



## FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #114 — APR. 11, 2012

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

**Index to Friends of the Middle Newsletter #114 — Apr. 11, 2012**

### **Bicycle Seats: Republican/Evangelical Anti-Sex Plot?**

(posted by Steven W. Baker / SteveB, Apr. 11, 2012)

Yep, they're at it again, doing anything they can to destroy your sex life! Just a friendly warning, ya know? This is why I walk instead of ride. Notice too that motorcycles don't have the problem, only bicycles with conventional Republican "nosed" seats. But the Democratic "no-nose" seats make you look like a big-butted dork with a possible sexual problem already. A truly macho guy, like Lance Armstrong, uses the nose. I guess you have three choices: a Republican seat (based on an Old Testament model, limited or no sex), a Democratic seat (scientifically researched, makes you look like a dork, but at least you know you're a virile, sensitive dork), or Independent (no seat, walk and have sex, though maybe not at the same time). It only makes sense to try to preserve as many nerves and as much circulation as possible in that, shall we say, vital, area. Now, pass me a cigarette, please...cough, cough...GACK! :-)



Whatever you do and whatever lies you hear on Rush or Glenn, you'll be better off if you don't "crush your crotch."  
It's just not natural.

"Riding Bikes Harmful to Female Sexual Health" by Laura Shin, SmartPlanet

Apr. 5, 2012, (<http://www.smartplanet.com/blog/science-scope/riding-bikes-harmful-to-female-sexual-health/12570?tag=nl.e550>)

If you love riding bikes and you're a woman, you're in for some bad news: It could be hurting your sexual health.

It's long been known that bike saddles, which put pressure on sensitive areas of the body, can harm the sexual performance of men, but cycling's effect on the female anatomy was less well-known.

Until now.

A new study at Yale, published in the *Journal of Sexual Medicine*, shows that riding bikes decreases women's sexual sensation.

The theory behind the connection is that riding on a bike saddle places a lot of pressure on the nerves and blood vessels in the genital area — and it turns out this happens whether you are man or woman.

The study builds on a 2006 study at Yale that showed, compared to female runners, female cyclists had less genital sensation.

The latest study looked specifically at what about bikes affect soreness and numbness in women. The participants were 48 female bike riders who cycled at least 10 miles a week, though many biked much more.

The riders brought to the lab their own bikes, which were then mounted onto a stationary machine. The subjects were hooked up to a device that measured sensation in the pelvic floor, and they then rode on the bikes while reporting on feelings of numbness, soreness and tingling.

The main finding was that the lower the handlebars, the more physical effects the women experienced, likely because low handlebars required the women to lean forward, which in turn put more pressure on the perineum, which is made of soft tissue. The problem was most likely to occur when the rider assumed an aerodynamic racing position in which she leaned far forward with her back flat.

"We're basically showing that there may be modifiable risk factors associated with female riders," Dr. Marsha K. Guess, an author of the study and an assistant professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences at the Yale School of Medicine, told *The New York Times*. "This better positions us to educate riders on safe riding practices that may actually be beneficial to reduction of pressure and lost sensation in the pelvic floor."

In addition to raising handlebars, no-nose bike saddles (which you can see pictured here) also alleviate or eliminate the problem. Such bike saddles, in which the rider rests only on the pelvic "sit" bones, don't require the rider to put any pressure on the perineum. As Dr. Steven M. Schrader, who pioneered the use of no-nose bike saddles for men, believes they would also help women. As he explained the *The Times*, "If you don't put weight there," he said, "there's no pressure."

["The No-Nose Bike Saddle Faces a Marketing Problem"](#) by Laura Shin, SmartPlanet

June 28, 2011, (<http://www.smartplanet.com/blog/science-scope/the-no-nose-bike-saddle-faces-a-marketing-problem/8975?tag=content;siu-container>)

History is full of famous examples of science fighting against culture and losing early battles but eventually winning the war. For instance, both Copernicus and Galileo were mocked for thinking the planets revolved around the sun. Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection was originally met with disbelief (and sometimes still is).

Today, there's a new front in the science vs. culture wars: the no-nose bicycle saddle against bike riders everywhere.

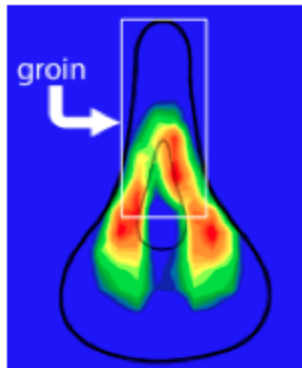
A no-nose bicycle saddle doesn't seem like it would be an advancement in bike-riding technology. It can often be more unwieldy than a regular saddle and nowhere near as sleek-looking. (They come in a variety of styles; below is just one. To see more, check out some no-nose saddle web sites, such as the BiSaddle, the Spiderflex, the I.S.M. and others at Healthy Cycling.)

