia in 1966, when at age 18, she says she was "told by Catholic Charities to sign the paper" and give her daughter up for adoption. "I was never told I could visit her in foster care. I didn't even know she was in foster care. I wasn't told that I had six months to get her!! To change my mind.. as if I had even made up my own mind. I didn't...they did."

"Horrible" states Laura from Virginia, who says at age 16 she was "forced" to give her son up for adoption in 1972. "I was totally coerced from day one."

"Decimated" states Elizabeth from Melbourne, Australia, who says in 1963 at age 18 she was rendered unconscious before her daughter was taken from her at birth, even though she was married to the father of her baby 11 months before the adoption was finalized. "Decimated" also states Leslie, who at age 17 was going into labor at a maternity home in Alabama when "Sister Martha, the director of the maternity home drove me to the hospital, pulled into the driveway and let me out. I went in and admitted myself. I labored that night (alone) in one of the hallways" because she says she was told the maternity ward was only for married women. Ironically, the son she says was taken from her was born on Mother's Day 1966.

Carol, was a college freshman in 1966, when she says a social worker in Pittsburgh betrayed her with promises to help her keep newborn son. After the birth, drugged and disoriented, Carol says she unknowingly signed relinquishment papers presented by that social worker as hospital release forms. She needed two words to answer our question, "soul rape."

Photos: <http://news.yahoo.com/photos/adopted-or-abducted-slideshow/adopted-or-abducted--photo-1332786408.html>.

"As for the problem of the unmarried mother... if she has... been able to give away the living symbol of her 'sin' or 'mistake'... she is 'solved' as a social problem... If she keeps her child and requires economic aids for the support of herself and child, she is not 'paying'." [Social Work & Social Problems, Nathan E. Cohen, Editor, "Unmarried Mothers", Helen Harris Perlman (1964) p. 279.]

unemployment gratuitous addition to a population problem may be viewed with concern.

5. As for the problem of the unmarried mother herself, if she has, by her own efforts or with help, been able to give away the living symbol of her "sin" or "mistake" and pick up where she left off, she is "solved" as a social problem. (Whether she feels her problem to be solved, no one knows.) If she keeps her child but needs no economic support, she is lost to public view. So, as far as is known, she is no problem. The assumption is that she is paying for her transgressions—and this is a morally satisfying assumption. If, however, she keeps her child and requires economic aids for the support of herself and child, she is not "paying." Indeed, it commonly appears that perhaps she is being paid for sins and, by such payment, even encouraged to further sexual irresponsibility.

6. Finally the baby and growing child himself presents a problem of social concern when he is kept by a socially, economically, and culturally impoverished mother. There is question and concern whether children reared under such complex disadvantaged conditions can grow into "good citizens." Moreover, the provision of necessary physical and mental health services, of long-time economic maintenance, of developmental opportunities in order to counteract the effects of deprivation present formidable money costs. That such resources are at present undeveloped or inadequate in quantity and quality is a further problem of social solutions. Particularly does this concern the citizenry, for there is evidence both of recidivism and of the transmission of undesired standards of economic dependence and "immorality" from one generation to the next.

Thus in this mixture of social values and concerns in regard to morality and money, the sanctity and desirability of good family life, the provision of "reformation," and of open opportunity for the sound development of children into "good citizens," the mother and child out of wedlock present society with problems of widespread concern.

Is this a "social work problem"? All professions, as Whitehead has said, are concerned with making certain that the rights of individuals are safeguarded at the same time as a sense of community and effective social living are maintained. In examining the various aspects of the social problem of unmarried motherhood, it is clear that the services and concerns of a number of professions would be involved. Medicine, the ministry, law, and education are perhaps the professions whose functions and authority place them in a forefront position on the problems that lead to unmarried motherhood. Social work is the profession, that, traditionally, provides the services and develops and mans the resources by which a problem, once it exists and becomes a matter of