But a noseless saddle has one major benefit: It removes a great deal of pressure from one of the most sensitive areas of the body. (This video explains how: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cctJfG\\_HWY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cctJfG_HWY).)

A traditional bike saddle puts 25% to 40% of your body's weight on the nerves and blood vessels down there, but a no-nose saddle shifts that weight toward the sit bones.

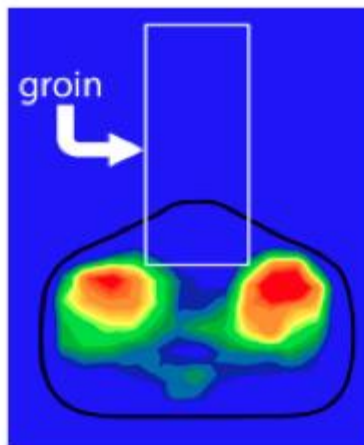
*The New York Times* quotes Steven Schrader, a reproductive physiologist at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, who conducted a study on the effect of no-nose saddles on Seattle police officers:

"That part of the body was never meant to bear pressure," Dr. Schrader said. "Within a few minutes the blood oxygen levels go down by 80 percent."



**Figure 2.** Example of pressure measured on a traditional saddle with a protruding nose. The white box shows the groin region. The blue color is the lowest pressure, followed by green, yellow, orange, and red (highest pressure). This saddle has a cut-out hole as shown by the thinner dark outline of the saddle.

No-nose saddles improve bodily function.



**Figure 4.** Example of pressure measured on a no-nose saddle. In this example there is almost no pressure in the groin region.

His study, titled *Cutting Off the Nose to Save the Penis*, used two devices to record physiological improvements in the officers who switched to a no-nose saddle for six months.

"The biothesiometer is a device in which the men set their penis into a trough, and it slowly starts to vibrate," he explained. "They push the button when they can feel the vibration. While it sounds delightful, it's actually not. The Rigiscan is a machine the men wear at night that grabs the penis about every 15 seconds to see if it's erect. It's not as pleasant as it sounds, either."

After the six-month study, the percent of officers who felt numbness while riding dropped from 75% to less than 20%. They also showed improved sensitivity to the biothesiometer and reported better erectile function.

However, on average, they did not improve in the Rigiscan measure, which Dr. Schrader believes shows that riding a conventional saddle could have lasting effects on the body.

Still, the benefits were apparent enough that 90% of the police officers in the study continued to ride the no-nose saddle even after the experiment was over.

No-nose saddles could also have benefits for women. In a study on female cyclists, Yale urogynecologists Dr. Marsha Guess and Dr. Kathleen Connell found that more than 60% of those using nosed saddles reported experiencing genital pain, numbness and tingling. They also were shown to have lower levels of genital sensation during lab tests compared to a control group of runners.

Considering how sensitive this area of the body is and what it's used for, why aren't no-nose saddles speeding past traditional saddles in sales? As the Times's John Tierney puts it:

Why, if you had an easy alternative, would you take any risk with that part of the anatomy? Even if you didn't feel any symptoms, even if you didn't believe the researchers' warnings, even if you thought it was perfectly healthy to feel numb during a ride — why not switch just for comfort's sake? Why go on crushing your crotch?

The answer comes from a bike shop owner quoted in the article who said, "This saddle screams out: I've got a problem."

That could be why so few cyclists — from hard-core racers to spinning-class addicts — are rushing to buy noseless saddles.

It looks like, for now, culture is winning out over science.

What do you say? Would you go with the science, risk ridicule and buy a no-nose saddle, or would you rather avoid mockery and stick to your regular saddle — numbness, pain and all?

Source: *The New York Times*.

**FotM NEWSLETTER #114 (Apr. 11, 2012)—HYPERTEXT INDEX**

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<a href="#">20120410-01</a>	08:15	MarthaH	"More See 'Too Much' Religious Talk by Politicians"
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<a href="#">20120410-02</a>	10:31	SteveB	Fw: "Guns & Patriots"
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<a href="#">20120410-07</a>	17:15	Pam	Emotion vs. Fact
<a href="#">20120410-08</a>	17:23	Art	Re: Emotion vs. Fact (reply to Pam, above)
<a href="#">20120410-09</a>	18:15	Art	Fw: Fantastic 360 Degree Pictures
<a href="#">20120410-05</a>	13:26	SteveG	Sen. Joe McCarthy
<a href="#">20120410-10</a>	23:59	SteveB	Photo: "Lady" Riding a Bicycle (on nosed saddle...I hope she's not a Republican...no, not a chance!)

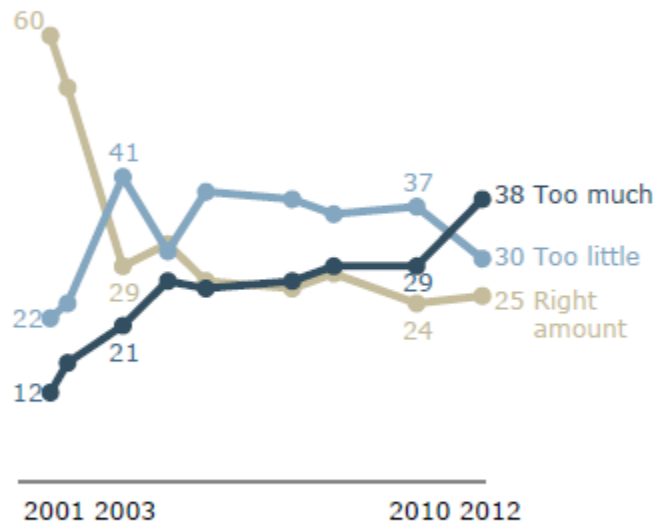
<a href="#">20120410-01</a>	08:15	MarthaH	"More See 'Too Much' Religious Talk by Politicians"
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"More See 'Too Much' Religious Talk by Politicians" by Pew Research Center

Mar. 22, 2012, (<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2227/religion-politics-mitt-romney-rick-santorum-churches-conservatives-obama-administration>)

(Santorum voters disagree.)

**Expressions of Religious Faith and Prayer by Politicians ...**



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012.

The public is uneasy about the mixing of religion and politics. The number of people who say there has been too much religious talk by political leaders stands at an all-time high since the Pew Research Center began asking the question more than a decade ago.

Nearly four-in-ten Americans (38%) now say there has been too much expression of religious faith and prayer from political leaders, while 30% say there has been too little. The percentage saying there is too much expression of religious faith by politicians has increased across party lines, but this view remains far more widespread among Democrats than Republicans.

Slightly more than half of the public (54%) says that churches should keep out of politics, compared with 40% who say religious institutions should express their views on social and political matters.

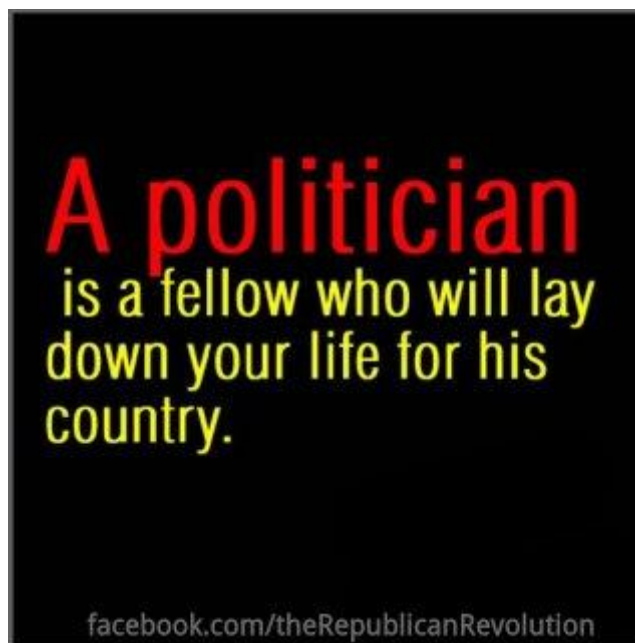
Among Republicans, there is a divide among supporters of Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum on these questions. Most Romney backers say churches should keep out of politics, and just a quarter of them believe there is too little expression of religious faith and prayer by political leaders. By contrast, a majority of Santorum supporters say churches should express their views on social and political issues, and that there is too little expression of faith by politicians.

Read the full report, which includes these findings (<http://www.pewforum.org/Politics-and-Elections/more-see-too-much-religious-talk-by-politicians.aspx?src=prc-headline>):

- Views of different religious groups on the intersection of religion and politics
- Partisan divisions on political involvement by churches
- Views of political parties' friendliness to religion
- The Obama administration and religion
- Reporters, professors and religion
- Religious conservatives' influence on the GOP

20120410-03 11:26 SteveG A Politician Is...

Great saying...



20120410-02 10:31 SteveB Fw: "Guns & Patriots"

Just in case you were able to sleep at night, here's your insomnia attack:

This week in Guns & Patriots...Neil W. McCabe, Editor  
([http://www.humanevents.com/search.php?topic\\_name=Guns+%26+Patriots](http://www.humanevents.com/search.php?topic_name=Guns+%26+Patriots)):

Dear Guns & Patriots reader,

This week, I want to share with you my conversation with Kurt Mueller, a board member for **one of the great organizations working to restore our gun rights in America**, Students for Concealed Carry.