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| 20120329-00 | | Pam | ...And Justice for All? by Pam McRae ("Adopted or Abducted?") |
| 20120328-02 | 15:09 | SteveB | Re: ...And Justice for All? (reply to Pam, above) |
| 20120328-01 | 12:22 | various | Friends of the Middle |
| 20120328-03 | 15:41 | Dennis | "The Strange Conservative Brain: 3 Reasons Republicans Refuse to Accept Reality About Global Warming" |
| 20120328-06 | 19:16 | Dick | "Zimmerman Was on the Ground Being Punched When He Shot Trayvon Martin" |
| 20120328-04 | 16:43 | MarthaH | "Brace Yourself for Another 5-4 Decision" |
| 20120328-05 | 16:51 | MarthaH | Fw: A Punny Diversion |
| 20120328-07 | 23:59 | SteveB | Photo: near Greencastle, Indiana |

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| 20120328-02 | 15:09 | SteveB | Re: ...And Justice for All? (reply to Pam, above) |
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The picture of that girl is heartbreaking, as is the fact that any of this ever happened this way, yet it did. If this is what women and children suffered here, what must it be like for women in Muslim countries? Though I don't see how that erases any of your societal shame. The shame is not as it is described by the writer of that manual, it's the shame of the writer that should be immense.

Much of this has to do with the importance of the family...knowledge which I have largely come by later in life than I would wish.

It seems like in mid-20th Century America, we somehow decided that in this modern day and age the family was not something so important. This was wrong.

But they say love always finds a way and I'm starting to believe it.

I am very proud of you, Pam!

I found some other, maybe useful, stuff:

Misc.:

<http://coloradomoms.com/forums/showthread.php?1571-forced-adoptions>.

Looking Back to See Ahead, by Helen Harris Perlman (1989):

http://books.google.com.bo/books?id=t3s2wL_saPsC&pg=PA231&lpg=PA231&dq=%E2%80%9CUnmarried+Mothers%E2%80%9D+Helen+Harris+Perlman&source=bl&ots=-HRS2ukNbI&sig=YabakocpoXf2l_g5pHoHjVmGkgI&hl=en&sa=X&ei=eV5zT-2EBsOltwfx_tniAw&sqj=2&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false.

Not June Cleaver: Women and Gender in Postwar America, 1945-1960, by Joanne Jay Meyerowitz (1994):

[http://books.google.com.bo/books?id=uFLVTpBKNNMC&pg=PA325&lpg=PA325&dq=%E2%80%9CUnmarried+Mothers%E2%80%9D+Helen+Harris+Perlman+\(1964\)&source=bl&ots=7Y2rKi8nKg&sig=WqM1McIIRTPpyq_KclKtYy1NOLw&hl=en&sa=X&ei=4I9zT6r3FoS9tweqn_SNBg&sqj=2&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com.bo/books?id=uFLVTpBKNNMC&pg=PA325&lpg=PA325&dq=%E2%80%9CUnmarried+Mothers%E2%80%9D+Helen+Harris+Perlman+(1964)&source=bl&ots=7Y2rKi8nKg&sig=WqM1McIIRTPpyq_KclKtYy1NOLw&hl=en&sa=X&ei=4I9zT6r3FoS9tweqn_SNBg&sqj=2&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false).

Senate Inquiry Regarding Forced Adoption Practices Submission:

[http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=%E2%80%9Cunmarried%20mothers%E2%80%9D%20helen%20harris%20perlman%20\(1964\)&source=web&cd=7&sqj=2&ved=0CEQQFjAG&url=https%3A%2F%2Fsenate.aph.gov.au%2Fsubmissions%2Fcommittees%2Fviewdocument.aspx%3Fid%3D0c47700e-ef2f-424b-be78-9c4ce4c46127&ei=4I9zT6r3FoS9tweqn_SNBg&usq=AFOjCNG3ma4ugeEQV3a0n7gUrC2Yz2CymQ](http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=%E2%80%9Cunmarried%20mothers%E2%80%9D%20helen%20harris%20perlman%20(1964)&source=web&cd=7&sqj=2&ved=0CEQQFjAG&url=https%3A%2F%2Fsenate.aph.gov.au%2Fsubmissions%2Fcommittees%2Fviewdocument.aspx%3Fid%3D0c47700e-ef2f-424b-be78-9c4ce4c46127&ei=4I9zT6r3FoS9tweqn_SNBg&usq=AFOjCNG3ma4ugeEQV3a0n7gUrC2Yz2CymQ).