Mueller, the chief liaison to other gun rights groups, said he joined the SCC 2007, its first year, the same year he graduated from Clemson, and he is the only board member who is not currently a student.

Many students first learn about SCC when they see one of their "Empty Holster" protests, he said. **In these protests, students wear empty holsters over their clothing to class.** "Obviously, the holster is meant to have something in it, and the empty holster protests visually demonstrate that one of our rights has been denied."

The empty holster demonstrations are SCC's most effective messaging tool, he said. Too often, students are unaware of the issues surrounding campus concealed carry and these protests begin that conversation and engagement.

As SCC closes out the spring 2012 semester, Mueller said the group's biggest recent success is its victory in the Colorado Supreme Court. The court sided with SCC's lawsuit, it filed three years ago, challenging the authority of the University of Colorado to pre-empt that state's 2002 law granting a right to concealed carry on its grounds.

Despite the warnings of gun control activists, he said the results in **Colorado will be no different from other states where gun rights have been restored to students, such as Utah, where guns have been allowed in all public colleges since 2006.**

It is important to say what SCC is and is not, he said. The group does not weigh in on who should carry, rather where someone can carry.

"We are focused on people, who have already chosen to carry and proved themselves responsible," he said. "There is no reason to think that these people would act irresponsible on campus."

Mueller said whenever there is a publicized campus spree shooter, the group has to deal with a flurry of articles that attempt to draw the group into the controversy, but that is not their focus.

The actual occurrences of campus mass shootings are very rare, he said. It is more productive to focus on one-on-one crime on campuses.

"You can read every day about crimes on campuses," he said.

Students, faculty and staff all spend the majority of their time on a campus and they are all vulnerable, especially night and part-time students, he said. "Most night classes get out at 9:30 or 10, and if someone has to walk 10 to 20 minutes across campus in the dark, you can see how that can be dangerous."

As someone who took many night courses when I was on active-duty, I was immediately locked into what Mueller was talking about. Some of those vacant lots I crossed might as well have been on Mars and if anything happened to me, no one would have known until the morning.

**Students for Concealed Carry has members and supporters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia**—including our good friend Dick Heller, who is very active in the group's activities in the Washington area. Please visit their website and consider joining or supporting them yourself.

"Why the 'Buffett Rule' Sets the Bar Too Low" by Robert Reich, Huffington Post

Apr. 10, 2012, ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-reich/buffett-rule\\_b\\_1415706.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-reich/buffett-rule_b_1415706.html))

Next Monday most Americans will be filing their income taxes for tax year 2011. This year, though, tax day has special significance. If there's one clear policy contrast between Democrats and Republicans in the 2012 election, it's whether America's richest citizens should be paying more.

Senate Democrats have scheduled a vote Monday on a minimum 30 percent overall federal tax rate for everyone earning more than \$1 million a year. It's nicknamed the "Buffett Rule" in honor of billionaire Warren Buffett who has publicly complained that he pays a lower tax rate than his secretary.

No one in Washington believes the Buffett Rule has any hope of passage this year. It's largely symbolic. The vote will mark a sharp contrast with Republican Paul Ryan's plan (enthusiastically endorsed by Mitt Romney) to cut the tax rate on the super rich from 35 percent to 25 percent -- rewarding millionaires with a tax cut of at least \$150,000 a year. The vote will also serve to highlight that Romney himself paid less than 14 percent on a 2010 income of \$21.7 million because so much of his income was in capital gains, taxed at 15 percent.

Hopefully in the weeks and months ahead the White House and the Democrats will emphasize three key realities:

1. The richest 1 percent of Americans are now taking in over 20 percent of total national income, and so far have raked in almost all the gains from this recovery. Thirty years ago, the richest 1 percent got 9 percent of total income. Income and wealth are now more concentrated at the top than they've been since the 1920s.
2. The richest 1 percent are paying a lower tax rate than they've paid since 1980. For three decades after World War II, their tax rate never dropped below 70 percent. Even considering all deductions and tax credits, they paid close to 55 percent. Under Eisenhower, the top rate was 91 percent and the effective rate was 58 percent.
3. Right now the nation faces two yawning deficits -- an investment deficit and a federal budget deficit. The investment deficit includes deferred maintenance on America's infrastructure -- roads, bridges, public transit, water and sewer systems that are all crumbling -- and an educational system that's being starved for resources (the federal government pays for 8 percent of K-12 education and about 5 percent of public higher education, but could do much more). The federal budget deficit is projected to mushroom to \$6.4 trillion over the next ten years, mostly because of aging boomers and soaring health care costs.

Any serious person looking at these three realities would conclude that the rich should be paying far more. It's not just a matter of fairness; it's also a matter of patriotism.

In fact, given these realities, the Buffett Rule sets the bar too low. For most Americans, wages and benefits are declining (adjusted for inflation), net worth has been plummeting (their only asset is their homes), and the public services they rely on have been disappearing. For the top, it's just the opposite: Their incomes are rising, their stock-market portfolios have been growing, and a growing portion of their earnings has been subject to a capital-gains tax of just 15 percent.

The Buffett Rule would generate only about \$47 billion in extra revenues over the next decade, according to Congressional estimates. Why not restore top rates to what they were before 1980, and match the capital-gains rate to the income-tax rate?



(Robert B. Reich, one of the nation's leading experts on work and the economy, is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley. He has served in three national administrations, most recently as Secretary of Labor under President Bill Clinton. *Time Magazine* has named him one of the ten most effective cabinet secretaries of the last century. He has written thirteen books, including his latest best-seller, *Aftershock: The Next Economy and America's Future*; *The Work of Nations*, which has been translated into 22 languages; and his newest, an e-book, *Beyond Outrage*. His syndicated columns, television appearances, and public radio commentaries reach millions of people each week. He is also a founding editor of the *American Prospect* magazine, and Chairman of the citizen's group Common Cause. His widely read blog can be found at <http://www.robertreich.org>.)

20120410-06

15:53

MarthaH

"Reagan White House Counsel Makes Case Against Mourdock's Distortions" & "Lugar Attacks Growing Surreal"

"Reagan White House Counsel Makes Case Against Mourdock's Distortions" posted by Lugar for Senate

Apr. 10, 2012, (<http://www.dicklugar.com/2012/04/reagan-white-house-counsel-makes-case-against-mourdocks-distortions/>)

Former Reagan White House counsel Peter J. Rusthoven this week said challenger Richard Mourdock's distorted attacks of Sen. Dick Lugar's record "typify what most Americans now despise about today's politics."

Rusthoven and other state and national figures regularly write columns for the *Indianapolis Business Journal*. In the April 2-8 issue, Rusthoven's column encourages Indiana primary voters to "send a message rejecting such poisoning of our political discourse." (To read or print the full IBJ article, see below.)

"The silliest (Mourdock) attack charges that lifelong Hoosier Lugar is not a resident. Indiana's constitution, a state statute, opinions by attorneys general and a unanimous, bipartisan Indiana Election Commission vote reject what *The Indianapolis Star* rightly calls nonsense," he writes.

"While rank-and-file Hoosier Democrats respect Lugar, partisan Democratic activists jump on this phony issue, knowing they cannot win this fall unless Lugar falls in the primary."

Rusthoven also criticizes Mourdock's use of money from out-of-state special interests that politically intimidate to enhance their own power. He questions a group called Club for Growth, which inaccurately claims Lugar voted for higher gas and Social Security taxes and blames Lugar for the \$15 trillion national debt.

"Astounding. The last major gas-tax increase was 20 years ago; Lugar opposed it," Rusthoven points out. "The last big change in Social Security taxes was the 1983 Reagan plan saving the system (supported by Lugar)."

Rusthoven goes on to brag about some of Lugar's recent accomplishments. "Partial list: No. 1 voting in support of Reagan. Seventeen-time co-sponsor of Balanced Budget Amendment. Opposed Obamacare on all votes. Spurred Indiana's involvement in the current Supreme Court challenge. Supporter of the Bush tax cuts. Leader of Keystone XL pipeline effort. Respected worldwide for foreign policy leadership. The man responsible (with Sam Nunn) for destroying over 7,000 Russian nuclear warheads that terrorists will never use."

As a matter of GOP tactics, Rusthoven says, attacks on Lugar are unwise. "Republicans would have won Senate control in 2010 absent primaries yielding supposedly 'pure' but unquestionably unelectable Nevada and Delaware nominees (e.g., 'Ms. I Am Not A Witch'). The only way Republicans can lose Lugar's seat in 2012 is by not nominating Lugar.

But the problems go far deeper than tactics, Reagan's counsel concludes. "Lugar is indeed one of the nation's few remaining statesmen. He deserves better. More important, the Hoosiers he represents so well deserve better. Let's hope they send the right message on May 8."

"Lugar Attacks Growing Surreal" by Peter J. Rusthoven, *Indianapolis Business Journal*

Mar. 31, 2012, (<http://www.dicklugar.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Rusthoven040212.pdf>)

The distorted attacks on Sen. Dick Lugar typify what most Americans now despise about today's politics. On May 8, Hoosier primary voters can send a message rejecting such poisoning of our political discourse.