All I could find on "Unmarried Mothers" Helen Harris Perlman (1964):
<http://babyscoopera.blogspot.com/2007/12/little-night-reading.html>.

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| 20120328-01 | 12:22 | various | Friends of the Middle |
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Pam: I don't see a way to comment on things in the newsletter. Is the blog supposed to be where the conversation takes place? I seem to do better when I send things to a limited list and can go back and forth via email. Am I missing something?

SteveG: I feel the same way.

SteveB: Pam, there is a form on the first webpage (<http://www.friendsofthemiddle.org>) for submitting anything you want. Normally...it might be quick, but it will go only to me, then only to the Newsletter. Your blog comment, I already commented on and posted, but have been out since. I don't think you're missing anything. And your old way is fine. To me, unless you're somebody famous, a blog is no big deal, though, at this time, we seem to be reaching more new people via the blog than the website, and the Newsletter continues to grow modestly from all three venues. Take care and enjoy that early summer.

Pam: If the old way is OK, I think I'll stick with that.

SteveB: :-). Yet I admire your spirit of experimentation!.

Pam: Aw, shucks.

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| 20120328-03 | 15:41 | Dennis | "The Strange Conservative Brain: 3 Reasons Republicans Refuse to Accept Reality About Global Warming" |
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Since I support nuclear power, you have no reason to disagree that the following article is not correct (read all the way through to understand why).

"The Strange Conservative Brain: 3 Reasons Republicans Refuse to Accept Reality About Global Warming" by Chris Mooney, AlterNet

Mar. 28, 2012, (<http://www.alternet.org/story/154709/>)

(Note: These are notes for remarks that I gave recently at the Tucson Festival of Books, where I was asked to talk about my new book *The Republican Brain* on a panel entitled "Will the Planet Survive the Age of Humans?")

So the question before us on this panel is, "Will the Planet Survive the Age of Humans?" And I want to focus on one particular aspect of humans that makes them very problematic in a planetary sense -- namely, their brains.

What I've spent the last year or more trying to understand is what it is about our brains that makes facts such odd and threatening things; why we sometimes double down on false beliefs when they're refuted; and maybe, even, why some of us do it more than others.

And of course, the new book homes in on the brains -- really, the psychologies -- of politically conservative homo sapiens in particular. You know, Stephen Colbert once said that "reality has a well-known liberal bias." And essentially what I'm arguing is that, not only is that a funny statement, it's factually true, and perhaps even part of the nature of things.

Colbert also talked about the phenomenon of "truthiness," and as it turns out, we can actually give a scientific explanation of truthiness -- which is what I'm going to sketch in the next ten minutes, with respect to global warming in particular.

I almost called the book *The Science of Truthiness* -- but *The Republican Brain* turns out to be a better title.

The Facts About Global Warming

So first off, let's start with the facts about climate change -- facts that you'd think (or you'd hope) any human being ought to accept.

It turns out that the case for human-caused global warming is based on simple and fundamental physics. We've known about the greenhouse effect for over one hundred years. And we've known that carbon dioxide is a heat trapping gas, a greenhouse gas. Some of the key experiments on this, by the Irishman John Tyndall, actually occurred in the year 1859, which is the same year that Darwin published *On the Origin of Species*.

We also know that if we do nothing, seriously bad stuff starts happening. If we melt Greenland and West Antarctica, we're looking at 40 feet of sea level rise. This is, like, bye bye to key parts of Florida.

Enter the Denial

So then, the question is, why do people deny this? And why, might I add, do Republicans in particular deny this so strongly?

And if your answer to that question is, "oh, because they're stupid" -- well, you're wrong. That's what liberals want to think, but it doesn't seem to be correct. In fact, it seems to be precisely the opposite -- smarter (or more educated) Republicans turn out to be worse science deniers on this topic.