The silliest attack charges that lifelong Hoosier Lugar is not a resident. Indiana's constitution, a state statute, opinions by attorneys general, and a unanimous, bipartisan Indiana Election Commission vote reject what *The Indianapolis Star* rightly calls "nonsense."

Yet Marion County's Election Board, on a 2-1 party-line vote, has resurrected this childishness. Some supporters of Lugar's primary opponent applaud. While rank-and-file Hoosier Democrats respect Lugar, partisan Democratic activists jump on this phony issue, knowing they cannot win this fall unless Lugar falls in the primary.

As the *Star* notes: "Lugar's political opponents on the left and right have succeeded in their true goal—which is to embarrass an Indiana icon and one of the nation's last true statesmen to the point that it distracts voters from the truly substantive questions facing this nation."

The *Wall Street Journal* agrees, saying attacks from the right on Lugar's residency "resort to the sort of Mickey-Mouse campaign tactics one expects from activists at the other end of the political spectrum."

The *Journal* concludes: "If the new conservative opposition makes a habit of routinely using low-rent political tactics to prevail against members of their own party, it will become difficult to argue that it is the enemy of business-as-usual." Indeed.

Other examples of low-rent politics are outside groups pouring money into Indiana, seeking Lugar's defeat to enhance their power to intimidate anyone insufficiently pure. Thus, the Club for Growth is spending \$250,000 on an ad that asks, "What's Lugar Done?," says "he voted for higher gas taxes and Social Security taxes," and blames Lugar for the \$15 trillion national debt!

Astounding. The last major gas-tax increase was 20 years ago; Lugar opposed it. What he voted for was a 1982 Reagan highway maintenance improvement plan, and a 1990 increase to reduce the deficit during military buildup for the first Gulf War. The last big change in Social Security taxes was in the 1983 Reagan plan saving the system (supported by Lugar). Payroll taxes are unchanged since 1990, save for the recent "holiday" (supported by Lugar).

As for "What's Lugar Done?"—where to start? Partial list: No. 1 voting record in support of Reagan. Seventeen-time co-sponsor of Balanced Budget Amendment. Opposed Obamacare on all votes. Spurred Indiana's involvement in the current Supreme Court challenge. Supporter of Bush tax cuts. Leader of Keystone XL pipeline effort. Respected worldwide for foreign policy leadership. The man responsible (with Sam Nunn) for destroying over 7,000 Russian nuclear warheads that terrorists will never use.

The Club for Growth attack is astonishing for a group whose focus is eliminating tax and other barriers to growth, on which Lugar's record is stellar. It is more astonishing because its president is former Indiana Rep. Chris Chocola, whom Lugar supported—and who knows better about Lugar's record. Chocola should be ashamed.

As a matter of GOP tactics, attacks on Lugar are unwise. Republicans would have won Senate control in 2010 absent primaries yielding supposedly "pure" but unquestionably unelectable Nevada and Delaware nominees (e.g., "Ms. I Am Not A Witch"). The only way Republicans can lose Lugar's seat in 2012 is by not nominating Lugar.

But the problems go far deeper than tactics. Lugar is indeed one of the nation's few remaining statesmen. He deserves better. More important, the Hoosiers he represents so well deserve better. Let's hope they send the right message on May 8.

(Rusthoven, an Indianapolis attorney and graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, was associate counsel to President Reagan.)

[Gee, this article makes Republicans sound like not very nice people, even to their own elders. Somehow, I'm not surprised. Anything for power, right? -SteveB]

[20120410-07](#) 17:15 Pam Emotion vs. Fact

I had dinner with a good friend last night, a woman who has, over the years, moved from rabid Republicanism to a rather mellow Libertarianism. I remain where I have always been: liberal and proud of it. We're both smart, educated, and come from somewhat similar backgrounds, and we are the very best of friends, despite our political differences. At the end of the day, we have the same values--we both support gay marriage, are pro-choice, dislike racism, and worry about the Middle East. But before we get to the end of the day, we do disagree on some things.

She told me last night about an evening she and her husband spent recently with some old friends who are dyed-in-the wool Republican conservatives. The wife's brother is gay, but when my friend mentioned something about gay marriage, the wife recoiled. It was obvious she didn't want to discuss it. This couple's chief complaint about liberals was that liberals are all about "emotion," while conservatives want facts. I found this astounding, to say the least. I do believe that morality is founded in emotion, but I am a pragmatist who wants to see good evidence before I believe something. To me it seems the far Right is the most emotional group in America. They hate with a vengeance and demonstrate little charity for those who are struggling. I overheard an older gentleman in the drugstore the other day complaining about all the people who don't want to work and want the government to support them. I wonder what facts he has to back up his opinion. Maybe the Left is sometimes squishy, touchy-feely, and overly idealistic, but there are worse things: attacking black people, cutting benefits to the disabled, illegally foreclosing on strapped homeowners. I could go on.

My friend is more conservative politically than I, but we agree on all the social issues I can think of. Perhaps the problem Americans face is that we try to talk about fiscal and military policy in the same breath as personal behavior. She finds it difficult to concede that the Left is anything other than unrealistic and just as bad as the Right when it comes to duplicity and corruption. There is blame enough to go around, but I don't think the Left is "just as bad as the Right." Bill Maher and Keith Olbermann can be annoying, sure, but they're a far cry from Rush Limbaugh, who is going to give himself a stroke one of these days. I intend to continue defending liberalism, without excoriating the other side. Honey catches more flies than vinegar, even if it does occasionally contain the odd bee.

[20120410-08](#) 17:23 Art Re: Emotion vs. Fact (reply to Pam, above)

Good for you Pam, but sometimes secretly deep in your heart, wouldn't you just like to burn'm out?

[20120410-09](#) 18:15 Art Fw: Fantastic 360 Degree Pictures

Kind of interesting...

Note it is not just 360... it is 360 at every latitude...try going up or down!

360 degree pictures . . . next generation photography . . . amazing!!

Don't get dizzy!!

You can also look straight up and down too.

Click on the pictures below; when they come up, click again and drag your mouse in any direction and the picture will give you a 360 degree view --- Amazing Photography!!!

PICTURE NUMBER 1 — <http://www.utah3d.net/panoramas/SulpherCreek.swf.html>.

PICTURE NUMBER 2 — <http://www.utah3d.net/panoramas/DoubleArch1.swf.html>.

PICTURE NUMBER 3 — <http://www.utah3d.net/panoramas/PaysonC.swf.html>.

PICTURE NUMBER 4 — [http://www.utah3d.net/panoramas\\_2/AztecButte.swf.html](http://www.utah3d.net/panoramas_2/AztecButte.swf.html).

PICTURE NUMBER 5 — [http://www.utah3d.net/panoramas\\_3/GrandView.html](http://www.utah3d.net/panoramas_3/GrandView.html)

20120410-05	13:26	SteveG	Sen. Joe McCarthy
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Below are pieces in regards to McCarthyism and how we got to where we are today. Interesting suggestion from a priest and dirty politics. An amazing right turn.

from "Joseph McCarthy" (<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAmccarthy.htm>):

1. Joseph McCarthy was born on a farm in Appleton, Wisconsin, on 14th November, 1908. His parents were devout Roman Catholics and Joseph was the fifth of nine children. He left school at 14 and worked as a chicken farmer before managing a grocery store in the nearby town of Manawa.

McCarthy returned to high school in 1928 and after achieving the necessary qualifications, won a place at Marquette University. After graduating McCarthy worked as a lawyer but was fairly unsuccessful and had to supplement his income by playing poker.

McCarthy was originally a supporter of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal. However, after failing to become the Democratic Party candidate for district attorney, he switched parties and became the Republican Party candidate in an election to become a circuit court judge. McCarthy shocked local officials by fighting a dirty campaign. This included publishing campaign literature that falsely claimed that his opponent, Edgar Werner, was 73 (he was actually 66). As well as suggesting that Werner was senile, McCarthy implied that he was guilty of financial corruption.

When the United States entered the Second World War McCarthy resigned as a circuit judge and joined the U.S. Marines. After the war McCarthy ran against Robert La Follette to become Republican candidate for the senate. As one of his biographers has pointed out, his campaign posters pictured him in "full fighting gear, with an aviator's cap, and belt upon belt of machine gun ammunition wrapped around his bulky torso." He claimed he had completed thirty-two missions when in fact he had a desk job and only flew in training exercises.

In his campaign, McCarthy attacked La Follette for not enlisting during the war. He had been forty-six when Pearl Harbor had been bombed, and was in fact too old to join the armed services. McCarthy also claimed that La Follette had made huge profits from his investments while he had been away fighting for his country. The suggestion that La Follette had been guilty of war profiteering (his investments had in fact been in a radio station), was deeply damaging and McCarthy won by 207,935 to 202,557. La Follette, deeply hurt by the false claims made against him, retired from politics, and later committed suicide.

On his first day in the Senate, McCarthy called a press conference where he proposed a solution to a coal-strike that was taking place at the time. McCarthy called for John L. Lewis and the striking miners to be drafted into the Army. If the men still refused to mine the coal, McCarthy suggested they should be court-martialed for insubordination and shot.