This is a phenomenon that I like to call the "smart idiot" effect, and I just wrote about it for AlterNet and Salon.com.

Let me tell you how I stumbled upon this effect -- which is really what set the book in motion. I think the key moment came in the year 2008 when I came upon Pew data showing:

- That if you're a Republican, then the higher your level of education, the less likely you are to accept scientific reality -- which is, that global warming is human caused.
- If you're a Democrat or Independent, precisely the opposite is the case.

This is actually a consistent finding now across the social science literature on the resistance to climate change. So, for that matter, is the finding that the denial is the worst among conservative white males -- so it has a gender aspect to it -- and among the Tea Party.

So seriously: What's going on here? More education leading to worse denial, but only among Republicans? How can you explain that?

A Three-Level Explanation

Well, I think we need to understand three points in order to understand why conservatives act this way. And I will list them here, before going into them in more detail:

1. Conservatism is a Defensive Ideology, and Appeals to People Who Want Certainty and Resist Change.
2. Conservative "Morality" Impels Climate Denial -- and in particular, conservative Individualism.
3. Fox News is the Key "Feedback Mechanism" -- whereby people already inclined to believe false things get all the license and affirmation they need.

So let's go into more detail:

1. Conservatism is a Defensive Ideology and Appeals to People Who Want Certainty and Resist Change.

There's now a staggering amount of research on the psychological and even the physiological traits of people who opt for conservative ideologies. And on average, you see people who are more wedded to certainty, and to having fixed beliefs. You also see people who are more sensitive to fear and threat -- in a way that can be measured in their bodily responses to certain types of stimuli.

At the extreme of these traits, you see a group called authoritarians -- those who are characterized by cognitive rigidity, seeing things in black and white ways -- "in group/out group," my way or the highway.

So in this case, if someone high on such traits latches on to a particular belief -- in this case, "global warming is a hoax" -- then more knowledge about it is not necessarily going to open their minds. More knowledge is just going to be used to argue what they already think.

And we see this in the Tea Party, where we have both the highest levels of global warming denial, but also this incredibly strong confidence that they know all they need to know about the issue, and they don't want any more information, thank you very much.

2. Conservative "Morality" Impels Climate Denial -- in particular, Conservative Individualism.

But, you might say, "well, Tea Party conservatives don't deny every aspect of reality." And it's true. Presumably, they still will accept a factual correction if they have, say, the date of Mother's Day wrong. Presumably they're still open minded about that... we hope.

So why deny this particular thing? Why deny that global warming is caused by humans? And here, I think you've got to look at deep seated moral intuitions that differs from left to right. And it's important to note at the outset that whatever your moral intuitions are, they push you emotionally to reason in a particular direction long before you are actually consciously thinking about it.

So, conservatives tend to be "individualists"-- meaning, essentially, that they prize a system in which government leaves you alone -- and "hierarchs," meaning, they are supportive of various types of inequality.

The individualist is threatened by global warming, deeply threatened, because it means that markets have failed and governments -- including global governments -- have to step in to fix the problem. And some individualists are so threatened by this reality that they even spin out conspiracy theories, arguing that all the world's scientists are in a cabal with, like, the UN, to make up phony science so they can crash economies.

So now let's look at what these individualist assumptions do to the denial of science. In one study by Yale's Dan Kahan and colleagues:

- "Individualist-hierarchs" and "egalitarian-communitarians" are asked: Who's an expert on global warming?
- Only 23 percent of H-I's agree that a scientist who thinks GW is human-caused is a "trustworthy and knowledgeable expert," vs. 88 percent of E-Cs.

In another study, meanwhile, Kahan showed that if you frame the science of global warming as supporting nuclear power, then conservatives are more open to accepting it, presumably because it does not insult their values any longer.

3. Fox News is the Key "Feedback Mechanism" -- whereby people who want to believe false things get all the license they need.

So clearly, there are some deeply rooted attributes that predispose conservatives towards the denial of global warming.

But there are also "environmental" factors -- things that have come to exist in our world that did not exist before, that interact with these things about conservatives, and make all this much worse.