McCarthy's first years in the Senate were unimpressive. People also started coming forward claiming that he had lied about his war record. Another problem for McCarthy was that he was being investigated for tax offences and for taking bribes from the Pepsi-Cola Company. In May, 1950, afraid that he would be

defeated in the next election, McCarthy held a meeting with some of his closest advisers and asked for suggestions on how he could retain his seat. Edmund Walsh, a Roman Catholic priest, came up with the idea that he should begin a campaign against communist subversives working in the Democratic administration.

2. While he may not have caused genocide or murdered a prophet, he was able to whip up hysteria in America in the early 1950s. Joseph McCarthy's issue of choice? Communism.

3. The American Heritage Dictionary defines McCarthyism as "the political practice of publicizing accusations of disloyalty or subversion with insufficient regard to evidence."

4. The American Pledge of Allegiance has been embroiled in controversy ever since the phrase "under God" was added by Congress in 1954, following a campaign by the Knights of Columbus to change it. The Pledge, as it was conceived initially by Francis Bellamy in 1892, did not include the phrase. It read: "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and (to\*) the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." From 1954 onward, the pledge would read: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands: one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

5. The Knights was formed to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works.

6. During the height of the cold war, on July 11, 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed Public Law 140 making it mandatory that all coinage and paper currency display the motto.

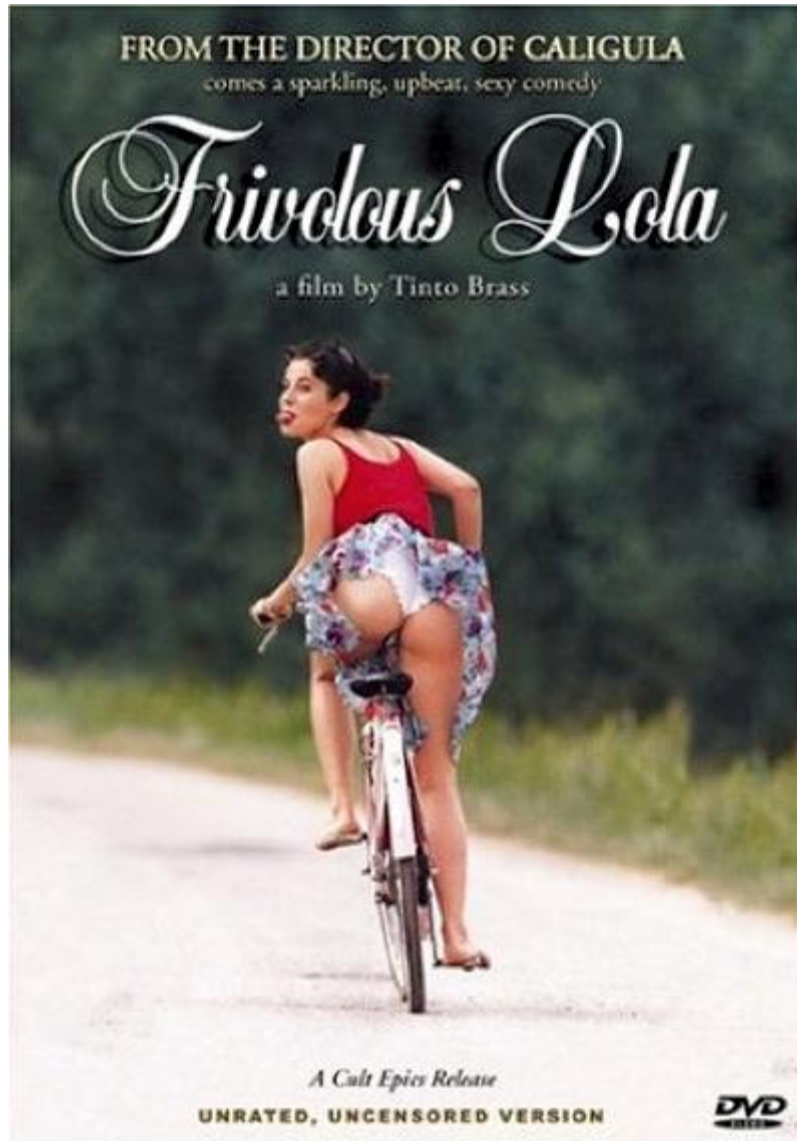
[He certainly sounds like a modern 2012 Republican to me. Maybe he was the first? What an example! –SteveB]

20120410-10 23:59 SteveB

Photo: "Lady" Riding a Bicycle (on nosed saddle...I hope she's not a Republican...no, not a chance!)

<http://bikehugger.com/2009/08/>

Great biking music: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ago5SAGV3E>.



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

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[FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com)

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