And here, Fox News is undeniably at the top of the list. There are now a host of studies (video here) showing that Fox News viewers are more misinformed about various aspects of reality, including two such studies about global warming.

So if you've got Fox News, you've got a place to go to reaffirm your beliefs. And that serves this psychological need for certainty and security. So conservatives opt in, they get the misinformation, their beliefs are reaffirmed, and they're set to argue, argue, argue about why they're right and all the scientists of the world are wrong.

Conclusion

So in sum, we need a nature-nurture, or a combined psychological and environmental account of the conservative denial of global warming. And only then do we see why they are so doggedly espousing a set of beliefs that are so wildly dangerous to the planet.

(Chris Mooney is the author of four books, including *The Republican War on Science* (2005). His next book, *The Republican Brain: The Science of Why They Deny Science—and Reality*, is due out in April.)

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[20120328-06](#)

19:16

Dick

"Zimmerman Was on the Ground Being Punched When He Shot Trayvon Martin"

WHEN I WAS A KID, THE NEWSPAPERS WERE A SOURCE OF TRUTH OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED OR IS HAPPENING. MY GOD, WHAT THE MEDIA HAS COME TO LATELY!---NO LONGER DO THEY SEARCH FOR AND REPORT TRUTH, JUST A CONTINUOUS BARRAGE OF THEIR POLITICAL IDEOLOGY CRAP.

"Zimmerman Was on the Ground Being Punched When He Shot Trayvon Martin" by Kyle Rogers, *Charleston Conservative Examiner*

Mar. 21, 2012, (<http://www.examiner.com/charleston-conservative-in-charleston-sc/zimmerman-was-on-the-ground-being-punched-when-he-shot-trayvon-martin>)

Last weekend in the city of Chicago alone, gangbangers slaughtered ten people and wounded another forty. The youngest fatality is only six years old. The youngest person wounded is only one-year-old. Many of the victim were pedestrians sprayed with bullets in drive by shootings. The national news has said nothing about this.

So why does one shooting in Florida warrant weeks of national news? Why has there been thousands of articles a day, for the last four days, about one single shooting?

Almost all of the news items about George Zimmerman and Trayvon Martin contains a combination of false statements, opinions presented as facts, transparent distortions, and a complete absence of some of the most relevant details. Almost all news items are written solely from the point of view of the grieving family. The media also fills their articles with outdated baby-faced pictures of Trayvon. Very few include that he was a towering 6'2" football player. Is the media really reporting the news, or is this classic agitation/propaganda to advance a political agenda.

Literally thousands of articles contain at least one false statement in the first couple of lines. They usually read "George Zimmerman, a white man," or "shot by a white man." Zimmerman is described by family as a multiracial Hispanic. His appearance is clearly that of a Latino/Mestizo individual. However, the media wants him to be white because that better fits the political narrative they are trying to artificially create. Many news articles have also

claimed the neighborhood is "mostly white." This is also a lie. The neighborhood is only 49% white. It is over half non-white.

All the way back on February 27th, the local Orlando Fox station interviewed the witness who dialed 911. Almost none of the thousands of articles since have mentioned any of the details described by the witness. Some, however, have attributed false statements to this witness. On March 16th, the Sanford police department released new details to the Orlando Sentinel. Once again, these details have been ignored or changed by the media.

1. The witness reports that George Zimmerman was on the ground and Trayvon is on top of him punching him.
2. The witness says that George Zimmerman was screaming and yelling for help.
3. Police arrive and find Zimmerman bleeding on his face and the back of his head. He also has had grass stains on his back. All this confirms the story told by Zimmerman and the witness.
4. Police play the 911 tape for Trayvon Martin's father, who tells police that the voice screaming is not the voice of his son.

The neighborhood this took place in has seen a lot of crime. Would you be surprised to learn that there were eight burglaries, nine thefts, and a shooting just in the past year? In fact, the local homeowners' association reports that George Zimmerman actually caught one thief and aided in the apprehension of other criminals. The Miami Herald wrote about this on March 17th. None of the thousands of articles and cable news segments that came after, thought this was important. In fact the Miami Herald goes on to interview neighbor, Ibrahim Rashada, who is black. Rashada confirms that there has been a lot of crime in the neighborhood and indicates to the reporter that the perpetrators are usually black.

The media also characterizes Trayvon as a "model student." In fact, he was under a five day suspension when the shooting took place. That is why he was staying at a house so far from his school on a school night. A lawyer for Trayvon's family has blocked access to his school records. However, you have to do something pretty bad to get suspended for five days.

Now that you know the suppressed facts of the case, you can form a better more balanced opinion. Maybe you still think Zimmerman was wrong to pull the trigger. However, I think you will come to the conclusion that the "mainstream" clearly is pushing an agenda. Even when they have to grossly alter and adjust a story to fit that agenda.

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| 20120328-04 | 16:43 | MarthaH | "Brace Yourself for Another 5-4 Decision" |
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Back to 2000...

...from whence this all started: Hanging chads+ court-selected president + TN not for native son+ Nader = a country divided.

If the health insurance mandate is found unconstitutional, can the rest of the health care law survive?

"Brace Yourself for Another 5-4 Decision" by Chuck Todd, Mark Murray, Domenico Montanaro, Brooke Brewer, NBC News

Mar. 28, 2012, (<http://aolaw.org/2012/03/28/first-read-first-thoughts-brace-yourself-for-another-5-4-decision/>)

Brace yourself for another 5-4 decision: Yesterday's oral arguments at the Supreme Court raised the distinct possibility that the individual mandate — and perhaps the entire health-care law — could be decided by another controversial 5-4 decision. Such an outcome, especially after other 5-4 decisions like Bush vs. Gore and Citizens United, would have two potential consequences. One, it would feed the perception that the U.S. Supreme Court is as partisan as Congress and increasing parts of the media; in other words, these nine justices (either trained at liberal law schools or members of the conservative Federalist Society) are essentially political actors wearing black

robes. And two and most importantly, a 5-4 decision would satisfy no one. If the court strikes down the mandate and the health-care law by that narrow margin, liberals and Democrats would blame it on the conservative justices. If the mandate and law are upheld by a 5-4 decision, conservatives would point their fingers at the liberals and the unpredictable "mushy" swing justice, Anthony Kennedy. That's the problem with a split decision: The losers would feel like they lost on a political technicality, not because there was a legal consensus.

If the health insurance mandate is found unconstitutional, can the rest of the health care law survive? The Daily Rundown's Chuck Todd discusses.

A bad day for the mandate: Make no mistake: The mandate had a VERY bad day yesterday. As the New York Times writes, "Predicting the result in any Supreme Court case, much less one that will define the legacies of a president and a chief justice, is nothing like a science, and the case could still turn in various directions. But the available evidence indicated that the heart of the Affordable Care Act is in peril." Liberals and Democrats are holding out for hope with Kennedy's sentence at the end of yesterday ("The young person who is uninsured is uniquely, proximately, very close to affecting the rates of insurance and the costs of providing medical care in a way that is not true in other industries"), as well as with Chief Justice John Roberts' tough questioning of the plaintiff's attorney. The backseat "oral arguing" on the Democratic side is quite loud; the grumbling and handwringing about Solicitor General Donald Verrilli's apparent inability — at some points — to make what some folks thought were easy rebuttals to the cell phone, broccoli and funeral analogies seem to frustrate not just those in the blogosphere but also in the White House. That said, plenty of Verrilli supporters out there who say folks are overreacting and point to the tough questioning the government received on the D.C. circuit and yet they still prevailed. As our friends at SCOTUS Blog note, Verrilli had the tougher case to make; Paul Clement had the easier one.

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| 20120328-05 16:51 MarthaH Fw: A Punny Diversion |
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[Source of original email unknown. –SteveB]

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's Round Table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island. It turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road...and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'

15. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
16. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
17. A backward poet writes inverse.
18. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
19. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
20. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.
21. A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The flight attendant looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'
22. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says 'Dam!'
23. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
24. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'
25. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcend dental medication.
26. There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

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

Rolling Stone Bridge on the Big Walnut Creek, Indiana



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

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